# FENWICK SOLAR FARM

**Fenwick Solar Farm**
**EN010152**

## Environmental Statement

**Volume III Appendix 1-3: EIA Scoping Opinion Responses**
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# 1. Matters Addressed in Scoping Opinion

1.1.1 This technical appendix of the Environmental Statement (ES) summarises the issues raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion on the Scheme (refer to **ES Volume III Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010152/APP/6.3]**) and describes how the views of the Planning Inspectorate and other consultation bodies have been/or will be taken into account in the environmental studies and ongoing design of the Scheme. This is presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Matters from the Scoping Opinion Addressed in the ES**

| Consultee | Chapter | Topic | Planning Inspectorate ID | Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment | Summary of Response |
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| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Site Boundary | 2.1.1 | The Scoping Report states that the Site Boundary is likely to be refined as the design of the Scheme progresses. The Environmental Statement (ES) should describe any changes to the final boundary for the Development Consent Order (DCO), including an explanation of the reasons for the changes and should ensure that the scope of any assessments reflects the maximum extent of the Scheme. | **ES Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010152/APP/6.1]** describes the changes to the Site Boundary (referred to as Order limits in the ES) between the Scoping and ES stage and the reasons for them. The chapter has been further developed in the ES to describe the evolution of the Scheme design (including the extent of the Site Boundary, nowreferred to as Order limits in the ES, from scoping through to ES publication). The scope of the assessments presented in the ES reflects the current extent of the Order limits and is shown on **ES Volume II Figure 1-2: Site Boundary Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Project description and flexibility | 2.1.2 | The description of the Scheme within the Scoping Report is relatively high level (at this stage) which does affect the level of detail possible in the Inspectorate's comments. The locations of principal development components within the application site have not been defined. In particular, the anticipated height and location(s) of the Battery Energy Storage System(s) (BESS(s)), which is likely to be a prominent feature of the Scheme, has not been provided.<br>The Inspectorate notes the Applicant's intention to apply a 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to maintain flexibility within the design of the Scheme, namely relating to the photovoltaic (PV) panel type and configuration, arrangement of supporting infrastructure and the inclusion and arrangement of the BESS(s). Paragraph 2.3.41 of the Scoping Report explains that there are currently four potential options under consideration for the energy export connection to the National Grid, although these options are to be refined prior to the production of the PEIR and DCO submission.<br>The Inspectorate expects that at the point an application is made, the description of the Scheme will be sufficiently detailed to include the design, size, capacity, technology, and locations of the different elements of the Scheme, and a justification for these. This should include the footprint and heights of the structures (relevant to existing ground levels), as well as land-use requirements for all elements and phases of the development. The description should be supported (as necessary) by figures, cross-sections, and drawings which should be clearly and appropriately referenced. Where flexibility is sought, the ES should clearly set out the maximum design parameters that would apply for each | Noted. **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** describes the principal components of the Scheme and the design parameters used, including further details of the BESS Containers, and the two electricity export connection options assessed within the ES (namely the Grid Connection Corridor option, connecting the Scheme to the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation via underground 400kV cables, and the Grid Connection Line Drop option, connecting into the existing 400kV overhead line running through the Solar PV Site). **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** is supported by **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume III Appendix 2-2: BESS and On-Site Substation [EN010152/APP/6.3]** (the latter providing further details on the indicative configuration, layout, dimensions, and cross-sections of the BESS Area and the On-Site Substation).<br>Table 2-1 of **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** defines the maximum design parameters for all options from which the ES assessments are based. **ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14** assess the options that are expected to present the worst-case scenarios. |

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| | | | | option assessed and how these have been used to inform an adequate assessment in the ES. | |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | BESS | 2.1.3 | Paragraph 2.3.36 indicates that the BESS(s) may need auxiliary power for cooling. The ES should explain how this auxiliary power is to be provided and describe any infrastructure (including the maximum dimensions) that would be required. | As stated in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the BESS Containers would have an integrated heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system to ensure the efficiency of the batteries. If this uses air to heat and cool, it will include a fan built into it that is powered by an auxiliary power unit. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Grid connection | 2.1.4 | The third grid connection option indicates that *"two underground 132 kV circuits"* would be required. If this option is taken forward, the ES should explain if the two circuits are to be located within a single trench/cable run or are required to be in separate areas. On the basis that these works could have the potential to double the construction works required, the ES should provide justification for the option chosen. | The grid connection option with two underground 132 kV circuits is no longer considered for the Scheme. As stated in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Grid Connection Cables or the Grid Connection Line Drop cables would all be located within a single trench. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Watercourse, railway and road crossings | 2.1.5 | Watercourses, railways and roads are proposed to be crossed during construction of the Scheme. The ES should identify which watercourses, railways and roads will be crossed and at which locations, with reference to an accompanying figure(s). The ES should describe the types of crossings that are required, their scale and dimensions and the nature of any associated construction works.<br>Sufficient details should be provided to inform a robust assessment of likely significant effects on relevant aspects/matters including watercourse hydraulics and ecological receptors. Effort should be made to agree the approach to watercourse, railway and road crossings with the relevant consultation bodies. | The Applicant has been in contact with the Environment Agency, Danvm Internal Drainage Board, Network Rail, Highways England, the City of Doncaster Council and other relevant stakeholders with regards to crossing methods, as appropriate. The location of watercourse, railway and road crossings has been identified (including figures) within the ES. Where practicable, existing watercourse crossings have been utilised but, where this has not been possible and new crossings are required, clear span structures have been prioritised over culvert structures. Where the Grid Connection Cables crosses IDB watercourses, or WFD monitored reaches, the cable will cross using non-intrusive tecnhiques. Any likely significant effects are addressed in the ES with appropriate mitigation specified where relevant.<br>**ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** shows the locations of watercourse, railway and road crossings. The assessment within **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes assessment of any potential groundwater flow impacts from the Grid Connection Corridor construction works. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operations and maintenance hub | 2.1.6 | The ES should provide details relating to the operation and maintenance hub including location and dimensions of buildings and storage areas. Any potential adverse impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the operations and maintenance hub should also be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur. | As described in Section 2.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and shown in **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]**, the Operations and Maintenance Hub would be established through the construction of a containerised unit adjacent to an existing barn within Field NW08 of the Solar PV Site (up to 6.5 m in height). This would |

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| | | | | | provide welfare, office accommodation, and facilities for maintenance and storage throughout the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme. The existing agricultural building would be used for storage and would not require modification. The potential effects, including in respect of construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Operations and Maintenance Hub are considered in the technical chapters of the ES (**ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**), as appropriate. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction and operation start dates | 2.1.7 | The Scoping Report states that construction could start in 2026 at the earliest and is estimated to last approximately 18 to 24 months. However, no information is provided as to whether this would be delayed in the event that the grid connection date remains as 2032. If uncertainty remains on the connection date at the point of application, the ES must clearly explain the parameters used in the assessment, including the likely construction and connection dates.<br>In the event that either construction or operation is expected to be delayed as a result of the 2032 connection date, the ES must explain how the future baseline has been defined for each aspect and how impacts have been predicted, given the uncertainty around timing. | Noted. The Applicant will pursue discussions with National Grid to bring forward the grid connection date (currently set to April 2032 as of October 2024) and ensure that the renewable energy generated by the Scheme would be available to the National Grid as soon as possible, helping to meet net zero targets and contributing towards security of supply.<br>Therefore, the Scheme is expected to be operational from 2030 with construction starting as early as 2028 and decommissioning starting as early as 2070. These dates have been used for the purposes of the assessment in this ES. The ES chapters each provide clarification of whether delaying or extending the construction phase (and knock-on changes to the decommissioning date) would lead to changes in the outcome of the assessment provided. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction timeline | 2.1.8 | As detailed in ID 2.1.7 above, the earliest construction could start is in 2026 and is estimated to last approximately 18 to 24 months. The ES should explain how the construction timeline would enable connection in late 2027, should the request to bring forward the date of connection be approved.<br>The ES should also provide an anticipated timeframe for each stage of the construction period (enabling works, construction and commissioning) as this will help correspond to the characteristics of the likely impacts and effects. | Noted. **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** sets out an overview of the construction programme and activities with the Scheme expected to be operational from 2030. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction activities | 2.1.9 | An overview of indicative construction activities is provided in paragraph 2.4.3 of the Scoping Report. This information should be set out in the ES including key construction milestones, the duration and location of the required construction activities, associated plant and machinery, and the proposed construction hours. | Noted. **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** sets out construction working hours, key construction milestones, the duration and location of construction activities and associated plant and machinery. |

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| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction compounds | 2.1.10 | The Scoping Report states that the Scheme would require temporary construction compounds within the Site, however, the exact location is yet to be determined. To ensure a robust assessment of likely significant effects, the ES should provide details regarding the number, location and dimensions of construction compounds. | The Order limits shown in **ES Volume II Figure 1-1: Site Boundary Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** are the maximum extent of land required for the Scheme and included within the DCO Application. No additional land beyond this would be required for the construction of temporary compounds.<br>As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, one main temporary construction compound would be located within the Solar PV Site, south of Haggs Lane and west of the BESS Area, and two smaller short-term satellite construction compounds would be located in the northwest and northeast in Fields NW07 and SE02, respectively. The compounds would be approximately up to 150 m by 150 m and could contain a site office, mobile welfare units, generators, canteen facilities and a fenced area for storage and waste containers.<br>Two temporary construction compounds would be located within the Grid Connection Corridor, one in a field east of the junction between Trumfleet Lane and Brick Kiln Lane and the other in the field northeast of Marsh Road adjacent to Engine Dike. The precise location and dimensions of the compounds are to be determined and, therefore, for the purpose of the ES a wider area in which these could be located is considered.<br>At a number of the grid connection access points there would be 50 m by 50 m roving compound and lay-down areas. The compound area footprint will take into consideration topography, drainage and heritage and environmental constraints. The compounds would allow construction vehicles to turn off the public highway and park safely. They would include parking bays, portacabins, unloading and storage areas and power generators. Upon completion of construction, the compound areas would be removed and the land reinstated.<br>Indicative locations are shown in **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and it is noted that appropriate buffers from watercourses and other sensitive features would be observed. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Access and abnormal loads | 2.1.11 | The Scoping Report identifies potential for road upgrades, widening and new road construction to accommodate abnormal loads or to ensure visibility splays at site access/egress points if required. Paragraph 2.4.9 states that the need for these works would be determined as the design develops. | Section 13.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** outlines the assessment of the impact of the Scheme with embedded mitigation. The number of AIL traffic movements and routes associated with AIL traffic are presented in the ES.<br>A **Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010152/APP/7.17]** is provided alongside the ES |

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| | | | | The Inspectorate considers that the impacts, which may result from such works, with appropriate mitigation measures, should be assessed within relevant aspect chapters of the ES where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES should also set out the predicted number of abnormal loads and expected routeing, and whether road upgrades/widening require an extension to the red line boundary. | chapter to outline the routes and expectations of AILs travelling to the Scheme. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Biodiversity mitigation and enhancement | 2.1.12 | The Scoping Report explains that a Framework Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan will be submitted with the DCO Application. The Framework Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan should clearly differentiate between measures proposed to mitigate significant effects of the Scheme and measures proposed to support biodiversity net gain (BNG). | Noted. A **Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010152/APP/7.14]** has been provided with the ES and includes differentiation of measures proposed in mitigation from those proposed to support BNG. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operational and maintenance activities | 2.1.13 | The proposals for ongoing management and maintenance of the land around and under the solar PV modules should be confirmed in the ES, including any animal grazing. Any potential adverse impacts of maintenance activities should also be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur.<br>The Scheme description should also provide information as to why one to three permanent staff are required, as personnel required for deliveries and servicing, which are noted to be the main operational requirements, are listed as visitors. | As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, for the purposes of assessment and reporting of effects, it is assumed that there will be no grazing at the Solar PV Site during the operation and maintenance phase. However, should consent be granted, grazing by sheep will be explored, noting that there are no known landowner restrictive covenants or other reasons that would prevent such use. **ES Volume III Appendix 2-1: Grazing Feasibility Report [EN010152/APP/6.3]** confirms that *"if managed correctly, by providing good fencing and water supplies and good sheep husbandry, then there is no reason why the land under the panels cannot successfully be grazed by sheep, as is common practice on other operational solar farms both within the UK and internationally."*<br>Should grazing be implemented at the Solar PV Site, stock density and seasonality of grazing will be such as to maintain the post-development grassland status as presented within the **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]**.<br>A description of the likely activities that would be undertaken during Scheme operation and maintenance are provided in Section 2.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and assessed in the technical chapters (**ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**) as appropriate.<br>As confirmed in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, it is anticipated that there would be up to two members of permanent staff on site at any one time during the operation and maintenance phase. Tasks likely to be required by the two permanent members of staff will include security, routine maintenance and inspection and site |

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| | | | | | management. Additional staffing/visitors, such as maintenance workers and deliveries, would be ad hoc as needed. It is assumed this would equate to an average of four additional workers per month. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operational lifespan/decommissioning | 2.1.14 | The Inspectorate notes that the operational life of the Scheme is assumed to be 40 years for the purposes of the Scoping Report and subsequent ES. However, the Scoping Report states there is potential for the operational lifespan to be longer depending on the condition of the equipment and length of the lease agreement. The ES should explain how the uncertainty around the design life of the Scheme has been accounted for in reaching the assessment conclusions. Any potential impacts that are likely to result in significant effects arising from the Scheme should it operate beyond the 40-year timeframe should be assessed in the relevant ES aspect chapters.<br>It is noted that paragraph 2.6.4 states that all cabling will be removed, however paragraph 2.6.5 states that it is typical to leave cables in situ. The ES should be consistent in its description and subsequent assessment of decommissioning activities where they are known. | As stated in **Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the design life of the Scheme is 40 years with decommissioning to commence 40 years after final commissioning (currently anticipated to be 2030 to 2070). The technical assessments (**ES Volume I Chapters 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**) therefore assume a design life of 40 years.<br>The mode of cable decommissioning for the Grid Connection Cables would be dependent upon government policy and good practice at that time, as noted in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The potential effects of decommissioning activities have been assessed in the technical chapters (**ES Volume I Chapters 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**) as appropriate based on the worst case parameters for each technical topic. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Existing infrastructure | 2.1.15 | The Applicant's attention is drawn to the scoping consultation response from National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc, which identifies a number of existing infrastructure assets within or in proximity to the application site, including overhead lines, underground cables and substation.<br>The assessment in the ES should take into account the location of existing infrastructure and identify any interactions between it and the Scheme. Any significant effects that are likely to occur should be assessed. | The Scheme layout has been developed to take existing infrastructure such as overhead lines, buried pipelines and substations into account. **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Telecommunications and Utilities, assesses the potential effects of the Scheme on existing electrical infrastructure and other utilities. No significant effects have been identified in the assessment, per consultation with National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment scope and methodology | 2.2.1 | The Applicant proposes to include a chapter in the ES that provides a summary of environmental aspects which have been considered in the Scoping Report, but for which standalone chapters are not required as the absence of likely significant effects (LSE) is expected to be demonstrated without the need for detailed information.<br>The Inspectorate is content that the Applicant takes a proportionate approach to assessment in the ES and agrees that standalone chapters are not required, provided these aspects are assessed within ES Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics. However, the Applicant should ensure that assessments provided in the 'Other Environmental Topics' chapter are robust and follow the methodology set | Noted. Each technical assessment presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes information on assessment methodology, baseline conditions, potential effects and mitigation in line with the methodology presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |

