



BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 This Technical Note has been prepared in order to address Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Action No. 5:

Incorporate and evaluate the effects of the additional schemes identified by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and update the Cumulative Environmental Assessment accordingly.

- 1.1.2 This Technical Note also addresses CU.2.1 of the Examining Authority's Written Questions 2 (ExQ2) (PD-013):

The ExA notes the applicant's response to ISH3 Action 10 in Table 3.1 of [REP-027] and its intention to submit an updated version of Chapter 18 of the ES Cumulative Effects at Deadline 5. The ExA will therefore pose any questions that may remain at ExQ3, Monday 26 January.

- 1.1.3 The Applicant undertook a Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) as part of their submitted ES, the results of which are reported within the relevant technical chapters and summarised within Chapter 18 Cumulative Effects (APP-069). This Technical Note provides an evaluation of the additional schemes that have been identified, in order to identify if any updates to the CEA are required.

1.2 Scope

- 1.2.1 At paragraph 17.5 of their Local Impact Report (REP1-044), Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) state:

The assessment should be revised to reflect the current status of other developments (some of which are not up to date), to include the solar farm located on land south of Little Hale Drove (NKDC Ref: 23/1021/FUL), which was granted planning consent on appeal on 13 August 2025. The update should also incorporate other emerging NSIP proposals, such as Ossian Offshore Wind and National Grid's EGL5 and the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire schemes.

- 1.2.2 In addition, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and Boston Borough Council (BBC) have also requested consideration of additional schemes. For completeness, these schemes have also been considered within this Technical Note.

- 1.2.3 Within NKDC's Responses to the ExA's ExQ1 (REP2-061), at GCT.1.5 it is stated:

The Little Hale Fen solar farm was granted on appeal (Ref: APP/R2520/W/25/3363027) on 24 September 2025. It should be included as part of the cumulative impact assessment.

The Mareham Lane Solar Farm (Land Formed By Two Parcels Of Land On The Eastern And Western Side Of Mareham Lane Between The Villages Of Screddington And Silk Willoughby Sleaford – planning reference 23/1419/FUL) was refused planning permission and is now in appeal – reference APP/R2520/W/25/3373351.

The solar farm proposal on Land To The North Of Whitecross Lane Burton Pedwardine Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 0BN is now subject to a live planning application referenced 24/1470/FUL.

The proposed BESS scheme referenced 23/0390/EIASCO (Green Man Road, Navenby) is subject to a live planning application referenced 25/0491/FUL.

The planning application referenced 24/0841/RESM (Phase 1A Lincoln South East Quadrant Sustainable Urban Extension, North Of Canwick Avenue And East Of London Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincs) was granted planning permission on 3 October 2025.

The Springwell solar farm DCO examination closed on 9 October 2025. The ExA's recommendations will be provided to the Secretary of State by 26 January 2026. The Council has referred to certain issues considered during the Springwell examination that are of relevance to this DCO in its LIR at paragraphs 18.9, 18.26, 21.17, 21.26, 24.3, 26.7 and 26.10.

- 1.2.4 At GCT.1.12 of NKDC's Responses to the ExA's ExQ1 (REP2-061) it is stated:

The Council is content with the Long and Short List of Committed Development with the addition of Little Hale Fen solar farm that was granted on appeal (Ref: APP/R2520/W/25/3363027) on 24 September 2025.

Planning application 25/0521/FUL for the erection of a ground mounted solar farm on Land North Of Ferry Lane North-East Of Skellingthorpe & West Of Burton Waters Lincolnshire should be added to the shortlist of projects.

In addition, planning application 25/0533/FUL for the erection of a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) together with associated infrastructure on Land To The South Of Hill Rise West Of Coleby And North Of Navenby Lincolnshire should also be added to the shortlist of projects.

- 1.2.5 In addition to the schemes that NKDC have specifically requested be considered within the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA), the other development updates provided by NKDC (as quoted above) have also been reviewed within this Technical Note to identify if any changes to the CEA are required.