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| | | | | out in Section 5 of the Scoping Report. The ES should also provide sufficient detail on the baseline conditions and methodology used, and potential impacts and mitigation, where significant effects are likely to occur. | |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Standalone human health assessment | 2.2.2 | On the basis that the technical chapters of the ES will consider the potential effects of human health within their own assessments, the Inspectorate is in agreement that a standalone assessment on human health is not required. The ES should clearly signpost where impacts relating to human health have been considered in the relevant technical chapters. | Noted and confirmed through further engagement with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)/Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** signposts to the relevant technical chapters that address potential effects to human health. The introduction of each technical chapter (**ES Volume I Chapters 06 to 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**) signposts the reader to any other studies or technical chapters that may be relevant. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative effects with other developments | 2.2.3 | A Zone of Influence (ZoI) of 5 km is considered in the Scoping Report for other developments which have the potential to result in cumulative effects. The ZoI should be determined based on the potential for significant effects on receptors to occur and may differ across the environmental aspects. The ES should provide a clear justification for the extent of each ZoI and how it captures the effects from the Scheme. Wherever possible it should be agreed with the relevant statutory consultation bodies as part of discussions on the assessment methodologies. Evidence of agreement on these points should be provided in the ES. | A range of topic-specific ZoIs have been applied – the Applicant has not applied a 5 km ZoI for every topic. The justification for each ZoI identified is presented in **ES Volume I Chapters 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and summarised in Table 15-1 of **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Agreement with the relevant statutory consultation bodies has been sought where practicable and is summarised in the consultation section of each technical chapter (**ES Volume I Chapters 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**). |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Monitoring | 2.2.4 | The ES should identify and describe any proposed monitoring of adverse effects and how the results of such monitoring would be utilised to inform any necessary remedial actions. | Proposed monitoring measures and methodology for the utilisation of any monitoring results in remedial actions are presented in the ES. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Scoping table | 2.2.5 | The Inspectorate recommends the use of a table in the ES to set out key changes in parameters/options of the Scheme presented in the Scoping Report to those presented in the ES. It is also recommended that a table demonstrating how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed in the ES and/or associated documents is provided. | The evolution of the Scheme layout is presented in Table 3-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, including the changes occurring between the preparation of the EIA Scoping Report and the ES assessment.<br>The design parameters used for the ES assessment are presented in Table 2-1 of **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>A summary of how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been taken into account in the study and design of the Scheme is provided in this appendix. |

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| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Effects which are assessed in other chapters | 2.2.6 | The Scoping Report states in several chapters that assessments relevant to a chapter may be undertaken in others (for example in combination effects on heritage or ecological receptors due to noise and vibration are considered in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Chapter 8: Ecology, rather than Chapter 11: Noise and vibration). The ES should clearly signpost between chapters to where the relevant assessments are presented. | As noted in Table 5-1 of **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the introduction of each technical chapter signposts the reader to any other studies or technical chapters that may be relevant. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Study areas | 2.2.7 | The Scoping Report typically presents different Study Areas within the same chapter for the three sections of the Solar PV Site, Grid Connection Corridor and Thorpe Marsh substation, and within some chapters proposes a different Study Area for construction and operation. The ES should present the relevant Study Areas for each aspect chapter on appropriate figures. | As noted in **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, justification for the spatial scope considered appropriate is documented in each technical chapter (**ES Volume I Chapters 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**) with figure(s) for each Study Area presented in **ES Volume II [EN010152/APP/6.2]**, as appropriate. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transboundary effects | 2.2.8 | The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the Scheme and concludes that the Scheme is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the Scheme's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts.<br>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Scheme is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.<br>Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process. The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at: http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-andadvice/advice-notes/ | Noted. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | In-combination climate change impact assessment – sea level rise | 3.1.1 | The Applicant explains that the Scheme is located inland, more than 40 km from the sea, in an area that is not susceptible to sea level rise. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely to occur and an assessment of sea level rise in the in-combination climate change impact | It is agreed with the Planning Inspectorate that significant effects are not likely to occur directly from future sea level rise. Future sea level rise has been considered as part of the generation of a downstream boundary condition on the tidal River Don for the hydraulic modelling of the River Went. |

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| | | | | assessment can be scoped out of further assessment in the ES. | |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Climate change resilience review – sea level rise | 3.1.2 | The Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of further assessment in the climate change resilience review. This is on the basis that the Scheme is not located in an area that is susceptible to increased flooding as a result of sea level rise. | Sea level rise has been scoped out of the ES in-combination and climate change impact (ICCI) assessment. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment methodology – in combination climate change impact assessment | 3.1.3 | The Scoping Report does not provide a description of the methodology to be used in the in-combination climate change impact assessment. The ES should explain how the in-combination climate change impacts have been identified and the methodology that will be used to determine the significance of effects. Any use of professional judgement to assess significance should be fully justified within the ES. | **ES Volume I Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides a methodology for the ICCI assessment. This includes justifications in respect of assessments of significance. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cultural Heritage | 3.2.1 | No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. | Noted. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Grid connection corridor – Study Area | 3.2.2 | The Scoping Report states that a 1 km Study Area has been applied to the Grid Connection Corridor as the proposed works would be largely underground. However, the Scoping Report explains that above ground components of the Scheme may also be located in the Grid Connection Corridor. As a result, a wider Study Area may be proposed once the locations and extent of above ground components are confirmed.<br>The ES should contain a robust justification to support the final Study Area for the Grid Connection Corridor, on the basis of relevant professional guidance and the extent of the likely impacts. The Applicant should make effort to agree the approach with relevant consultation bodies. The final Study Areas and locations of the heritage assets should be depicted on supporting plan(s). | As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, no above ground infrastructure is now proposed in the Grid Connection Corridor as the On-Site Substation (which is the only above ground infrastructure required for the Grid Connection Corridor) will be located within the Solar PV Site. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Designated assets | 3.2.3 | The ES should provide a list of all the designated assets located within the defined cultural heritage Study Areas. A figure showing the location of the heritage assets in relation to the Scheme should also be provided. | A full list of designated heritage assets located within the Order limits and the defined Study Areas are set out in **ES Volume III Appendix 7-3: Cultural Heritage Gazetteer of Heritage Assets [EN010152/APP/6.3]** and presented in **ES Volume II Figure 7-1: Designated Heritage Assets [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Archaeological investigations | 3.2.4 | The Applicant should ensure that the information used to inform the assessment is robust and allows for suitable identification of assets likely to be impacted by the Scheme. The Applicant should make effort to agree the need for | **ES Volume III Appendix 7-3: Desk Based Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.2]** has been prepared and sets out the baseline conditions of the Scheme and defined Study Areas. It considers data from available sources including Local |

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| | | | | intrusive investigations (paragraph 7.7.14 of the Scoping Report indicates that geophysical or trial trenching may be carried out) with relevant consultation bodies. Where necessary, intrusive investigations should be completed prior to submission of the DCO application and reported in the ES. | Authority Historic Environment Data, aerial analysis, research, National Heritage List for England for designated heritage assets, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation surveys undertaken in support of the Scheme. The results of consultation with the City of Doncaster Council's archaeological advisors (South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS)) to determine the requirement for non-intrusive and intrusive investigations have been reported in **ES Volume III Appendix 7-3: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operational effects on aquatic invertebrates | 3.3.1 | The Scoping Report states that the solar panels are unlikely to attract aquatic invertebrates, as a result the Applicant proposes to scope out effects on aquatic invertebrates during operation of the Scheme. However, due to the close proximity of the Solar PV Site to waterbodies, in the absence of information, such as the arrangement of solar panels or clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope out these matters from the assessment.<br>The ES should include an assessment of the effects on aquatic invertebrates during operation of the Scheme or provide evidence to demonstrate the absence of likely significant effects including agreement with relevant consultation bodies. | The desk study (as presented in Table 8-8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**) did not return any records of notable aquatic macroinvertebrates with an aerial (winged) life stage within 2 km of the Solar PV Site. Consequently, there is minimal risk of notable aquatic invertebrate species being affected by the presence of solar panels in proximity to waterbodies within the Solar PV Site. This has been confirmed through the completion of aquatic surveys, including for macroinvertebrates, in 2024.<br>Furthermore, AECOM has previously demonstrated only certain aquatic insects might be attracted to solar panels and that numerous factors need to be favourable for these aquatic insects to be attracted, including solar panel orientation, wind direction and speed, distance between waterbodies containing the insects and the solar panels, and height insects would need to fly to in order to detect and be attracted to the solar panels (Ref. 1). Only a concatenation of all these factors would create the conditions whereby solar panels might attract these particular species of insects. Given that the emergence period of a given insect species is hours long, this is unlikely and explains why events of insects using solar panels, car roofs, glazing on greenhouses and other such shiny surfaces are rare.<br>Given the rarity of solar panels attracting aquatic insects alongside the lack of notable aquatic insect species records within 2 km of the Solar PV Site and recorded during baseline surveys of the Order limits, no operational impacts to aquatic invertebrates are predicted. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Great crested newts (GCN) | 3.3.2 | Table 8-6 states that effects on GCN are currently scoped in but may be scoped out of the detailed impact assessment in the ES as District Level Licensing (DLL) is likely to be used to offset the effects of the Scheme on GCN. | The Applicant has been engaging with Natural England and has submitted an Enquiry Form (to obtain the required IACPC) to Natural England. The Applicant is currently awaiting the IACPC, which will be submitted into examination at the earliest opportunity. |

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| | | | | The Inspectorate understands that the DLL approach includes strategic area assessment and the identification of risk zones and strategic opportunity area maps. The ES should include information to demonstrate whether the Scheme is located within a risk zone for GCN. If the Applicant enters into the DLL Scheme, Natural England (NE) will undertake an impact assessment and inform the Applicant whether their Scheme is within one of the amber risk zones and therefore whether the Scheme is likely to have a significant effect on GCN. The outcome of this assessment will be documented on an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC). The IACPC can be used to provide additional detail to inform the findings in the ES, including information on the Scheme's impact on GCN and the appropriate compensation required.<br>For the avoidance of doubt, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter may be subsequently scoped out of further assessment, subject to the process set out above and NE's agreement that it is appropriate. If the DLL route is not pursued, the Applicant should include an assessment within the ES, including baseline surveys in line with NE's Standing Advice for GCN which suggests considering the use of a 500 m Study Area. | |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Study area – nationally designated sites | 3.3.3 | The Scoping Report states that Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within 2 km of the Site have been scoped into the assessment. However, as highlighted by NE in their consultation response (see Appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion), the ES should also assess the potential for air quality effects on SSSIs outside of the 2 km Study Area, where they are located adjacent to roads affected by a significant increase in vehicle movements during construction and decommissioning of the Scheme. The Applicant should seek to agree the Study Area with NE. | As stated in **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality, construction phase road traffic volumes are not expected to meet the thresholds set out by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2017) screening criteria, meaning that air quality effects are not considered further. In addition, there are no SSSIs, either within 2km of the Order limits or beyond that will be subject to increased levels of traffic on any of the adjacent road network, i.e. within 200m. A significant change to traffic flows is not anticipated to occur during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme. Therefore, it is not anticipated that any SSSI within or beyond 2 km of the Order limits will be affected by air quality impacts. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Notable mammals | 3.3.4 | The Scoping Report does not propose to conduct any specific surveys of brown hare, hedgehog, and polecat. However, paragraph 8.5.15 of the Scoping Report states that signs of brown hare and suitable habitat for hedgehog and polecat have been identified on the Solar PV Site. It is unclear why specific surveys for these species are not proposed. The ES should assess effects on these species, based on robust survey data or provide justification for the | As detailed in Section 8.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, specific surveys have not been required to inform the assessment for any mammals listed in accordance with S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Ref. 2). Such species have been assumed to be present where the Order limits is within the known geographical range for these species, if there are desk study records of any such species occurring within 2 km |

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| | | | | lack of survey data including evidence of agreement with relevant consultation bodies. | of the Order limits and there is suitable habitat on Site to support them. Brown Hare are already known to be present at the Order limits from anecdotal sightings. Any embedded mitigation required for relevant Species of Principal Importance (SPI) is included in Section 8.10 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The proposed habitat creation and enhancement for the Scheme will be beneficial for these species. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Zone of Influence (ZOI) | 3.3.5 | The Scoping Report states that the ZoI for the Scheme is *"the area over which ecological features may be affected by changes as a result of the Scheme and associated activities"* and may vary between each ecological receptor identified. However, no information is provided explaining how the ZoI will be determined. The ES should describe the methodology and factors used to determine the relevant ZoI(s) and state the relevant ZoI for each receptor or group of receptors. | Further information on the methodology and factors used to develop the ZoI for the Scheme and how this is applied to relevant ecological features is provided in Section 8.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The ZoI has been used to define the Study and Survey Areas set out in Section 8.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Arboricultural surveys | 3.3.6 | Paragraph 8.8.6 of the Scoping Report states that arboricultural surveys will be undertaken to inform the detailed design stage of the Scheme. The ES should identify any veteran trees which may be affected by the Scheme and assess any significant effects where they are likely to occur. Any mitigation measures required to avoid/reduce impacts to ancient woodland and/or veteran trees, for example buffer zones, should be described in the ES and secured in the DCO. | A tree survey has been undertaken within the Order limits with the results presented in **ES Volume III Appendix 10-7: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. The baseline data, tree constraints plan, and tree protection plan have been used to inform the design and buffer zones to protect tree features presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>**ES Volume III Appendix ~~11~~10-7: AIA [EN010152/APP/6.3]** describes mitigation measures secured through the environmental management plans prepared for construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning as a Requirement attached to the DCO. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Grid Connection Corridor surveys | 3.3.7 | The Scoping Report explains that ecological surveys will only include the Grid Connection Corridor area once the location has been refined. However, Table 8-5 states that GCN Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys within the Grid Connection Corridor were undertaken from 15 April to 30 June 2023. The ES should ensure that ecological surveys are also undertaken within the refined location of the Grid Connection Corridor. The final location of GCN eDNA surveys should be confirmed in the ES. | Table 8-5 of the **ES Volume III Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010152/APP/6.3]** states the survey window within which surveys can be undertaken, it does not suggest GCN Environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys within the Grid Connection Corridor were undertaken from 15 April to 30 June 2023.<br>The Applicant has been engaging with Natural England and has submitted an Enquiry Form (to obtain the required IACPC) to Natural England. The Applicant is currently awaiting the IACPC, which will be submitted into examination at the earliest opportunity. |