- 1.2.6 Within BBC's Responses to the ExA's ExQ1 (REP2-063), it is stated:

BBC notes the submission of planning application reference B/25/0299 – BESS at land to the east of Bicker Fen Substation which was received 28/05/2025 and remains undetermined. This site is not included on the Applicants long list (APP-081) or short list (APP-082). Application reference B/25/0224 should be added to the list and considered due to the overlap and being adjacent to the Order Limits accepting however that the application is yet to be determined.

- 1.2.7 The above schemes have been considered within this Technical Note. Details of the schemes are provided within Table 1 below.

- 1.2.8 The schemes have been evaluated within Section 3 in order to identify if any updates to the CEA are required.

2. Methodology

- 2.1.1 The methodology for the assessment of inter-cumulative effects is set out within the Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Scope and Methodology (APP-055) and Chapter 18 Cumulative Effects (APP-069). The assessment of inter-cumulative effects is undertaken with regard to the NSIP guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment (2024; last updated in March 2025).
- 2.1.2 Chapter 4 Scope and Methodology (APP-055) confirms that originally a Zone of Influence (ZOI) of 5km from the Order Limits was set for the consideration of cumulative effects. However, further to feedback within the Scoping Opinion (APP-072) and engagement with LCC, NKDC and BBC it was agreed to extend the ZOI for DCO developments to whole of Lincolnshire. The ZOI for non-DCO schemes remained at 5km.
- 2.1.3 Criteria considered when identifying the schemes for consideration within the ES (i.e. the Short List (APP-082)) included the following:
- Scale and nature of other developments, informed by definitions of major development and EIA screening thresholds;
 - Overlap in temporal scope of construction and operational phases;
 - Geographical overlap in the ZOI of other developments with the Proposed Development; and
 - Sensitivity and extent of common receptors.
- 2.1.4 The above criteria have been considered within the evaluation of schemes set out within Section 3.
- 2.1.5 The NSIP guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment states that assessments should be “*undertaken at a level of detail proportionate to the information available*” and “*no longer than necessary to identify and assess likely significant cumulative effects*”. The guidance also states that “*Where baseline data about other existing and, or approved development is incomplete, a precautionary but reasonable approach should be taken based on the best available evidence, with an explanation as to how the applicant has attempted to source data.*”
- 2.1.6 As detailed within Chapter 18 Cumulative Effects (APP-069), each technical chapter reviewed the Short List (APP-082) in order to identify schemes which would be likely to result in significant effects with the Proposed Development, in relation to the topic under consideration. Similarly, the schemes considered within the CEA update in Section 4 have been reviewed for each environmental aspect in order to determine if significant cumulative effects are likely.
- 2.1.7 In addition to the ZOI used for the identification of schemes for consideration within the CEA, each environmental assessment within the ES established their own ZOI in accordance with relevant standards and guidance. These ZOI are set out within Table 18.2 of Chapter 18 Cumulative Effects (APP-069).

Table 1 List of Schemes Considered

SCHEME NAME	LPA / PINS REFERENCE NUMBER	GRID REFERENCES FOR APPROXIMATE LOCATION	ADDRESS	RELEVANT PLANNING AUTHORITIES	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM THE SITE	DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICANT NAME	STATUS
Hammond BESS	B/25/0224	X - 520060 Y - 338791	Land East of Bicker Fen substation, Bicker Fen, Boston	Boston Borough Council (BBC)	Adjacent to the Order Limits	Proposed installation and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and other ancillary and associated infrastructure. Approximately 1.2 GW electrical capacity.	Bicker Drove Limited	Validated 28/05/2025
Land at Little Hale Fen	23/1021/FUL (PINS Appeal Reference: APP/R2520/W/25/3363027)	X – 517306 Y – 339596	Land South of Little Hale Drove Little Hale Fen Sleaford Lincs	North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) & BBC	Adjacent to the Order Limits	Development of a photovoltaic solar array (49.995MW export capacity) with associated grid corridor works, access improvements and ancillary development	AGR Solar 3 Limited	Approved (Through Appeal) 29/07/2025
Mareham Lane Solar Farm	23/1419/FUL (PINS Appeal Reference: APP/R2520/W/25/3373351)	X – 508365 Y – 341284	The development site is situated approximately 2.3km east of Aswarby Village and 6.2km south of Sleaford Market Town. Approximately 1.4km to the east of the site is Screddington Village. The development site is spread across two parcels of land and	NKDC	3.7km southwest	Development of a photovoltaic solar array of 49.99MW s, including associated infrastructure, permanent grid connection hub and environmental enhancements.	Mareham Lane Solar Limited	Approved (Through Appeal) 21/03/2025