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| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Wintering and passage bird surveys | 3.3.8 | The Applicant should seek to agree the scope of wintering and passage bird surveys with relevant consultation bodies.<br>The Inspectorate draws the Applicant's attention to the comments from NE in relation to vantage point (VP) surveys. | See responses to Natural England's detailed comments below and through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) in Table 8-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Grid Connection Corridor surveys | 3.3.9 | The Scoping Report states that breeding bird, wintering bird and bat activity surveys within the Grid Connection Corridor are not required. However, in the absence of detailed information regarding construction activities and the proposed construction lighting strategy, the Inspectorate considers that there is potential for effects on breeding and wintering birds and foraging and commuting bat species within the Grid Connection Corridor during construction.<br>The ES should ensure that ecological baselines are supported by robust assessments. Detailed breeding bird, wintering bird and bat activity surveys should be conducted for the Scheme site, including the Grid Connection Corridor, or the ES should provide evidence of agreement from relevant consultation bodies that such surveys are not required. | An initial desk-based appraisal and site walkover survey of the Grid Connection Corridor (subject to access) has been carried out in 2024 to identify whether targeted surveys for breeding birds (particularly sensitive species such as those on WCA Schedule 1, e.g. Barn Owl *Tyto alba*) and wintering birds and more detailed surveys for bats (including roost appraisals of any mature trees and buildings) were required.<br>The requirement for these is determined by the type and quality of habitats present and proportionate to the type and scale of impacts arising from works required within the Grid Connection Corridor. The county ecologist at the City of Doncaster Council was contacted to discuss and seek agreement on various survey requirements, including in relation to birds and bats within the Grid Connection Corridor. The Applicant also engaged Natural England through DAS to discuss survey methodology, including the scope of bird and bat surveys.<br>A desk-based appraisal and site walkover survey of the Grid Connection Corridor was carried out to identify whether targeted breeding and wintering bird surveys or more detailed surveys for bats were required based on likely development impacts. The walkover included an appraisal of any mature trees and buildings within the 150 m survey corridor for their suitability to be used as nest or roost sites by schedule 1 bird species (e.g. barn owl) and bats. Barn owl and bat surveys were subsequently identified to be required along the Grid Connection Corridor and were undertaken during 2024. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Security lighting | 3.3.10 | Table 8-6 of the Scoping Report explains that operational effects to other mammals include disturbance from security lighting. The effects of security lighting disturbance should also be considered in the ES for nocturnal species such as bats that have been scoped into the assessment. | A standalone quantitative assessment for lighting has been scoped out of the ES, however, an assessment of the impacts of lighting on habitats and species is included within **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The other potential effects of security lighting disturbance have been considered in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Confidential Annexes | 3.3.11 | Public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features. Specific survey and assessment data relating to the presence and locations of species such as badgers, rare birds and plants that could | As set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Annex to Advice Note 7 – Presentation of the Environmental Statement (Ref. 3), specific survey and assessment data relating to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features (e.g. Badger or Barn Owl) are provided in confidential annexes to this ES. All other |

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| | | | | be subject to disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation resulting from publication of the information, should be provided in the ES as a confidential annex. All other assessment information should be included in an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder explaining that a confidential annex has been submitted to the Inspectorate and may be made available subject to request. | assessment information is included in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** with a placeholder explaining that a confidential annex has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and may be made available subject to request. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Nutrient neutrality assessment | 3.4.1 | The Scoping Report states that the Site is not located within a local planning authority (LPA) area affected by nutrient pollution impacting on designated sites and there is no hydrological connectivity between the Site and a designated ecological site whereby reduced water quality due to nutrient pollution is leading to adverse effects. Therefore, the Applicant proposes to scope out a nutrient neutrality assessment.<br>The Inspectorate is content that the Scheme does not need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality through a nutrient neutrality assessment. However, where there is the potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to nutrient and/or other emissions to water bodies, this should be assessed within the ES. The ES should also include a description of any measures proposed to reduce pollutant runoff into nearby watercourses, for example, design measures or best practice measures to be secured via the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). | Comment is noted. As outlined in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, it is considered the operation and maintenance of the Scheme will not result in material nutrient emissions to water features. All potential construction impacts including pollutant runoff will be controlled by the CEMP. A **Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010152/APP/7.7]** is presented with the DCO application.<br>Nutrient neutrality has been scoped out of the assessment in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Study Area | 3.4.2 | The ES should provide justification for the use of a 1 km Study Area for the water environment assessment and describe any waterbodies located outside of the established 1 km Study Area that have also been included in the assessment, stating the distance from the Scheme, and explaining why the waterbody has been included. | The explanation and justification for the Study Area is included within Section 9.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The 1 km Study Area is based on professional judgement and is commonly used within environmental impact assessment (EIA) for a water environment Study Area. Given that watercourses flow and water quality and flood risk impacts may propagate downstream, a wider area than 1 km has also been considered. In this area, the water features drain to the River Don which is considered the final receiving water feature which may be affected for the Scheme. This is located approximately 5.5 km downstream of the Solar PV Site. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Ponds | 3.4.3 | Paragraph 9.5.31 of the Scoping Report lists the ponds located within the Solar PV Site Study Area. The ES should also include a list of the waterbodies located within the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area that are likely to be affected by construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. | As stated in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, any impact on ponds as receptors are included within **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Where these are hydrologically linked to watercourses being assessed, these receptors are included within **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and included in |

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| | | | | | assessment with their respective watercourse. **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes the surface water features within the Grid Connection Corridor and a summary of whether these are scoped in, or out, of further assessment. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction compounds | 3.4.4 | The Applicant should ensure that an assessment of the potential impacts from construction compounds on water environment receptors is included in the ES. The ES should also explain how the location of construction compounds, including the access, have been considered to reduce potential effects on the water environment and how any mitigation has been secured. | As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, one main temporary construction compound would be located within the Solar PV Site, south of Haggs Lane and west of the BESS Area, and two smaller short-term satellite construction compounds would be located in the northwest and northeast in Fields NW07 and SE02, respectively. Two temporary construction compounds would be located within the Grid Connection Corridor, one in a field east of the junction between Trumfleet Lane and Brick Kiln Lane and the other in the field northeast of Marsh Road adjacent to Engine Dike.<br>Indicative locations are shown in **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and it is noted that appropriate buffers from watercourses and other sensitive features would be observed.<br>The location of construction compounds to avoid high importance surface watercourses is included within Section 9.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. An assessment of these has been included within the assessment for the potential for surface water, groundwater, hydromorphology, and flood risk of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Mitigation measures | 3.4.5 | The Inspectorate notes the proposed use of mitigation measures, namely Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs). The design of such mitigation measures should be informed by relevant and up to date climate change allowances for the lifetime of the Scheme. | The use and location of SuDS for mitigation of surface water runoff has been included within **ES Volume III Appendix 9-4: Framework Drainage Strategy [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. The storage estimates and greenfield runoff rates incorporate the appropriate climate change allowance in accordance with Environment Agency standards. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Figures | 3.4.6 | The Applicant should ensure that all features on the figures are clearly discernible, avoiding the use of coloured boundaries and features that are too similar to be differentiated. This issue is particularly evident when reviewing the flood zone and field boundary features on Figure 9-3 of the Scoping Report. | This comment has been noted and accounted for within **ES Volume II Figure 9-3** to **Figure 9-5 [EN010152/APP/6.2]** to ensure flood zones and field boundary features are able to be differentiated. |

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| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Flood Zone 3 | 3.4.7 | Where relevant, the ES and Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should differentiate between Flood Zones 3a and 3b in order to determine which parts of the Site are located in areas considered as 'high probability of flooding' and 'functional floodplain'. | Hydraulic modelling has been undertaken at the request of the Environment Agency to determine the extents of Flood Zone 3a (1% Annual Exceedance Probability, AEP) and 3b (3.33% AEP). The outcomes of this modelling is included in the ES and is particularly important given the recent change in the PPG guidance which now recognises the 3.33% AEP (1 in 30 year) extent as Flood Zone 3b. It should be noted however that the On-Site Substation and BESS Area are proposed outside of Flood Zone 3. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Standalone quantitative lighting assessment – construction, operation and decommissioning | 3.5.1 | The Scoping Report proposes that impacts from lighting will be considered in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), rather than as a standalone quantitative assessment.<br>On the basis that the effects from lighting will be assessed in the landscape and visual amenity chapter, the Inspectorate is content that a standalone quantitative lighting assessment can be scoped out of the ES. Any proposed mitigation measures should be described and appropriately secured. However, the ES should also address the effects of lighting in other relevant chapters, particularly ecology. | There would be minimal proposed lighting. Measures embedded in the Scheme to minimise the impact of lighting are set out in Section 10.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Landscape and visual impacts arising from proposed lighting are considered insomuch as they may impact on landscape character and people's views in the landscape and visual impact assessments as set out in **ES Volume III Appendix 10-5: Landscape Assessment Tables [EN010152/APP/6.3]** and **ES Volume III Appendix 10-6: Visual Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. The landscape and visual assessment conclude that mitigation measures for lighting, beyond those embedded in the Scheme, are not required. Lighting is also considered in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Impacts | 3.5.2 | Paragraph 10.2.5 of the Scoping Report describes a preliminary Study Area of *"up to 2 km"* from the Solar PV Site. In the absence of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping and an anticipated height and location(s) for the BESS(s), the Inspectorate considers that a Study Area of up to 2 km may not be sufficient to address the extent of the likely impacts of the Solar PV Site.<br>Section 2 of the Scoping Report describes available options for the panel module mounting structures. However, Section 10 of the Scoping Report does not describe a worst-case scenario for panel configuration in relation to LVIA whereas it has been defined for other aspects. The assessment of impacts to landscape and visual amenity (including the ZTV, Study Area and visualisations) should be based on the relevant worst-case having regard to module mounting structure, panel configuration and any parameters applicable to the Scheme, including all proposed structures such as the BESS. | The initial area of search extended 5 km from the Solar PV Site. This area was subject to a desk based review of aerial photography, analysis of a computer generated ZTV and OS mapping and included consideration of potential effects arising from the proposed Solar PV Panels, BESS Area, Field Stations, the On-Site Substation, and construction plant. The review found there was no potential for significant landscape or visual effects beyond 2 km due to intervening surface features, in particular field boundary vegetation and hedgerows lining local roads, neither of which are included in the ZTV mapping (the ZTV therefore shows a greater extent of theoretical visibility than was found through field work). Existing infrastructure, such as the dismantled railway and the East Coast Mainline running east and west of the Solar PV Site, respectively, also curtail views across the local landscape.<br>There is considered to be one exception to the above, being the elevated perspective of Askern Hill, located approximately 4.8 km southwest of the Solar PV Site which affords potential for people to experience change to their visual amenity. |

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| | | | | | Receptors at Askern Hill have therefore been included within the visual assessment **(ES Volume III Appendix 10-6: Visual Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**) as a single receptor beyond the LVIA Study Area.<br>A series of ZTVs, generated using the maximum heights of the proposed Solar PV Panels, On-Site Substation and BESS Area, are presented at:<br>a. **ES Volume II Figure 10-6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Solar PV Site [EN010152/APP/6.2]**;<br>b. **ES Volume II Figure 10-7: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – On-Site Substation and BESS Area [EN010152/APP/6.2]**; and<br>**ES Volume II Figure 10-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – All Features [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Viewpoints and visualisations | 3.5.3 | Proposed locations for viewpoints and visualisations have not been set out in the Scoping Report. The number and location of viewpoints and visualisations should be justified in the ES and effort should be made to agree these details (including whether a viewpoint from Askern Hill is required) with relevant consultation bodies, including the LPAs. | The locations of viewpoints (which includes a viewpoint from Askern Hill) and visualisations within North Yorkshire was agreed through consultation with North Yorkshire Council via a meeting and follow up email communication in September 2023.<br>East Riding of Yorkshire Council confirmed, by email in September 2023, that visual receptors would be few from the administrative area and therefore that further consultation on viewpoints was not required.<br>The City of Doncaster Council were contacted in July 2023 regarding the scope and approach of the LVIA. Confirmation that the proposed viewpoints provided good coverage was received in October 2023. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Planting restriction impacts | 3.5.4 | It is unclear whether there would be planting restrictions over the Grid Connection Corridor during operation.<br>Consideration should be given to the potential for operational phase effects to landscape and visual receptors as a result of any planting restrictions imposed by easements. The ES should assess any likely significant effects. | The planting of hedgerows is permitted over the Grid Connection Corridor. Deep rooted species and trees would not be planted over the Grid Connection Corridor.<br>The landscape and visual assessment (**ES Volume III Appendix 10-5: Landscape Assessment Tables [EN010152/APP/6.3]** and **ES Volume III Appendix 10-6: Visual Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**) assess the potential for effects during operation and maintenance, including those that may result from any easement associated with the Grid Connection Corridor. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Mitigation planting | 3.5.5 | The ES should clearly present any assumptions made with regards to the height that the proposed mitigation planting would have reached by the assessment years, for the purposes of generating photomontages and reaching the assessment conclusions. | As set out in the assumptions in Section 10.5 of **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, planting is assumed to grow at a rate of 33 cm per year. This assumption has been applied to the assessment conclusions and photomontages presented. |

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| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operational vibration | 3.6.1 | Based on the Scoping Report stating that the equipment present during operation is of a type and would be used in locations such that operational plant would not generate perceptible levels of vibration, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of operational vibration can be scoped out of further assessment. | Operation and maintenance phase vibration is scoped out of further assessment, as agreed. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operational traffic noise | 3.6.2 | The Scoping Report seeks to scope this matter out on the grounds that operational traffic movements will be limited and insufficient to result in significant changes to ambient noise levels in areas around the local road network. The Inspectorate agrees that operational noise from traffic can be scoped out of further assessment. | Operation and maintenance phase traffic is scoped out of further assessment, as agreed. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Grid connection corridor Study Area | 3.6.3 | The Scoping Report states that the Study Area for the Grid Connection Corridor will be 300 m for construction, 50 m from roads used by construction traffic and 500 m for operational plant. However, paragraph 11.2.3 notes that works within the Solar PV Site require a Study Area of 500 m for construction and operation.<br>The ES should provide reasoning for the reduced Study Area for the Grid Connection Corridor during construction or consider extending this Study Area to reflect the Study Area of the Solar PV Site. The ES should also present a Study Area for all elements of the Scheme. | The Study Area for the Grid Connection Corridor is reduced on the basis that there would be no operation and maintenance phase noise effects, so only construction/decommissioning noise and vibration effects are considered. Consequently, the 300 m Study Area for the Grid Connection Corridor is defined based on guidance in BS 5228-1 which states that construction noise predictions are generally reliable up to 300 m.<br>By comparison, the Study Area for the Solar PV Site is a combined area for both construction and operation and maintenance, recognising that there will also be operation and maintenance phase noise effects. The Study Area therefore adopts a worst case noise extent of 500 m for the operation and maintenance phase. It is therefore considered the Study Areas are aligned.<br>This is also presented in Section 11.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction traffic routes – noise and vibration Study Area | 3.6.4 | Paragraph 11.2.4 of the Scoping Report states that a Study Area of 50 m either side of construction traffic routes will be used in the noise and vibration assessment. The ES should explain how the construction traffic routes and key roads have been identified for the purposes of the assessment. | The key roads have been identified based on the likely routes that both workers and HGVs would use to access the Scheme. This is covered in Section 13.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. A **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** is provided alongside the ES chapter to outline the routes and expectations of those travelling to the Scheme. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Description of receptors | 3.6.5 | The Scoping Report states that selected noise receptors will be defined within the ES. The ES should explain how receptors have been identified and provide a figure showing their location, the assessment must address all potential significant effects. | An explanation of how noise sensitive receptors in the Study Area have been identified for this assessment is presented in Table 11-3 of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>**ES Volume II Figure 11-1: Noise Monitoring and Receptor Locations [EN010152/APP/6.2]** shows the receptor |

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| | | | | | locations where all likely significant effects associated with noise impacts are assessed. The approach to the noise assessment and location of noise sensitive receptors and approach to baseline sound monitoring has been shared and agreed with the City of Doncaster Council.<br>The assessment of noise and vibration effects, which addresses all potential significant noise and vibration effects, is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessments within other chapters | 3.6.6 | The Scoping Report refers to assessments of noise and vibration on ecological and cultural heritage receptors. The Inspectorate considers that noise and vibration may also have the potential to lead to adverse effects on landscape and visual receptors (for example in terms of tranquillity), and as such the effects of noise and vibration on these receptors should be assessed. | Baseline levels of tranquillity (quantitative assessment) have been considered as part of the landscape baseline (**ES Volume III Appendix 10-3: Landscape Character Baseline [EN010152/APP/6.3]**). Changes to the baseline level of tranquillity, for instance due to new sources of noise, have been considered within the landscape assessment (**ES Volume III Appendix 10-5: Landscape Assessment Tables [EN010152/APP/6.3]**). |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Predictions of vibration | 3.6.7 | The Scoping Report states that the ES will seek to rely on historic measurement data and that no predictions of ground borne vibration propagation are proposed.<br>The Inspectorate is unclear as to why historical data only is to be used, or how an assessment of the effects from the Scheme can be undertaken if no predictions of vibration are undertaken. The ES should provide a justification of the chosen approach and describe how the likely significance of the effects has been determined. | Ground-borne construction vibration levels have been calculated based on historic data in BS:5228-2 which is an industry standard practice. Vibration predictions will depend highly on ground conditions between the works and each receptor along with the operating frequency of the equipment. This approach is consistent with noise assessments submitted for other solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), such as Gate Burton Energy Park, Longfield Solar Farm, and East Yorkshire Solar Farm.<br>Measures to minimise the impact of vibration through the application of good practice will be secured within the **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]**.<br>This is also presented in Section 11.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Baseline noise monitoring | 3.6.8 | The Inspectorate notes that the figure showing proposed noise monitoring locations and sensitive receptors does not currently include the Grid Connection Corridor. It is also noted that not all of the identified sensitive receptors are to be subject to noise monitoring in a nearby location (for example R6). The Inspectorate is concerned that the current proposals may not deliver a robust baseline. The Applicant must ensure that the noise monitoring provides adequate coverage across the entire area within the ZoI of the Scheme. As noted above, the ES should report on the predicted effects at all noise sensitive receptors within the | Attended noise measurements were included in the noise monitoring regime based on this feedback from the Planning Inspectorate and taken at various locations along the Grid Connection Corridor as detailed in Table 11-10 of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume II Figure 11-1: Noise Monitoring and Receptor Locations [EN010152/APP/6.2]**.<br>Baseline noise monitoring locations are presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume II Figure 11-1: Noise Monitoring and Receptor Locations [EN010152/APP/6.2]**, |

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| | | | | project's ZoI. The Applicant is advised to seek to agree the noise monitoring locations with relevant consultation bodies. | as agreed with the City of Doncaster Council in an email response on 9 November 2023 regarding the proposed noise monitoring locations). Further details are presented in Section 11.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>North Yorkshire Council was also consulted and had no objections in terms of noise in a memo dated 24 October 2023.<br>Each noise monitoring location is representative of the receptor within the vicinity based on the dominant existing noise source, such as roads. The monitoring locations and the representative receptors are shown in Table 11-4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) – all project phases | 3.7.1 | The Scoping Report indicates that there is an MSA, located within the 500 m Study Area around the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area. In the absence of any specific information relating to the location of the MSA, the Inspectorate is not in agreement that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment at present. This is on the basis that the presence of cabling, other infrastructure and potential standoffs, and the requirement to excavate/drill through the mineral resource during construction and decommissioning, has potential to result in impacts to the MSA.<br>In the event that the chosen cable route(s) pass through the MSA, the ES should also describe why it was not possible to avoid this area (given the currently large Grid Connection Corridor Search Area). | The Grid Connection Corridor crosses a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for sand and gravel and, therefore, the MSA has been scoped in to the assessment.<br>Approximately 1.5 km of the length of the Grid Connection Corridor is located within the MSA, and a further approximately 1.1 km of the Grid Connection Corridor is located within the associated MSA buffer. The reasons that the Grid Connection Corridor is routed as proposed is set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and include the need for a direct route that follows existing linear features, minimises the number of landowners affected, and avoids sensitive receptors, interaction with utilities and environmental designations as far as practicable. A Mineral Safeguarding Report (**ES Volume III Appendix 12-2: Minerals Safeguarding Report [EN010152/APP/6.3]**) has been prepared to consider the impact of the proposed cables on the MSA. This notes that the cables will be installed via a shallow and narrow trench (approximately 0.7 m wide and 1.2 m to 1.4 m deep) and that this would not prevent potentially economic mineral resource being extracted in the future, in the unlikely scenario that proposals for extraction were to come forward.<br>The assessment on the impacts of the Scheme on the MSA is covered in Section 12.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and** | Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land within the Grid | 3.7.2 | The Scoping Report states that the installation of cables would only result in temporary construction impacts on BMV land in the Grid Connection Corridor, and the cables would be buried to a sufficient depth to allow arable and pastoral | It has been confirmed by the Applicant that there would be no above ground infrastructure in the Grid Connection Corridor (the On-Site Substation will be in the Solar PV Site). |

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| | **Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Connection Corridor – all phases | | farming to continue during operation of the Scheme. However, paragraph 2.3.41 states that the export connection to the National Grid may require above ground infrastructure within the Grid Connection Corridor, of which the quantity/area required is unknown. It appears there is potential for the Scheme to result in the loss of agricultural land in the Grid Connection Corridor beyond the impacts caused by cabling.<br>Accordingly, the Inspectorate does not agree that this matter can be completely scoped out of further assessment. The ES should also assess the extent of any BMV land which would be affected as a result of the installation of above ground infrastructure associated with the grid connection or provide evidence of the absence of LSE as agreed with relevant consultation bodies.<br>In relation to the assessment of BMV, Scoping Report paragraph 12.5.29 states that *"a survey is proposed to be completed in areas where there are only underground cables"* whereas 12.7.4 states that *"however, areas where there would only [sic] underground cables are not proposed to be surveyed".*<br>Whilst the Inspectorate assumes that there is a typographic error in one of these paragraphs, the ES should provide clarity on the scope and rationale of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys.<br>Where no surveys are proposed within areas of construction works for the Scheme, the ES should provide a justification for this, and how it can be assured that the ALC is adequately classified and how the area of construction works can be returned to its baseline ALC for agricultural use during operation, in particular for intrusive methods such as trenching.<br>This is especially relevant in the event that any ALC surveys undertaken find that the current site-specific classifications are of a higher grade than the desk-based datasets indicate at present.<br>Where ALC data is presented, it should include the entirety of the area required for the construction and operation of the Scheme, including any temporary access roads. | Paragraph 12.5.29 in the Scoping Report was a typographic error. ALC surveys are not proposed to be completed in areas where there are only underground cables. Therefore, no survey has been completed for the Grid Connection Corridor.<br>An ALC survey has been undertaken for the Solar PV Site only. Details on the findings from the ALC survey are outlined in Section 12.5 and Section 12.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Predictive mapping of ALC is used for the Grid Connection Corridor; this predictive mapping of agricultural land and soils has been based on the Defra Natural England Provisional ALC dataset and this approach has been agreed with City of Doncaster Council.<br>The ES sets out how areas of construction works would be returned to their baseline ALC for agricultural use during operation and maintenance, in particular for intrusive methods such as trenching.<br>ALC data is presented for the entirety of land required for the construction and operation and maintenance of the Scheme, including any temporary access roads, in the ES. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socioeconomic receptors | 3.7.3 | The Scoping Report states that there are no socioeconomic receptors within the Solar PV Site. The ES should explain why the agricultural land and any existing farm businesses that use this land are not considered to be receptors. | Agricultural land holdings within the Solar PV Site and Grid Connection Corridor have been identified as receptors. Impacts on agricultural land holdings and farm businesses are assessed in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. In |

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| | | | | | addition, the ALC grade of agricultural land has been identified within the Solar PV Site and impacts on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and soils are assessed in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Public Rights of Way (PRoW) surveys | 3.7.4 | The Scheme will affect a number of PRoW through temporary disruption and closure of routes. However, no surveys are proposed to understand the baseline use of these PRoW. Unless appropriate mitigation to avoid LSE is secured within the DCO, surveys should be undertaken to establish the existing use of the PRoW affected by the Scheme. This would allow an assessment to define the change in characteristics of tourism and recreational use of each PRoW. | The PRoW within the Order limits and within a 500 m radius are shown in **ES Volume II Figure 2-2: Public Rights of Way [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. There would be a requirement for permanent and temporary PRoW diversions within the Solar PV Site. Where PRoW cross or are adjacent to the Order limits, fencing would be erected from the inside without impacting the PRoW or preventing its use. Fencing is the first stage of construction and with this in place construction activities can operate without impacts to PRoW. The PRoW would also be buffered from the perimeter fencing, with fencing being installed a minimum distance of 20 m either side of the centre of the PRoW where solar infrastructure lies to both sides (creating a 40 m wide corridor between the fence lines), or 15 m from the PRoW centreline if solar infrastructure is to one side only. There would be a further 5 m from the perimeter fence to the Solar PV Panels.<br>The routes of PRoW during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme are presented in **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]**.<br>Impacts and mitigation options for the existing PRoW network have been discussed with the City of Doncaster Council. Further discussion regarding PRoW is contained in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>A **Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010152/APP/7.13]** has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, which sets out how PRoW would be managed during construction to ensure the safety of users and Site staff, including details of PRoW diversions. This information is also provided in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>Consultation with the City of Doncaster Council PRoW lead indicated that the PRoW network within the Solar PV Site is mostly used by local residents for recreation purposes and that usage tends to be low compared to paths in the town centre or on the urban fringe. Given the nature of likely impacts on PRoW, and the information above on current |

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| | | | | | usage, it was agreed with City of Doncaster Council that no additional PRoW surveys would need to be undertaken to undertake an assessment of impacts given current knowledge of usage. The assessment of the impacts of the Scheme on PRoW is covered in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Hazardous loads during construction | 3.8.1 | The Scoping Report states that there are no nearby road features which suggest that the transfer of materials poses a risk beyond what would be expected on the general highway network. In addition, the Scoping Report notes that the relevant measures employed to ensure safe vehicular transport of components such as panels and batteries to and from the Site will be explained in the ES.<br>The Inspectorate has considered the nature and characteristics of the Scheme and is content that an assessment on the transport of hazardous loads can be scoped out of further assessment. | Noted. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transport and access effects during operation | 3.8.2 | The Applicant proposes to scope out operational transport effects on the basis that the number of vehicle movements would be significantly less than the construction phase, with one to three permanent staff on site and up to 20 visitors a month for deliveries and servicing of equipment. Paragraph 13.6.9 of the Scoping Report also states that any applicable mitigation measures would be included in a Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP).<br>The Inspectorate is content for this matter to be scoped out of further assessment based on the indicative traffic figures provided. The ES description of the Scheme should confirm the anticipated trip generation during operation. | Noted, as detailed in **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Anticipated vehicle movements have been presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transport and access effects during decommissioning | 3.8.3 | The Scoping Report states that the number of vehicle movements during decommissioning would be no worse than the construction phase and considers that the effects and mitigation measures defined for construction of the Scheme are applicable for decommissioning. As a result, the Applicant proposes to scope out an assessment of the transport effects during decommissioning.<br>The Inspectorate accepts that a full assessment may not be possible at the current time due to uncertainties at this stage in the number of vehicles required during decommissioning. However, the ES should provide a description of this matter given the comments at paragraph 13.6.1 of the Scoping Report, that *"the greatest impact is likely to occur during the* | Section 13.4 and Section 13.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** state that the effects of decommissioning are likely to be similar or of a lower level to that of construction. Decommissioning effects will be mitigated by a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) which will be produced at the time.<br>Details of any likely significant effects are provided within Section 13.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |