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			surrounded by open grassland.					
Solar Farm and Associated Development on Land Adjacent to Burton Gorse Plantation	24/1470/FUL	X – 510293 Y – 342208	Land To the North of Whitecross Lane Burton Pedwardine Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 0BN	NKDC	2km south	Installation of a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with an installed capacity of c.42MW AC and associated development including mounting system, associated infrastructure (switchgear building, inverters, substation compound, equipment storage / comms containers, access tracks, culverted watercourse crossing, fencing/ gates, CCTV cameras), 15m communications mast, landscaping and ecological enhancements	Starlight Energy UK Limited	Validated 26/03/2025
Navenby Battery Energy Storage System	25/0491/FUL	X – 500091 Y – 357436	Land North of Green Man Road Navenby Lincolnshire LN5 0AY	NKDC	16km north west	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure	Hannah Woodall	Validated 09/05/2025
Land North of Canwick Avenue	16/1564/OUT 24/0841/RESM	X – 498071 Y – 367882	Phase 1A Lincoln Southeast Quadrant Sustainable Urban Extension North of	NKDC	24km north west	Residential development of up to 450 dwellings, provision of primary school land (1.8ha) and formation	Jesus College Oxford	Granted – 20/12/2022

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Bracebridge Heath			Canwick Avenue and East of London Road Bracebridge Heath			<p>of roundabout on Canwick Avenue along with associated highways, drainage and open space infrastructure (outline with means of access)</p> <p>Reserved matters application for the erection of 450 dwellings (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline consent 16/1564/OUT - Residential development of up to 450 dwellings, provision of primary school land (1.8ha) and formation of roundabout on Canwick Avenue along with associated highways, drainage and open space infrastructure (outline with means of access)</p>	Mrs A Brown	Granted – 03/10/2025
Ferry Lane Solar Farm	25/0521/FUL	X – 493366 Y - 372904	Land North of Ferry Lane North-East of Skellingthorpe & West of Burton Waters Lincolnshire	NKDC	33km north west	Installation of a ground-mounted solar farm with associated works	PS Renewables	Validated 08/05/2025

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Brant Energy Storage	25/0533/FUL	X – 495997 Y – 359945	Land to the south of Hill Rise West of Coleby and North of Navenby Lincolnshire	NKDC	21km north west	Proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) together with associated infrastructure, engineering works and landscaping	Navenby Energy Limited	Validated 25/05/2025
Springwell Solar Farm	EN010149/APP	X – 505700 Y – 356900	The Site lies in close proximity to the settlements of Blankney, Scopwick, Kirkby Green, and Ashby de la Launde. The settlements of Metherringham, Ruskington, and Digby are also located within 3 km of the Site.	PINS	14km north west	Proposed new solar farm with battery storage and supporting grid connection infrastructure in North Kesteven, Lincs.	Springwell Energy Farm Limited	Examination closed 09/10/2025
Ossian Offshore Wind	EN0210006	X – 554233 Y – 377939	The project is located at the boundary of the English/Scottish territorial waters, routing south to landfall on the Lincolnshire coast and then over land to two separate grid connection points within Lincolnshire.	PINS	Scoping boundary adjacent to Order Limits at A17	Ossian is planned to have a generation capacity of up to 3.6GW and includes both the offshore and onshore infrastructure required to generate and transmit electricity from the Array to a power transmission substation.	Ossian Offshores Wind Farm Limited	Pre-application