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| | | | | *construction and decommissioning phases".* Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of these matters or provide information demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of an LSE. | |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Study Area | 3.8.4 | The ES should confirm the final Study Area and key roads included in the assessment and explain how they have been identified. In addition to engagement with relevant consultation bodies, consideration should also be given to industry guidance, the extent of the potential impacts and likely receptors, both human and ecological. A plan illustrating the extent of the Study Area, and the expected route(s) of construction traffic, should be included in the ES. | Section 13.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** outlines the guidance that has been used to form the basis of the assessment. The included figures provide information related to the Study Area (**ES Volume II Figure 13-1: Transport and Access Study Area [EN010152/APP/6.2]**) and the construction routes (**ES Volume II Figure 13-3: Indicative HGV Routing [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume II Figure 13-4: Road to Access Site [EN010152/APP/6.2]**). |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Mitigation – highway improvements | 3.8.5 | If highways works/improvements are required as part of the mitigation for significant effects arising from construction transport, these should be fully explained within the ES and an assessment of any likely significant effects as a result of these works should also be presented, as relevant. | Additional mitigation measures are considered within Section 13.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** with justification for and effects arising from any highway improvement works explained and assessed.<br>A **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** is provided alongside the ES chapter to explain the mitigation in further detail. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Access strategy | 3.8.6 | As part of the description of the Scheme, the ES should describe the proposed site entrance(s) and the routes to be used for all vehicular access during construction and operation of the Scheme and this information should be clearly presented on supporting plans within the ES. | The access strategy (including entrances and routes) is presented in the ES with supporting figures. Site entrances are shown on **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and vehicular routes to the Order limits are shown on **ES Volume II Figure 13-3: Indicative HGV Routeing [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume II Figure 13-4: Roads to Access Site [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. Detailed Site access appraisals are provided within the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Access strategy assessment | 3.8.6 | The ES should describe and assess the potential LSE associated with any improvements/changes to the access routes which are either required to facilitate construction of the Scheme or are required for restoration purposes on completion of the works. For the assessment of impacts during construction, the ES should explain how the proposed access route(s) relate to sensitive receptors. | Detailed Site access appraisals are provided within the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**.<br>Table 13-1 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** outlines the receptor sensitivity criteria and how this is defined. Traffic counts have been undertaken at sensitive receptor locations, which are located on key access routes in the local area. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics** | Air quality impacts from operational traffic | 3.9.1 | Based on the anticipated permanent and visiting staff detailed within paragraph 2.5.3, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of air quality impacts from operational traffic can be scoped out of further assessment. | Noted. |

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| | **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | | | | |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Air quality impacts during construction | 3.9.2 | The Scoping Report does not specify whether air quality impacts during construction are scoped in or out. In the absence of information such as evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant consultation bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope these matters from the assessment. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of dust and emissions from construction plant, or the information demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of LSE. | Construction phase road traffic volumes are not expected to meet the thresholds set out by the IAQM (2017) screening criteria. A significant change to traffic flows is not anticipated to occur during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme.<br>The assessment methodology in Section 14.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** describes the approach taken, including an assessment of dust from construction, and good practice recommendations with regard to plant emissions, as appropriate. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Air quality impacts from construction traffic | 3.9.3 | Whilst the Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements given in paragraph 2.4.7 (20 to 25 per day) are below the 200 movements per day threshold given in paragraph 14.2.16, the Scoping Report states that up to 400 construction workers with an as yet unspecified travel route, and an unspecified volume of non-HGV construction traffic, would be on site during the peak construction works. No threshold criteria are given for this, or evidence provided as to why this would not result in potentially significant effects. The ES should either provide an assessment of this matter or demonstrate why the number of car and LGV movements would not lead to LSE from changes to air quality. | The number of vehicles expected to travel to and from the Order limits during the construction phase is set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and includes all vehicles associated with construction, including the associated workforce and all deliveries/removal of materials and waste.<br>Scope of the Assessment in Section 14.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** follows the approach and guidance set out in the EIA Scoping Report for the identified vehicle trips, notably any threshold criteria set out in IAQM (2017) Guidance in Table 6.2 on page 21.<br>The relevant screening criteria for this assessment are change in daily average two-way flows of 500 LDVs or 100 HDVs. There is considerable headroom between the given construction worker movements and the point in which they are capable of causing an air quality impact.<br>The results are presented in Section 14.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Air quality impacts from operational emissions | 3.9.4 | Scoping Report paragraph 14.2.18 states that no emissions are anticipated from the onsite infrastructure. However, paragraph 2.2.36 (Scheme description) indicates that BESS may require auxiliary power. The ES should confirm whether any backup generators or other power sources which may emit emissions are required and include these in the air quality assessment where relevant, as this is not currently | The BESS Containers would have an integrated heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system to ensure the efficiency of the batteries. If this uses air to heat and cool, it will include a fan built into it that is powered by an auxiliary power unit.<br>The Applicant has confirmed the On-Site Substation will be equipped with a backup diesel generator that would be used for emergency restarts of substation equipment. It is unlikely |

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| | | | | listed. The ES should either provide an assessment of this matter or a justification as to why LSE would not arise. | that restarts would be required within a given year but, for assessment purposes, it is assumed it will operate for a maximum of eight hours annually as described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. This potential source of emissions is not considered further within the ES as the frequency of use is too small to be capable of causing either direct or in combination effects at air quality receptors that are significant. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Air quality assessment Study Area | 3.9.5 | Paragraph 14.2.2 of the Scoping Report states that a Study Area of 50 m either side of construction traffic routes will be used in the air quality assessment. As set out in ID 3.6.4 above, the ES should explain how the construction traffic routes and key roads have been selected for the assessment, and how it can be assured that construction traffic will adhere to these routes only.<br>The Study Area in the ES should extend to 200 m of the affected road network to ensure that all relevant ecological receptors have been identified. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the advice from NE on this point (see Appendix 2 of this Opinion). | The distance of 50 m refers to the construction dust assessment, not the assessment of road traffic emissions.<br>Construction phase road traffic volumes are not expected to meet the thresholds set out by the IAQM (2017) screening criteria. A significant change to traffic flows is not anticipated to occur during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme. Road traffic emissions from construction and operation and maintenance are therefore not considered within the assessment.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** address the selection of construction traffic routes and how these will be enforced. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Glint and glare impacts during construction and decommissioning | 3.10.1 | Based on the nature of the activities, the distances to receptors and the implementation of the detailed CEMP and detailed DEMP, the Scoping Report proposes to scope an assessment of impacts from glint and glare during construction and decommissioning out of the ES.<br>The Inspectorate has considered the nature and characteristics of the Scheme and is content with this approach. An assessment of impacts from glint and glare during construction and decommissioning can be scoped out of further assessment. | Glint and Glare impacts during construction and decommissioning has been scoped out of further assessment as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Glint and Glare Study Area and sensitive receptors | 3.10.2 | The Scoping Report states that a 1 km Study Area would initially be used for ground-based receptors (noting that this may be increased).<br>The Applicant is advised to use the ZTV to be developed for the LVIA to identify ground-based sensitive receptors with potential views of the Site, which may therefore be affected by glint and glare. This should include train drivers and boat users, where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES should justify the choice of Study Area and sensitive receptors with reference to the extent of the likely impacts. Effort should be made to agree these details with relevant consultation bodies. | The distance from which glint and glare impacts occur is less than the ZTV for general visibility of the Scheme used in the LVIA due to the scattering of light that occurs with distance from the Solar PV Panels. The industry standard for assessing glint and glare is therefore to assess an area within 1 km of the Solar PV Panels, given it is highly unlikely that there will be any significant effects further than 1 km from the Solar PV Panels. This Study Area has been used and accepted in other NSIP projects, such as Longfield Solar Farm, East Yorkshire Solar Farm, and Gate Burton Solar Farm. |

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| | | | | | Following an assessment of the ground-based sensitive receptors (Residential, Road, Bridleway, Boat and Rail) within 1 km of the Solar PV Site, no significant effects have been identified due to the surrounding vegetation.<br>Detailed conclusions are found within **ES Volume III Appendix 14-2: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Glint and glare mitigation | 3.10.3 | The Scoping Report confirms that if glint and glare is likely to be a nuisance or hazard, mitigation will be proposed, although further details are not provided. The ES should include a description of any necessary mitigation measures relevant to impacts from glint and glare and explain how such measures are secured through the DCO or other legal mechanism. | The visibility assessment within the Glint and Glare Assessment has found no need to implement any mitigation measures as all impacts on ground-based receptors are Low to None.<br>Detailed conclusions are found within **ES Volume III Appendix 14-2: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Assessment approach | 3.10.4 | As noted above, the Inspectorate is content that a standalone ES chapter for glint and glare is not required. It should however be clear in the ES, with appropriate cross-referencing and explanation, how the findings presented in the glint and glare technical appendix have been integrated with relevant aspect assessments, including LVIA, cultural heritage, transport, and major accidents and disasters. | The findings of the Glint and Glare Assessment can be seen in **ES Volume III Appendix 14-2: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]** with an overview outlined in **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Ground Conditions | Scoping out impacts to geology and ground conditions | 3.11.1 | On the basis that there is limited potential for pollution incidents during operation and maintenance, and the Scheme will be subject to an OEMP and Emergency Response Plan, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of impacts to geology and ground conditions can be scoped out of further assessment for the operational phase. | This is noted and confirmed a **Framework OEMP [EN010152/APP/7.8]** is submitted with the ES.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** describes the operation and maintenance of the Scheme, and no routine use of chemicals is required. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | Scoping out major accidents and disasters | 3.12.1 | The Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient detail is given within the Scoping Report in order to be able to agree to scope out certain major accidents and disasters based solely on the Scheme design evolution. The Inspectorate considers it appropriate to assess the major accidents and disasters scoped in within Appendix D and Table 14-1. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of this matter or the information demonstrating the absence of any LSE. | The assessment of major accidents and disasters is presented in the ES in accordance with the methodology presented in Section 14.5 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The major accidents and disasters scoped into the assessment are presented in Table 14-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. These include the major accidents and disasters scoped into the EIA Scoping Report (Appendix D and Table 14-1) and take account of the consultation feedback received. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, | Fire from BESS | 3.12.2 | The Inspectorate considers that the presence of the BESS may have the potential to result in other major accidents and disasters (in the event of a fire or other emissions), including but not limited to air quality, explosions and contaminated firefighting water run off etc. The major accidents and | The potential for fire to result in a major accident or disaster is scoped into the major accidents and disasters assessment, as described in Table 14-16 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. A **Framework Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP)** |

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| | Major Accidents and Disasters | | | disasters assessment should therefore scope in fire and associated effects from BESS. | **[EN010152/APP/7.16]** is submitted as part of the DCO Application with the preparation of and implementation of a detailed version secured through a DCO Requirement. The ES assesses the risk of battery fire/explosion. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | Long list of major accidents and disasters | 3.12.3 | Based on the information provided within the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of the following major accidents and disasters, in relation to both the risk of the Scheme causing, and the Scheme's vulnerability to, can be scoped out:<br>• Geological disasters – landslides, earthquakes, sinkholes;<br>• Hydrological disasters – limnic eruptions, tsunamis/storm surge;<br>• Meteorological disasters – blizzards, cyclonic storms, droughts, thunderstorms, hailstorms, heat waves, tornadoes, air quality events (dependent on BESS comments above);<br>• Engineering accidents – bridge failure, tunnel failure or fire, mast and tower collapse, building fire or failure;<br>• Industrial accidents – defence, energy, nuclear, oil and gas, food, chemical, manufacture, mining;<br>• Terrorism/civil unrest;<br>• War; and<br>• Disease – human or animal. | Noted. The major accidents and disasters scoped into the assessment are presented in Table 14-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | Long list of major accidents and disasters | 3.12.4 | The Inspectorate notes that categories included in other chapters of the Scoping Report, and some events typically considered are not included within the long list, for example land or water pollution events. The ES should ensure that all possible sources of major accidents and disasters are considered for assessment, and where these are proposed to be scoped out, provide justification for this. | The potential for pollution to land or water as a result of the major accidents and disasters scoped into the assessment is considered in Table 14-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Telecommunications and Utilites | Telecommunications and Utilities | 3.13.1 | No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. | Noted. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Electromagnetic Fields | Electromagnetic fields | 3.14.1 | Based on the criteria and thresholds listed within paragraph 14.7.7, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of the impacts from EMF from underground cables can be scoped out of the ES. However, the statement in paragraph 14.7.4 of *"no overhead electricity cables would be used or constructed"* does not match the Scheme description in | Noted. As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Scheme may connect to the national grid via an overhead line drop or underground cable connecting to the National Grid. The line drop would comprise of below ground cables connecting the On-Site Substation to a new cable sealing end compound at the base |

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| | | | | paragraph 2.3.41 which indicates two options involving overhead line drops.<br>The Inspectorate draws the Applicant's attention to the UKHSA consultation response (see Appendix 2 of this Opinion) which requests the ES to confirm that the Scheme does not contain any EMF sources that have a potential public health impact or ensure that an appropriate health impact assessment of EMF is carried out in the ES. | of an existing on-site 400 kV overhead line tower within Field SE2. All works to establish the cable sealing end compound, and works within the cable sealing end compound to modify the tower and connect the Scheme's cables to the NETS would remain under National Grid's control and do not form part of the Scheme. Although not part of the Scheme, the timing of these works may coincide with the timing of the cable laying in the Grid Connection Corridor and therefore has potential for cumulative effects. The Line Drop option has therefore been considered under 'cumulative effects' of **Section 14.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1].** The assessment concludes there will be no significant effects either individually or in combination with other electricity infrastructure. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Materials and Waste | Materials and Waste | 3.15.1 | No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. | Noted. |
| Planning Inspectorate | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Materials and Waste | Permitted landfill sites | 3.15.2 | The Environment Agency's consultation response has indicated that a permitted landfill is located within the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area. The ES should include an assessment, where relevant, of the potential to impact on this landfill site, including the ability of the Site to undertake ongoing groundwater monitoring. | As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Grid Connection Corridor is outside of the permitted landfill site located at Marsh Lane. |
| Canal & River Trust | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Water Environment | N/A | Having viewed the location of the project relative to the Trust's assets, the Canal & River Trust can confirm we have no comments to make on the EIA Scoping details provided. | Noted. |
| City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Air Quality | N/A | Air Quality issues are covered in Section 14.2 of the Scoping Report. Officer agrees with conclusions of report in that there will be minimal vehicle movements associated with the operation. Nothing further to be included in the Environmental Statement. | Noted. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Open Space Officer | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Landscape and Visual Amenity | N/A | The proposal does not include open space nor impact any allocated public open. No further comments. | Noted. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Highways | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transport and Access | N/A | Further information required as follows:<br>- The proposed access point locations into all areas of the solar farm; | A variety of access appraisals have been undertaken which are presented in the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**. The expected daily numbers and the |

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| Development Control | | | | - Type of delivery/construction vehicles which will serve the Site;<br>- Tracking of the delivery/construction vehicles into the access points and nearby junctions;<br>- Routing strategy along the highway network between the motorway and the Site;<br>- Expected daily numbers; and<br>- Tracking at sensitive junctions. | types of vehicles have been included as part of the Trip Generation section in Section 13.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Moreover, the Trip Distribution section alongside **ES Volume II Figure 13-3: Indicative HGV Routeing [EN010152/APP/6.2]** provides detail on the routeing along the local highway network between the Order limits and the Strategic Road Network (SRN).<br>Construction vehicles will consist of worker cars, HGVs, tractor/trailer vehicles and up to five AILs (10 two-way AIL movements).<br>Details of vehicle tracking at sensitive junctions and at proposed access points are provided within the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Transportation | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transport and Access | N/A | The Transport Assessment (TA) is to be submitted within the ES. The TA must contain all the information required to enable the Officer to carry out a full assessment of the impact of the Scheme. | A TA is submitted alongside the ES. City of Doncaster Council has been consulted in terms of the parameters for assessment. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Highways Safety | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transport and Access | N/A | Construction access is yet to be determined. All construction access will need to be confirmed as the design progresses, in consultation with the relevant authorities.<br>It is anticipated that existing local roads will need to be utilised, subject to the suitability of these roads. Many of the roads around the Site are currently accessible to farm machinery and agriculture-related HGVs and may require upgrading/widening and new road construction to accommodate abnormal loads and ensure suitable visibility splays at the access/egress points. This will need to be determined as the Scheme progresses and assessed as appropriate in the ES. | Appraisal of local road usage has been undertaken in the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**. This also includes details of any improvement works likely to be required. Any necessary works are confirmed in the ES with detail of consultation with City of Doncaster Council. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Urban Design Officer | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Landscape and Visual Amenity | N/A | The main design issues will be the landscape and visual impact. The Scoping Report confirms that a LVIA will be carried out according to usual industry guidelines and good practice. The detail in the Scoping Report is considered to be acceptable. | Noted. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Employment | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socio-Economics and Land Use | N/A | No response. | Noted. |

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| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Waste and Minerals | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socio-Economics and Land Use | N/A | No mineral safeguarding issues, agree with findings of the Scoping Report. | Noted and agreed. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Flood Risk | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Water Environment | N/A | Majority of the Site lies within Flood Zone 1 and 2, though parts extend into Flood Zone 3. NPPF Annex 3: Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification, places the proposed use of a Solar Farm as 'essential infrastructure'. As the Site crosses various Flood Zones (1, 2 and 3) Table 2: flood risk vulnerability and food zone incompatibility states that an exception test is required. | A site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been carried out and included within **ES Volume III Appendix 9-3: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]** and has considered the Exception Test. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Flood Risk | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Water Environment | N/A | The NPPG states that for nationally or regionally important infrastructure the area of search to which the Sequential Test could be applied will be wider than the local planning authority boundary. Currently in terms of Solar Farms, the Council's Technical Developer Guidance (April 2022) states that if a proposal meets one of the categories set out in Table 9 then it avoids the need for a sequential test. With regards Solar Farms the table says development proposals identified as *"essential infrastructure"* will not require a sequential test, however a site-specific flood risk assessment will be required, and should consider how they can remain operational during times of flooding. | A site specific FRA is included within **ES Volume III Appendix 9-3:Flood Risk Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Flood Risk | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Water Environment | N/A | An exceptions test should demonstrate why the Scheme has to be in a flood risk area and how it will provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk. The exceptions test must show that the Scheme will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall (NPPG). | A site specific FRA is included within **ES Volume III Appendix 9-3: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Tree Officer | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Landscape and Visual Amenity | N/A | The following information required within the ES: - A tree and hedgerow survey in accordance with BS5837 (2012), the findings of which should be shown to have informed the design, layout and access to maximise retention of the best of the surveyed elements. In terms of hedgerows, ecological, cultural and historic information will need to be submitted (so as to be able to assess hedgerows against the criteria set by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997). | Hedgerow surveys and a tree survey have been completed within the Order limits in 2024 in accordance with BS:5837. An assessment on the potential impacts on hedgerows and trees is included **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** with embedded design mitigation and appropriate buffers included in Section 8.10. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Public Rights of Way | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socio-Economics and Land Use | N/A | Generally agree with the findings of the Scoping Report. Though the ES should include reference to equestrians as there is no specific mention of equestrian users which are key receptors and must be considered. | Noted and agreed. Equestrian users are considered in **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. With regard to the impacts of potential diversions on PRoW and their users including equestrians, |

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| | | | | | potential effects are found to be negligible (not significant) during all phases of the Scheme. Impacts on PRoW users including equestrians are also assessed with **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. In addition, **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1**] assesses impacts of traffic on equestrians, in terms of both potential amenity impacts and fear and intimidation impacts. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Contamination | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Ground Conditions | Ground Conditions | N/A | Section 14.4: Ground Conditions on the submitted Scoping Report confirms a Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) will be carried out in accordance with the Environment Agency's Land Contamination Risk Management guidance, which is most welcomed. It is noted there are no obvious historic sites of concern within the footprint of the Scheme. It is understood the need for large-scale earth works is unlikely, however if required, a Material Management Plan (MMP) will be submitted, to which I concur. The PRA will consider human health and controlled waters, and form the foundation for the CEMP, DEMP & MMP (if required). | Phase 1 PRA reports have been prepared for the Scheme (refer to Section 14.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**). The Phase 1 PRA reports include the assessment of risk to human health and controlled waters from contaminated land, and will form the foundation for the **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]**, **Framework DEMP [EN010152/APP/7.9]**, and a MMP developed under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice by the appointed construction contractor, if required. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Contamination | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Ground Conditions | Ground Conditions | N/A | All the relevant best practise and appropriate guidance is referenced within this excellent report, as such I have no questions or requested for further information. | Noted. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Ecology | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Ecology | N/A | The Scoping Report covers all of the significant ecological issues. However, this does not address wider concerns regarding the development of solar farms in agricultural areas and the cumulative impacts upon rural environments. The Scoping Report does not refer to the reduction of open landscapes that provide landscape quality ecological pathways and corridors and the loss of high quality agricultural land. Table 6.2 of the Scoping Report identifies in combination effects as follows: 'The Scheme in combination with climate change has the potential to have an impact on the prevailing biodiversity in the surrounding area.' | **ES Volume I Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** include an assessment of cumulative effects which is summarised in Table 15-2 and Table 15-4 in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides a cumulative effects assessment and concludes that no significant cumulative effects on high quality agricultural land are anticipated as a result of the Scheme.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides a cumulative effects assessment and concludes that no significant cumulative effects on ecology are anticipated as a result of the Scheme.<br>The list of relevant cumulative developments considered in the assessment have been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities (City of Doncaster Council as the host authority, and North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council as neighbouring authorities) for comment. A long list of cumulative developments has been provided at |

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| | | | | | **ES Volume III Appendix 15-1: Initial Long List of Other Developments [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. A shortlist has been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities for comment and presented in Table 15-2 in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Ecology | **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative impacts with other developments | N/A | The ES should include an assessment of the in-combination effects of the proposal with other solar farm proposals, either granted, to be determined and future proposals. The Ecologist has great fears that a 'tipping point' of cumulative impacts on ecological networks will be missed and we will be looking back to a time when such effects should have been more at the forefront of assessments. | An assessment of cumulative effects has been undertaken in **ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and is summarised in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides an assessment of potential ecological effects, including cumulative effects. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Ecology | **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative impacts | N/A | The Council are seriously alarmed at the number of proposals and future proposals that will not be subject to an analysis of the cumulative impacts. The area around the proposal site is intrinsically rural with no main roads or large urban areas. The widespread nature of solar farms could have a significant impact on this character and ecological functionality. | An assessment of cumulative effects has been undertaken in **ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and is summarised in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** sets out the cumulative effect of the Scheme on the character of the landscape.<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides an assessment of potential ecological effects, including cumulative effects. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Ecology | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Alternatives and Design Evolution | N/A | It would seem that there is no strategic planning attached to the distribution of solar farms and it may just be a matter of large land owners seeing the economic advantage in converting large areas of land to solar farms. However, it appears to be a haphazard approach to solar farm location and will be looked back on with regret. Even with the implementation of biodiversity net gain assessments the Ecologist fails to see how over a district level scale that biodiversity can be protected and pathways that provide ecological networks and species populations can be usefully sustained. | The site selection process is set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>Section 8.9 **of ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** identifies the potential impacts of the Scheme on ecological features and Section 8.10 sets out the Scheme's embedded avoidance and mitigation measures which will maintain ecological networks, such as hedgerows and woodlands and the species populations they support. An assessment of the likely impacts and effects on ecological features is included in Section 8.11.<br>Cumulative effects on biodiversity are addressed in the previous comment.<br>In line with relevant local policy, i.e. the Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy, habitat creation and management of existing and created habitats throughout the Scheme focus on delivering and supporting commitments to biodiversity, e.g. local biodiversity priorities, and through Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and Nature Improvement Areas. There is |

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| | | | | | also an effort to maintain habitat connectivity throughout the Order limits and minimise fragmentation. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy - Renewable Energy | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Landscape and Visual Amenity | N/A | The site lies within the Countryside Policy Area. Policy 58 is supportive of solar wind farms in principle subject to the criteria set out in Part B, though still needs to be read in conjunction with the other Local Plan policies. | Noted. Policy 58 and other relevant local policies are referenced in Section 10.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Conservation | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cultural Heritage | N/A | No heritage assets are directly affected in this flat landscape but the Site surrounds two farm complexes of listed and other heritage assets and there will be potential setting impacts on others further afield. The proposal also includes a Grid Connection Corridor Search Area, from which some heritage assets of national significance have been excluded | All assets which have the potential to be impacted by the Scheme are assessed as part of the ES, including the two farm complexes mentioned. An assessment is provided in **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Conservation | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cultural Heritage | N/A | The Scoping Report follows the standard approach with a section on cultural heritage (Section 7) and another on visual impact (Section 10). This brings into consideration the large number of heritage assets that are potentially affected. The cultural heritage section follows a standard methodology which is acceptable though parts are too archaeologically focussed. The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) should review this and be consulted as part of the cultural heritage assessment. | The approach to the cultural heritage assessment has been developed in consultation with SYAS and the Conservation Officer at the City of Doncaster Council, the results of which have been reported in **ES Volume III Appendix 7-3: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Conservation | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cultural Heritage | N/A | As far as the above ground heritage assets are concerned, the assessment should go further than discussing intervisibility between heritage assets and the Site (particularly for those assets in Fenwick) and to relate this to their heritage significance. This can also be linked to the viewpoints selected for the visual impact assessment. | The ES identifies the heritage significance (value) of each asset which include the contribution setting makes to its heritage significance and the impact of the Scheme on that significance. Viewpoints selected for the visual impact assessment have been determined in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as detailed in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Drainage | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Water Environment | N/A | No comments to make. | Relevant to **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>Noted. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Agricultural Land | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socio-Economics and Land Use | N/A | NPPF Paragraph 174 and Local Plan Policy 60 refer to the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land. From an agricultural land perspective, the policy above seeks to conserve and minimise the loss of Doncaster's extensive area high quality arable farmland. Agriculture is the main land use within the Doncaster making up nearly two thirds of the total land area. | Noted. An ALC survey has been undertaken for the Solar PV Site to determine the land quality. Details on the findings from the ALC survey are outlined in Section 12.5 and Section 12.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Predictive mapping of ALC classification is used to determine the land quality within the Grid Connection Corridor. The predictive mapping of agricultural land and soils has been based on the Defra Natural England Provisional ALC dataset. |

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| | | | | | The Scheme has been designed to take into account the quality of agricultural land, such as positioning the permanent infrastructure to avoid BMV land where practicable, and to minimise the loss of high quality farmland. Impacts on BMV agricultural land and soils are assessed in Section 12.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Agricultural Land | **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions | N/A | This vital resource is coming under increasing pressure from 'renewables' development proposals and this cumulative pressure should be seriously considered when making a decision to grant applications on high value agricultural land. Policy at all levels is very clear. | The cumulative effects resulting from the Scheme, including in respect of loss of high value agricultural land, are assessed in Section 12.11 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>The Scheme is supported by planning policy at the local, regional and national level. Details on how the Scheme addresses these policies is outlined in **ES Volume III Appendix 12-1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance (Socio-economics and Land Use) [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Planning Policy – Agricultural Land | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socio-Economics and Land Use | N/A | Looking at the Defra Agricultural Land Map (Appendix one; Map two page 5 of this response) this shows that the proposal area is predominantly in grade 4 agricultural land and as such, there are no national or local policy constraints associated with the proposal. The linear area of the very northern boundary of the proposal area is however grade three agricultural land (Appendix one; Map one page 4) and will need require further consideration (potentially including the consideration of alternatives or exclusions) to determine whether the soil is grade 3a or 3b in line with national and local policy, to conserve and minimise the loss of Doncaster's extensive high quality arable farmland. Alternatively, the boundary could be amended to exclude the area identified as grade 3 soil from the proposal. | The Scheme has been designed to take into account the quality of agricultural land, such as positioning the permanent infrastructure to avoid BMV land where practicable, and to minimise the loss of high quality farmland. Soil surveys undertaken within the Solar PV Site found that 93% of the surveyed area is of Subgrade 3b or below, which is not classified as BMV land, though it is acknowledged that 7% of land within the Order limits is BMV (6% Grade 3a and 1% Grade 2). **ES Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010152/APP/6.1]** explains that no suitable and available areas of brownfield or non-agricultural land at the appropriate scale have been identified. In addition to this, the Subgrade 3a BMV land within the Order limits is fragmented in a way that, if the land was excluded from the Order limits, would subsequently not be viable for farming. Therefore, the Order limits cannot be amended. |
| National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Glint and Glare | N/A | NATS operates no infrastructure within 10 km of the Site in question. Accordingly, it anticipates no impact from the proposal and has no objections to the Application. | Aviation receptors were assessed as part of Glint and Glare Assessment with overall impacts being Low or None. Detailed conclusions are found within **ES Volume III Appendix 14-2: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| Health & Safety Executive (HSE) | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, | Major Accidents and Disasters | N/A | The Scheme would not store or process hazardous substance and is not located within a safeguarding zone of an explosives site. The Scheme is not located within HSE's land use planning consultation zones for major accident hazard pipelines. Therefore, there is no requirement to consult HSE. | Noted. |