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National Grid Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)	EN0210010	X – 548799 Y – 485470	The project comprises subsea offshore cables that would run from a landfall in Scotland, to a landfall on the Lincolnshire coastline at Anderby Creek, England. Onshore underground cables would route to a converter station and subsequent connection point to the electricity network in Lincolnshire, England.	PINS	37.5km north east	Eastern Green Link 5 is a new primarily offshore high voltage electricity link, with associated onshore infrastructure, between Scotland and England.	National Grid	Pre-Application
National Grid Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire scheme.	TBC	X – 470266 Y – 322505	Overhead electricity transmission line from the Spalding region of Lincolnshire, running west to near Wartnaby in Leicestershire, via Corby Glen in Lincolnshire.	PINS	11km south east	A new circa 60 kilometre 400kV overhead electricity transmission line which connects into the Weston Marsh substation infrastructure (to be constructed under the Grimsby to Walpole Project), in the Spalding region of Lincolnshire, and runs west to a new 400kV transmission substation near Wartnaby in Leicestershire, via a new	National Grid	Pre-Application

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SCHEME NAME	LPA / PINS REFERENCE NUMBER	GRID REFERENCES FOR APPROXIMATE LOCATION	ADDRESS	RELEVANT PLANNING AUTHORITIES	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM THE SITE	DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICANT NAME	STATUS
						400kV transmission substation near Corby Glen in Lincolnshire.		

3. Evaluation

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The schemes set out within Table 1 have been evaluated in order to identify those that could potentially result in significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development and/or require consideration within an updated CEA.

3.2 Schemes previously considered

- 3.2.1 The following schemes were included on the shortlist (Appendix 4.2 to the Environmental Statement (APP-082)) and considered within the ES.

Hammond BESS (B/25/0224)

- 3.2.2 The application relates to a proposed battery energy storage system with other ancillary and associated infrastructure on land north-east of the Bicker Fen Substation, adjacent to Vicarage Drove. The scheme therefore overlaps with the Beacon Fen Order Limits, specifically the Cable Corridor.
- 3.2.3 A Screening Opinion was issued for the application in July 2024 which, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, considered the potential for significant cumulative effects in combination with the other schemes in the area. The Screening Opinion concluded that the proposals were not likely to result in significant effects on the environment, in isolation or in cumulation with other projects, and therefore no EIA was required.
- 3.2.4 The Screening Opinion (B/24/0266) was included on the shortlist (APP-082) and therefore the scheme has already been considered within the ES. The submitted application has been reviewed and it is not considered there is any new or amended information which would give rise to materially new or different cumulative effects, to those already reported within the ES.

Land at Little Hale Fen (23/1021/FUL & PINS Appeal Reference: APP/R2520/W/25/3363027)

- 3.2.5 The project comprises the construction and operation of a photovoltaic solar array on land at Little Hale Fen to the south-east of Little Hale and east of Helpringham. The land for the solar array is located c. 2km south and west of the Beacon Fen Cable Route Corridor. The solar array will connect into Bicker Fen substation and therefore overlaps with the Beacon Fen Order Limits at this location. The application was initially refused; however it has now been allowed at appeal.
- 3.2.6 A Screening Opinion was issued for the application in October 2021 which, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, considered the potential for significant cumulative effects in combination with the other schemes in the area. The Screening Opinion concluded that the proposals were not likely to result in significant effects on the environment, in isolation or in cumulation with other projects, and therefore no EIA was required.

- 3.2.7 The Screening Opinion (21/1337/EIASCRC) was included on the shortlist (APP-082) and therefore the scheme has already been considered within the ES. The submitted application has been reviewed and it is not considered there is any new or amended information which would give rise to materially new or different cumulative effects, to those already reported within the ES.