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| | Major Accidents and Disasters | | | | |
| South Yorkshire Fire | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | The Scheme | N/A | No comments to make. | Noted. |
| Jacobs Systra Joint Venture [JSJV] (on behalf of National Highways) and National and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Traffic and Transport - Decommissioning | N/A | While National Highways cannot directly comment on the potential impact any future Site decommissioning would incur at the Strategic Road Network (SRN), moving forward, should consent be granted for the proposed DCO, National Highways would look to implement a planning condition that would secure the delivery of a Decommissioning Management Report to secure and mitigate any potential impact at the SRN at the point of site decommissioning. | Section 13.4 and Section 13.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** state that the effects of decommissioning are likely to be similar or of a lower level to that of construction. Decommissioning effects will be mitigated by measures in the **Framework DEMP [EN0101052/APP/7.9]** and a DTMP which will be produced at the time. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Operational Traffic Generation | N/A | Once operational, JSJV acknowledge that the development is likely to be largely unmanned and will only generate a limited number of vehicle trips through routine maintenance and site inspections. The frequency of any traffic movements will however need to be confirmed by the Applicant as part of a formal submission to ensure that the potential impact of the Site associated with operation and maintenance at the SRN can be scoped out. | See **ES Volume III Appendix 13-4: Transport Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]** which states that up to two permanent staff are expected to be on site per day once operational with up to four additional staff on an ad hoc basis. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Proposed Access Configuration | N/A | For both the operational and construction phases of the Scheme, National Highways will require confirmation of the Site access proposals. National Highways will need to understand the location of any temporary construction compounds.<br>JSJV acknowledge that access to the operational site is likely to be determined as the design progresses. JSJV note it is unlikely that any direct connection with the SRN will be sought by the Applicant. | Details pertaining to access and compounds are provided within Section 13.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** with more specific access details provided within the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Planning Policy | N/A | National Highways will require any planning assessment to engage with and adhere to guidance contained within DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development.<br>Circular 01/2022 sets out the way in which National Highways will engage with the development industry, public bodies and communities to assist the delivery of sustainable development. The circular is applicable to the whole of the SRN, comprising the trunk motorways and all-purpose trunk roads in England, including those roads managed by the design, build, finance and operate companies. | The relevant policies contained within Circular 01/2022 have been taken into account in Section 13.3 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |

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| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Baseline Conditions | N/A | National Highways will require the impact of the Scheme at the SRN over both the operational and construction phase to be understood in terms of absolute two-way flows over both morning/evening network peak hours. This is opposed to either total daily flows or proportional flows (percentage increase) in relation to baseline flows at any specific junction. As such, the appropriateness of any network baseline flows will only be commented on by JSJV at such a point whereby the Scheme is considered to incur a material impact at an SRN junction, and subsequent junction modelling is required, if such a scenario arises.<br>Moreover, at the point at which development highway impact can be agreed with National Highways, the composition of any junction specific modelling, if necessary (inclusive of future year growth rates, inter alia), can be agreed at this point. | This requested assessment has been provided at the Trip Generation and Trip Assignment Section included as part of Section 13.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>Consultation with National Highways has been undertaken as part of the Scheme to address highway impacts and any necessary junction specific modelling. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Abnormal Indivisible Loads | N/A | National Highways would expect that the standard procedure for [AIL]s will be followed by the Applicant, however, it is noted that potential carriageway width, height and weight restrictions for the movement of such vehicles will need to be discussed and agreed with National Highways. As such, National Highways would advise that the Applicant directly discusses any matters pertaining to AIL movements with the National Highways Abnormal Indivisible Loads team AbnormalIndivisibleLoadsTeam@nationalhighways.co.uk). | This is noted and discussion with National Highways regarding AILs has been undertaken. As stated in **ES Volume III Appendix 13-4: Transport Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**, up to ten two-way AIL movements associated with movements of transformer elements are predicted during construction which serves as a robust assessment of the AIL traffic. Details of the routing and junction/access swept paths for AILs are provided within the **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]**. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction Traffic Generation | N/A | National Highways will require confirmation of the expected ‘peak’ arrival/departure profile of construction vehicles, including construction staff, deliveries and associated movements during an identified ‘peak’ construction period, and how long this period may continue for, opposed to the generation of average movements or total daily/monthly movements. This is to ensure that any potential trip generation impact at the SRN can be accurately quantified as the development advances through the construction phase. This matter can be controlled through the CTMP.<br>National Highways would welcome confirmation when construction staff will arrive and depart the construction site(s) in relation to proposed shift patterns and the AM/PM SRN peak periods. | See Section 13.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** which provides information related to the temporal profile of trip generation. There will be no trips during network peak hours. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction Traffic Generation | N/A | If desired by the Applicant, the principle of utilising first principles trip generation data is acceptable for the proposed Scheme. Nevertheless, further detail should be provided by the Applicant in relation to the specific first principles data | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides further details regarding the methodology used for the transport and access assessment. The approach to developing the trip generation associated |

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| City of Doncaster Council) | | | | underpinning any Scheme trip generation. For reference, National Highways would expect the first principles data to reflect a comparable solar development of comparable scale in a geographical location that largely reflects rural nature of the Scheme area and the scope of construction considered; | with the Scheme reflects other solar farm developments within the Yorkshire region, such as East Yorkshire Solar Farm. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction Traffic Distribution | N/A | With reference to the trip distribution methodology associated with the construction phase of the Scheme, JSJV would recommend that the following is considered by the Applicant:<br>• The principle of utilising a gravity model to determine the proposed distribution of construction staff would be recommended by JSJV, however, JSJV would need to examine the model methodology in detail, i.e. via its original MS Excel format, before any distribution data can be accepted fully. Moreover, consideration will need to be given to whether, and in what proportion, workers will originate from the local area or whether they will be staying in local hotels immediate to the Scheme sites; and<br>• In addition to the distribution of construction staff, the Applicant will need to confirm the anticipated distribution of HGVs associated with the delivery of construction materials and associated infrastructure. | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides further details regarding the methodology used for the transport and access assessment, along with information on anticipated vehicle flows. A gravity model has been used to assume the distribution of construction staff and other delivery vehicles. Details are provided within Section 13.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) and City of Doncaster Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Collision History | N/A | JSJV acknowledge that where the development is evidenced to potentially incur a material impact at an SRN junction, appropriate collision analysis may be required. Where the development is evidenced to potentially incur a material impact at an SRN junction, an appropriate assessment of operational impacts and, if required, mitigation strategy, will need to be agreed with National Highways. | Details of the assessment of road safety is included within Section 13.5 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | CTMP - Study Area | N/A | JSJV consider that the following parameters need to be taken into account in relation to the submission of a CTMP. The highway assessment Study Area should extend to any SRN junction where a potential impact needs to be considered (to aid discussions National Highways suggest 30 two-way trips being a starting point for consideration); | Section 13.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** outlines the extent of the Study Area that has been considered for the Transport and Access assessment. This covers an area that extends to junctions on the M62 to the north of the Scheme and the M18 to the east. Based on the proposed wide distribution of staff related traffic, the locations of counts on the M62 and M18 are considered appropriate. Traffic count locations are shown in **ES Volume II Figure 13-2: Traffic Survey Locations [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | CTMP - Construction Traffic | N/A | A CTMP will need be developed and issued alongside any detailed application submitted. The details of what should be included within the CTMP are identified by National Highways within this Technical Memorandum. | This has been taken into account and a **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** is submitted with the ES. |

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| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Glint and Glare | N/A | National Highways consider it unlikely that matters relating to potential glint and glare impacts will incur any safety issue at the SRN for highway users. Nevertheless, National Highways welcome confirmation that the effect of glint and glare on the immediate landscape will be considered within forthcoming planning documentation. | All roads within 1 km of the Solar PV Site were assessed within the Glint and Glare Assessment and found to have no impacts. Detailed conclusions are found within **ES Volume III Appendix 14-2: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| JSJV (on behalf of National Highways) | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Trip Generation: Construction Traffic Generation | N/A | National Highways would expect that the primary means of controlling construction vehicle traffic would be through an approved Construction Traffic Management Plan [CTMP]. With reference to the trip generation methodology associated with the construction phase of the Scheme, JSJV would recommend that the following is considered by the Applicant:<br>• Identification of the approved haul routes to Site and identification of measures to prevent the use of any unauthorised routes;<br>• Identification of the Site access strategy;<br>• Identification of the proposed works programme by construction task;<br>• Identification of workforce numbers for the Site and details of workforce travel arrangements;<br>• Details of Site working hours and details of any exceptions (concrete pours etc);<br>• Measures to minimise wherever possible the use of public roads at peak periods whenever practicable (Morning and Evening Peak Hours and school start/finish times);<br>• Details of measures to reduce the number of delivery trips to site such as a combination of consolidated ordering, rationalising suppliers and consolidated deliveries;<br>• Details of measures to reduce on-site waste such as recycling and re-use of materials to minimise the number of collections from site;<br>• Vehicles carrying soil and other dusty materials to be fully sheeted when travelling to or leaving site;<br>• Use of on approved mechanical road sweeper to clean the surrounding road network of any mud or debris deposited by site vehicles. The road sweeper should be available whenever needed;<br>• Measures to safely manage pedestrians;<br>• Details for any temporary traffic management and warning signs;<br>• Details of a site liaison officer who will act as point of contact for the CTMP; and | This has been taken into account and a **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** is submitted with the ES. Any further comments on this will be dealt as required, including further liaison. |

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| | | | | • Details regarding the monitoring the success of the CTMP and remedial measures which may be implemented should the CTMP not be achieving stated outcomes.<br>JSJV would welcome continued engagement in the production of a Final CTMP due to the potential impact that this site may have upon the SRN. Moving forward, JSJV acknowledge that the production of a Final CTMP can be conditioned on any planning permission granted for the proposed site. | |
| South Yorkshire Archaeology Services | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment methodology | N/A | The Scoping Report identifies possible impacts to designated and non-designated heritage assets alongside the potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets to be present. Impacts to the heritage assets could be direct i.e. physical or indirect i.e. to the setting. Consequently, all matters relating to the historic environment are to be scoped into the EIA and a detailed methodology is presented. SYAS agrees with this proposal. An archaeological desk-based assessment will be undertaken supplemented by appropriate fieldwork consisting of, as a minimum, geophysical survey and trial trenching. In addition to guidance noted, such work should also comply with 'SYAS Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments & Building Appraisals' and 'SYAS Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation'. In particular, it will be important to include a detailed and thorough assessment of any extant earthworks, for example-ridge & furrow, within the Site using appropriate expertise. This should take account not only of the character, age, state of preservation, group value and associations of the different parcels but also any historic and aesthetic value. | Noted. **ES Volume III Appendix 7-2: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment** has been prepared to accompany the ES and includes the results of fieldwork agreed in consultation with SYAS. The DBA and fieldwork has been undertaken in accordance with current guidance including the appropriate SYAS standards and guidance. The identification and assessment of extant earthworks has been agreed with SYAS and included in the DBA and ES. |
| South Yorkshire Archaeology Services | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Archaeological mitigation and enhancement | N/A | Little detail is available on mitigation proposals at this stage but preservation in situ through design or exclusion from the Scheme should be given the highest consideration. There is also little mention of public benefits in relation to the historic environment. The Environmental Statement should begin the process of exploring how public benefits may be delivered to the local community through any archaeological investigation as mitigation for any impact on their cultural heritage. Opportunities for the enhancement of public awareness of the history and archaeology of the Site should be identified and described. | Consultation has been undertaken with SYAS with regard to potential mitigation proposals and public benefit, the results of which have been reported in **ES Volume III Appendix 7-3: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Potential mitigation proposals that have been agreed with SYAS are set out in the **Draft Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) [EN010152/APP/7.12],** which also includes a section on public outreach and community engagement. |
| South Yorkshire Archaeology Services | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Decommissioning | N/A | Finally, the inclusion of impacts to the historic environment through the decommissioning process is welcome. Often this part of the Scheme is not fully considered but has the | All assets which have the potential to be impacted by the Scheme, including during the decommissioning phase, are assessed as part of the ES. An assessment is provided in Section 7.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage**. |

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| | | | | potential to cause harm to any features that were preserved in situ. | |
| Yorkshire Water | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment methodology | N/A | The Scoping Report details that matters of the water environment including but not limited to surface water features, water quality, and hydrogeology and groundwater will be scoped into any Environmental Statement (ES). The report also states that any ES will be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Yorkshire Water welcomes the inclusion of these topics and supporting FRA and CEMP. | A site specific Flood Risk Assessment is included within **ES Volume III Appendix 9-3: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**.<br>A **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]** is included as part of the DCO application. |
| Yorkshire Water | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Telecommunications and Utilites | Baseline conditions | N/A | At this early stage in the development process Yorkshire Water would highlight that the Site is crossed by multiple four-inch live water mains likely serving the central settlements of Riddings Farm and Fenwick Hall. Our mapping shows that these assets follow the route of the highway network of Lawn Lane and Bunfold Shaw Lane. However, a four-inch water main does divert from Bunfold Shaw in the direction of West Lane. The presence of this infrastructure must be taken into consideration affording protection as may be necessary. | The Scheme layout has been developed taking into account existing infrastructure including the water mains referred to in Section 14.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The chapter presents an assessment of the potential effects of the Scheme on existing utilities. Protection will be afforded to any existing infrastructure including the water mains referenced by Yorkshire Water. The Applicant has engaged with Yorkshire Water to ensure adequate protection of existing infrastructure. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Watercourse crossings | N/A | 2.3.42 We welcome the intention to use trenchless methods of cable installation at certain locations, such as river/water features. However, the report does not provide any further detail on how watercourses are proposed to be crossed. Crossings over statutory main rivers would be subject to flood risk activity permitting (advice to the Applicant is provided further below). | Section 9.9 of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes an overview of the permits and consents which may be required, where it is not agreed to disapply them through the DCO. The location of watercourse crossings by the Grid Connection Corridor is included within Section 9.9 of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>Within Section 9.9 of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, an overview of the methodology for intrusive crossings is set out. This will ensure water flow being maintained by damming, over pumping or fluming, and carrying out the works in the drier months where practicable.<br>The methodology for trenchless, non-intrusive crossings is set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1].** Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be used to install Grid Connection Cables beneath nine watercourses (as identified in **ES Volume II Figure 2-4: Location of Temporary Construction Compounds and Indicative HDD Areas [EN010152/APP/6.2]**, and would be at a suitable depth to avoid impacting the channel or the bed, subject to design and ground conditions. |