Solar Farm and Associated Development on Land Adjacent to Burton Gorse Plantation (24/1470/FUL)

- 3.2.8 The application relates to a proposed solar farm and associated development on land north of White Cross Lane, west of Burton Pedwardine. The site is c. 2km south of the Beacon Fen Order Limits at the closest point (specifically the junction of the Bespoke Access Corridor at the A17).
- 3.2.9 A Screening Opinion was issued for the application in September 2024 which, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, considered the potential for significant cumulative effects in combination with the other schemes in the area. The Screening Opinion concluded that the proposals were not likely to result in significant effects on the environment, in isolation or in cumulation with other projects, and therefore no EIA was required.
- 3.2.10 The Screening Opinion (24/1041/EIASCRC) was included on the shortlist and therefore the scheme has already been considered within the ES. The submitted application has been reviewed and it is not considered there is any new or amended information which would give rise to materially new or different cumulative effects, to those already reported within the ES.
- 3.2.11 In addition, it is noted that the Landscape and Visual Appraisal submitted in support of the Burton Gorse application considered potential cumulative effects in combination with Beacon Fen Energy Park. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Navenby Battery Energy Storage System (25/0491/FUL)

- 3.2.12 The application relates to the construction and operation of a BESS and associated infrastructure on land to the south of Green Man Road, a minor road connecting Navenby to the A15. The site is located c. 16km north west of the Order Limits.
- 3.2.13 The Scoping Opinion (23/0390/EIASCRC) was included on the shortlist and therefore the scheme has already been considered within the ES. The submitted application has been reviewed and it is not considered there is any new or amended information which would give rise to materially new or different cumulative effects, to those already reported within the ES.
- 3.2.14 In addition, it is noted that the ES submitted in support of the Navenby BESS application did not include Beacon Fen Energy Park within its assessment of potential cumulative effects as significant effects are not likely.

Land North of Canwick Avenue Bracebridge Heath (16/1564/OUT & 24/0841/RESM)

- 3.2.15 The application relates to an urban extension including 450 dwellings and associated development. The site is located c. 24km north-west of the Order Limits.

- 3.2.16 The scheme was included on the shortlist and therefore has already been considered within the ES. The reserved matters application for the scheme has now been granted consent.

Springwell Solar Farm (EN010149)

- 3.2.17 The examination for Springwell Solar Farm closed in October 2025 and the project is now at the recommendation stage. The project was included on the shortlist and considered within the ES where relevant.
- 3.2.18 The relevant parts of NKDC's Local Impact Report for Springwell Solar Farm, as quoted within their Responses to the ExA's ExQ1 (REP2-061), have been reviewed.
- 3.2.19 It is not considered that any update to the cumulative assessment of Springwell Solar Farm is required.

3.3 Schemes submitted after the cut-off date

- 3.3.1 The following schemes were submitted subsequent to the cut off date of 31st December 2024 and therefore were not considered within the ES.

Ferry Lane Solar Farm (25/0521/FUL)

- 3.3.2 The application is for the installation of a ground-mounted solar farm with associated works on land to the north of Ferry Lane, to the north-east of Skellingthorpe and west of Burton Waters, Lincolnshire.
- 3.3.3 A Screening Opinion was issued for the application in January 2025 which, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, considered the potential for significant cumulative effects in combination with the other schemes in the area. The Screening Opinion concluded that the proposals were not likely to result in significant effects on the environment, in isolation or in cumulation with other projects, and therefore no EIA was required.
- 3.3.4 The site is c. 33km north-west of the Beacon Fen Order Limits and is therefore outside of the 5km radius considered for non-DCO schemes.
- 3.3.5 Therefore it is not considered that the Ferry Lane Solar Farm scheme is likely to result in significant cumulative effects in combination with Beacon Fen Energy Park and this scheme is not considered further.

Brant Energy Storage (25/0533/FUL)

- 3.3.6 The application is for an energy storage system with associated infrastructure, engineering works and landscaping, located approximately 1km west of Coleby.
- 3.3.7 The site is c. 21km north-west of the Beacon Fen Order Limits and is therefore outside of the 5km radius considered for non-DCO schemes.
- 3.3.8 The application was supported by an ES, which considered potential cumulative effects in combination with Beacon Fen Energy Park. The Brant Energy Storage ES reported a significant cumulative effect on agricultural land. This does not conflict with the Beacon Fen ES or create any new effects not reported, as the Beacon Fen ES has also concluded that there will be significant cumulative effects on agricultural land.

- 3.3.9 Therefore it is considered that an update to the CEA to consider Brant Energy Storage is not required as it would have a minimal impact upon the figures reported for the assessment of cumulative agricultural land loss, and would not change the overall level of significance concluded for this effect. In addition it is noted that the Brant Energy Storage scheme is located outside of the 5km radius considered for non-DCO schemes within the Beacon Fen CEA. The Brant Energy Storage scheme is therefore not considered further.

Ossian Offshore Wind (EN0210006)

- 3.3.10 The Ossian Offshore Wind project is currently at the pre-application stage, and PINS have issued a Scoping Opinion. Submission of the DCO application is currently programmed for October 2027. It is noted that within the Scoping Opinion for Ossian Offshore Wind, LCC requests that cumulative effects with Beacon Fen Energy Park be considered.
- 3.3.11 It is considered that the onshore works will be the aspects of the project that could potentially result in cumulative effects with Beacon Fen Energy Park, and these are described below.
- 3.3.12 The Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will comprise up to three Onshore Converter Stations and Onshore Export Cable Corridors. As the project is at the scoping stage exact locations for these aspects have not yet been identified, however two Onshore Converter Station Search Areas have been identified, comprising a 5km radius on the Lincolnshire Connection Substation (LCS) and Weston Marsh substation proposed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) as part of the Grimsby to Walpole project.
- 3.3.13 The LCS Onshore Converter Station Search Area is located c. 35.4km north-east of the Order Limits; and Weston Marsh Onshore Converter Station Search Area is located c. 8.5km south-east of the Order Limits at the closest points respectively.
- 3.3.14 The Onshore Export Cables would be installed below ground and no overhead lines are proposed. The Onshore Scoping Boundary adjoins the A17 and therefore adjoins the Beacon Fen Order Limits where construction access is gained from the A17 for the Cable Route Corridor. However, the Onshore Scoping Boundary is c. 7km wide at this point and it is not yet known where within this boundary the cable will be routed. Therefore the extent of overlap with ZOI is not yet known.
- 3.3.15 As such, there is currently insufficient information available on the Ossian Offshore Wind scheme to undertake a meaningful assessment of potential cumulative effects. As the Ossian Offshore Wind DCO application is anticipated to be submitted in late 2027, any potentially significant effects with Beacon Fen Energy Park will be captured within the supporting ES and a meaningful assessment can be undertaken as relevant baseline data and assessment parameters will have been confirmed.

National Grid Eastern Green Link 5 (EN0210010)

- 3.3.16 The National Grid Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5) project is currently at the pre-application stage, and PINS have issued a Scoping Opinion. Submission of the DCO application is currently programmed for between July and September 2027. It is considered that the onshore works will be the aspects of the project

that could potentially result in cumulative effects with Beacon Fen Energy Park, and these are described below.

- 3.3.17 The English Onshore Scheme of EGL 5 extends from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) where the English Offshore Scheme makes landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline to the new EGL 5 converter station and proposed LCS proposed as part of the Grimsby to Walpole project. The English Onshore Scheme would comprise the construction of:
- A new converter station, in the vicinity of the proposed LCS;
 - Up to approximately 9 km of new underground HVDC cable, from the landfall point at Anderby Creek to the EGL 5 converter station; and
 - Up to approximately 3 km of new underground HVAC cable, between the EGL 5 converter station and the proposed LCS.
- 3.3.18 The scoping boundary for the onshore elements of EGL 5 is located c. 37.5km north-east of the Beacon Fen Order Limits at its closest point.
- 3.3.19 The EGL 5 project is located beyond the ZOI for the majority of environmental aspects considered within the Beacon Fen ES, with the exception of Agricultural Land, for which the ZOI was Lincolnshire. However, there is currently insufficient information available on the EGL 5 scheme to undertake a meaningful assessment of potential cumulative effects. As the EGL 5 DCO application is anticipated to be submitted in the second half of 2027, any potentially significant effects with Beacon Fen will be captured within the supporting ES and a meaningful assessment can be undertaken as relevant baseline data and assessment parameters will have been confirmed.

National Grid Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

- 3.3.20 The Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire project is currently at the pre-application stage, with a Scoping Report submitted in November 2025. Submission of the DCO application is currently programmed for March 2028.
- 3.3.21 The closest aspect of the scheme to the Beacon Fen Energy Park comprises the section of new transmission line between Weston Marsh and land to the north of Bourne, c. 11km south-east and 16km south-west of the Beacon Fen Order Limits respectively.
- 3.3.22 The scheme is located beyond the ZOI for the majority of environmental aspects considered within the Beacon Fen ES. The exception to this is Agricultural Land, for which the ZOI was Lincolnshire; and statutory sites designated under international conventions or European Directives for which the ZOI is 20km, or 30km for bats.
- 3.3.23 However, there is currently insufficient information available on the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire scheme to undertake a meaningful assessment of potential cumulative effects. As the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire DCO application is anticipated to be submitted in 2028, any potentially significant effects with Beacon Fen Energy Park will be captured within the supporting ES and a meaningful assessment can be undertaken as relevant baseline data and assessment parameters will have been confirmed.

3.4 Other Schemes

Mareham Lane Solar Farm (23/1419/FUL & PINS Appeal Reference: APP/R2520/W/25/3373351)

- 3.4.1 At the time of the cut-off date, the Mareham Lane Solar Farm application had been refused and was therefore not considered within the ES. This refusal was appealed in October 2025. The appeal is not yet determined.
- 3.4.2 The proposals are for a solar farm development on land to the east and west of Mareham Lane, Sleaford, with a cable connection to Sleaford Substation. The solar array is c. 3.7km south-west of the Beacon Fen Order Limits at the closest point (specifically the junction of the Bespoke Access Corridor at the A17). The cable connection is c. 3km to the west of the Order Limits.
- 3.4.3 A Screening Opinion was issued for the application in December 2023 which, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, considered the potential for significant cumulative effects in combination with the other schemes in the area, specifically referencing Beacon Fen Energy Park. The Screening Opinion concluded that the proposals were not likely to result in significant effects on the environment, in isolation or in cumulation with other projects, and therefore no EIA was required.
- 3.4.4 Due to the existing intervening built development, primarily comprising Heckington and the A17, and screening provided by existing vegetation, it is not considered likely that Mareham Lane Solar Farm will result in significant cumulative effects in combination with Beacon Fen Energy Park. The Mareham Lane Solar Farm site is entirely Grade 3b and therefore will not contribute to a cumulative loss of BMV.
- 3.4.5 Therefore it is not considered that the Mareham Lane Solar Farm scheme is likely to result in significant cumulative effects in combination with Beacon Fen Energy Park and this scheme is not considered further.

4. Summary

4.1.1 The additional schemes identified by LCC, NKDC and BBC have been evaluated in order to determine if any updates to the CEA are required.

4.1.2 The additional schemes:

- Have already been considered within the CEA; or
- Are not likely to result in significant effects with the Proposed Development; or
- Currently have insufficient information available to undertake a meaningful assessment of potential cumulative effects (noting that for these schemes, Beacon Fen Energy Park will be considered within their own cumulative assessments).

4.1.3 Therefore it is not considered that an update to the CEA is required.