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| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Biodiversity net gain | N/A | 2.3.50 and 8.6.1 (Chapter 8) We welcome the intention to achieve biodiversity net gain (BNG) levels greater than the minimum 10%. We would welcome the opportunity to engage with the Applicant regarding the opportunities for provision of BNG on and off the Site to enhance local habitat. Further comments are provided below.<br>We support the Applicant's intention to provide biodiversity net gain (BNG) as part of the Scheme. New developments should not only protect watercourses and their riparian corridors, but also provide overall net gain for biodiversity. Net gain for biodiversity is defined as delivering more or better habitats for biodiversity and demonstrating this through use of the latest Defra Biodiversity Metric. It encourages development that delivers biodiversity improvements through habitat creation or enhancement after avoiding or mitigating harm.<br>This approach is supported by section 4.5 of Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1), and paragraphs 174 and 179 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).<br>The Environment Act 2021 looks to ensure that the overall impact from development on the environment is positive. The Act includes measures to strengthen local government powers in relation to net gain and a minimum requirement of 10% Biodiversity net gain. Although we recognise that provision of BNG is not yet mandatory for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, we encourage the Applicant to consider an approach to development that results in measurable net gains in biodiversity, having taken positive and negative impacts into account.<br>The enhancement of biodiversity in and around development should be led by a local understanding of ecological networks, and should seek to include:<br>- habitat restoration, re-creation and expansion;<br>- improved links between existing sites;<br>- buffering of existing important sites;<br>- new biodiversity features within development; and<br>- securing management for long term enhancement.<br>The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides guidance on the application of net gain and Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, together with CIRIA and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment | Ecological surveys, including those for BNG, have been completed in 2023 and 2024. A **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]** is included as part of the DCO Application. The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency with regard to opportunities for enhancing aquatic and riparian habitats and is committed to delivering at least 10% BNG for river units.<br>The principles of BNG have been followed, including the mitigation hierarchy. BNG is expected to be achievable on Site, but links to adjacent habitats will be explored. The Applicant has engaged with local stakeholder groups such as the Burnet Heritage Trust (who manage some of the Local Wildlife Sites at and near the Order limits) and the Don, Dearne and Rother Catchment Partnership Network (which includes the Canals and Rivers Trust (C&RT), EA, NE, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) and with the Environment Agency to better understand the local ecological networks, habitat creation initiatives and management objectives of existing important sites and habitats in the surrounding area, to inform the ecological mitigation for the Scheme and future management of habitats at the Order limits in a way that would help to provide habitat links through the landscape and expansion and buffering.<br>A **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]** is submitted with the DCO Application and sets out the prescriptions for habitat creation and enhancement, along with management and maintenance requirements. This ensures measurable net gains in biodiversity are provided. These measures are secured via a Requirement of the DCO to produce a final LEMP substantially in accordance with the **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]**.<br>Standard BNG good practice, British Standards and appropriate guidance documents, including those referred to by the EA in the Scoping Opinion, have been followed. |

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| | | | | have published guidance on how to deliver net gain in practice. These can be downloaded here.<br>For any BNG proposals which affect main rivers, the Applicant should consult us at the earliest opportunity. | |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Aquatic ecology | N/A | We are generally satisfied with the information provided and proposed scope, insofar as it relates to our remit, in regard to aquatic ecology and water-dependent habitats. | Noted. Aquatic ecology surveys have been completed in 2024, including for macroinvertebrates, macrophytes, and fish at targeted locations. The results of which are presented in the ES. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Priority Habitat | N/A | A significant proportion of the Study Area is characterised as Floodplain Grazing Marsh, a priority habitat. Much of it is degraded, and some of the better examples are covered by statutory (SSSI) and non-statutory designations (e.g. Local Wildlife Site). This habitat should be identified through the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Habitat Condition Assessment. | The desk study has identified relevant statutorily (e.g. SSSI) and non-statutorily (e.g. LWS) sites within the Study Area and these are presented in Section 8.7 **of ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The UKHab Survey has been completed and habitats present within the Order limits are identified in Table 8-9 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and further defined in Habitat Condition Assessment surveys for the **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]**. As discussed through pre-application engagement with the Environment Agency, findings from the surveys undertaken to date classify some of the Floodplain Grazing Marsh as intensively managed arable land and the current extent of priority habitat (or Habitat of Principal Importance) within the Scheme is small (see **ES Volume II Figure 8-2: Sites Non-Statutorily Designated for their Biodiversity Value [EN010152/APP/6.2]**). The full survey results are presented in the ES. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Protected species | N/A | • 8.5.15 Species – The desk study identifies records of great crested newts (GCN). The Environment Agency has been working with partner organisations over a number of years to conserve and promote recovery of a fragmented metapopulation of GCN within the Study Area. Work has included survey, and the restoration, creation and enhancement of a network of ponds;<br>• There are confirmed populations present around Old Ea Beck, within Thorpe Marsh Nature Reserve, Thorpe Marsh ash fields, near the confluence of Ea Beck and River Don (left bank), downstream of Fishlake, River Don (left bank), and in the Topham area, River Went (right bank).<br>We can provide further details to the applicant on request;<br>• It is possible that other suitable habitat in the vicinity also supports local GCN populations. However, all indications are that the metapopulation is small and fragmented, and therefore vulnerable. Development in this vicinity presents further risks to the vulnerable populations through loss of | The Applicant has been engaging with Natural England and has submitted an Enquiry Form (to obtain the required IACPC) to Natural England. The Applicant is currently awaiting the IACPC, which will be submitted into examination at the earliest opportunity.<br>Measures set out in Section 8.10 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** will minimise disturbance to GCN during construction, with the retention, creation and enhancement of both terrestrial and aquatic habitats providing long-term benefits to the species. Precautionary measures regaridng GCN will also be followed during construction as set out in the **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7**]<br>The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency and Natural England regarding the populations of GCN on Site and in the surrounding area, to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures and enhancement opportunities are delivered based on all baseline data available. |

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| | | | | suitable habitat, new barriers to movement, and the 'sterilisation' of future development of potential habitat corridors;<br>• Table 8.5: Scope of Proposed Ecology Surveys states the intention to apply for a District Level Licence, which would result in GCN being scoped out of the detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement. However, this approach would not necessarily mitigate the impacts on the local population of loss of breeding habitat and associated terrestrial habitat. The development risks weakening the existing local metapopulation, risks further fragmentation of habitat, and reduces the opportunities for reconnecting the existing populations.<br>• Topham area: The area in the vicinity of Topham Farm is potentially ecologically sensitive. There are known populations of further protected species present in addition to the above, and a confirmed nesting attempt by Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*), a UK Red list species, in 2023. Due to the proximity to the proposed solar farm, ecological impacts at Topham should be carefully considered. As such, we would recommend the Applicant has further discussions with Natural England in regard to the above and mitigating the impacts of the development. | The Applicant has gathered ecological baseline information pertinent to the ZoI of the Scheme, including where necessary and available, from Natural England, and welcomes the Environment Agency's information on sensitive species, such as Marsh Warbler. These data have informed the Scheme's design and a detailed assessment of potential impacts is provided in the ES. An assessment of effects is presented in Section 8.11 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Consultation and baseline conditions | N/A | We note that a Freedom of Information Request has been submitted to the Environment Agency to obtain baseline information to inform the water environment assessment. We also note that consultation with the Environment Agency is intended as the Scheme design progresses, which is welcomed. | The information received has been included within the baseline information within **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Baseline conditions | N/A | We note that information on pollution incidents, water abstractions and discharges will be obtained from the Environment Agency and presented in the Environmental Statement (ES). | Noted. Information provided by the Environment Agency has been summarised in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment approach | N/A | We note the intention to prepare a full water environment impact assessment, to be supported by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), a surface water drainage strategy and a Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment. Mitigation measures applicable to the Scheme's operation will be included in a Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) prepared as part of the DCO Application. | Noted. |

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| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | WFD assessment | N/A | The WFD compliance assessment must assess any potential impacts on the watercourses and demonstrate that the required enhancements will be delivered. Any development that has the potential to cause deterioration in classification under WFD or that precludes the recommended actions from being delivered in the future is likely to be considered unacceptable to us. You will find actions associated with the WFD by searching for your watercourse on the EA Catchment Data Explorer. For further guidance on undertaking a WFD compliance assessment, please refer to GOV.UK. | Noted. As acknowledged above, a WFD Assessment has been submitted in **ES Volume III Appendix 9-2: WFD Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**, as will be agreed during consultation with the Environment Agency.<br>The Scheme demonstrates there is no deterioration in any of the identified baseline classifications, and no prevention of future improvement for these classifications.<br>These stages of assessment have been undertaken in consultation with the Environment Agency and the Danvm Internal Drainage Board to ensure an appropriate level of assessment. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Summary of Elements Scoped In and Scoped Out | N/A | We agree with the elements scoped into the water environment assessment: groundwater; hydromorphology; surface water; flood risk. Please see the following specific comments relevant to groundwater, ground conditions, waste, and flood risk. | Noted. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Groundwater | N/A | • Due to the large scale of the proposed Scheme the Site is underlain by several different geologies. The superficial deposits include the Hemingbrough Glaciolacustrine Formation, Breighton Sand Formation, River Terrace Deposits, Alluvium, Till and Head deposits and Alluvium. Bedrock beneath the superficial deposits is largely the Sherwood Sandstone or Chester Sandstone Formation with some areas of Roxby Formation. The sandstones are classified as Principal aquifers, while the Roxby Formation is a Secondary B aquifer. The alluvium is classified as a Secondary A, as are the permeable layers of the Breighton Sand Formation and the Head deposits in the southeast of the Study Area are designated as a Secondary (undifferentiated) aquifer. The remaining superficial deposits are classified as unproductive aquifers. The site is therefore of mixed vulnerability, with the most vulnerable areas being where it just crosses into two groundwater Source Protection Zone 3 areas, one in the south and one in the north. Groundwater is anticipated to be relatively shallow in the Scheme area. Other parts of the report make reference to activities that could impact on groundwater. | Noted. Further information on the baseline conditions and potential effects is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | | | • 2.4.3 provides detail about the construction of the Scheme. This includes *"appropriate construction drainage with pumping where necessary."* Dewatering may require an abstraction licence and information about this is provided at the end of the response. | Section 9.9 Embedded Design Mitigation of **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes an overview of the permits and consents required, where it is not agreed to disapply them through the DCO. |

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| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | | | • 2.3.42 states that horizontal directional drilling may be used to navigate beneath water courses. This work could involve the use of drilling muds and their use may require risk assessment to ensure they do not pose a risk to controlled waters. Table 9-9 confirms that risks to groundwater from construction, operation and decommissioning will be scoped into the EIA.<br>• 9.6.5 states that, *"the nature of the Scheme means there would be limited physical disturbance of aquifers and groundwater, limited to driving the solar PV module mounting structures to a depth of 1-2 m, with tracker systems having a pile of 3 to 5 m depth, and shallow cable trenches for cable routes. The need for piling or deep HDD has yet to be determined but will be confirmed in the ES."* We therefore assume that the EIA will include potential impacts from directional drilling and any foundation works that may be required and any other elements of the construction that may have the potential to cause or mobilise contamination. Based on the information submitted, and provided the above comments are considered, we are satisfied with what has been scoped in and out in terms of groundwater protection. The proposed assessment methodology is acceptable. | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of the risk of pollution from construction works, potential impacts on groundwater flow and potential impacts from groundwater dewatering. Potential impacts from construction works to groundwater have been considered. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Ground Conditions | Ground Conditions | N/A | Although Ground Conditions have been scoped out of the EIA, section 14.4.9 states that a preliminary risk assessment (PRA) report will be prepared for the Scheme and included in the ES. Any recommendations resulting from the PRA will be incorporated in the CEMP. The assessment will be in line with our 'Land Contamination Risk Management' guidance. We welcome this approach. | Phase 1 PRA reports have been prepared for the Scheme (refer to Section 14.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**), in line with the Environment Agency LCRM guidance. Any recommendations resulting from the Phase 1 PRA reports have been incorporated in the **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]**. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Baseline conditions | N/A | 14.8.17 (Waste) It is stated that, *"There are no allocated/safeguarded waste and mineral sites, or historic and permitted landfills within the Site boundary."* Thorpe Marsh Power Station (ref. EPR CP3091SC) is a permitted landfill that lies within the cable route corridor area. The site was permitted largely for the disposal of pulverised fly ash from Thorpe Marsh Power Station. Waste deposition took place during the power stations operational life between 1964 and 1994. The site is located at Marsh Lane, Barnby Dun, Doncaster, DN3 1ET (SE606096). We are aware of a number of monitoring boreholes which are sampled regularly for groundwater quality purposes, within the landfill Site Boundary. It is important that these boreholes are not disturbed or destroyed by any development of the Site. Discussion of this should be included in the EIA. | As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Grid Connection Corridor is outside of the landfill site located at Thorpe Marsh Power Station. Therefore, the boreholes will not be disturbed or destroyed. |

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| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Flood risk | N/A | The Site falls within Flood Zone 3a (high probability of flooding) and Flood Zone 2 (medium probability of flooding), on the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (rivers and sea), and several statutory main rivers and ordinary watercourses are located adjacent to and within the Site. We are therefore pleased to see that flood risk will be considered further within the ES. The flood risk vulnerability classification of the proposal is 'essential infrastructure', as defined in Annex 3 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Sequential and Exception Tests will therefore be required to be passed, as outlined in NPS EN-1 and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). In line with the footnotes to Table 2 of the PPG, 'essential infrastructure' located within Flood Zone 3a should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe in times of flood. The Scoping Report does not have substantial information in relation to flood risk. However, we note the intention to submit a flood risk assessment (FRA) as part of the DCO application. The FRA must demonstrate that the proposal will remain operational during the lifetime of the development and that appropriate mitigation measures/flood resilient construction techniques have been incorporated into the development for its lifetime, which has been given as 40 years. An FRA should be submitted that includes, but is not limited to, the following points:<br>• The solar farm and supporting infrastructure should not increase risk to others and compensatory flood storage may be required to account for any loss of floodplain.<br>• We recommend that any critical electrical equipment is set above the predicted flood levels.<br>• We would advise that the Battery Energy Storage Systems are located in areas of the Site with the lowest risk of flooding, where possible.<br>• If buildings will be required, finished floor levels should be raised as high as practicable above ground levels and ensure that occupants are kept safe in a flood event.<br>• Flood risk impacts of decommissioning and the subsequent state of the floodplain. We note that the Applicant intends to produce a Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), that should be informed by the FRA. We will require sight of the DEMP to enable us to consider the flood risk impacts and how the floodplain will be | All points here are noted and have been used when preparing the FRA. As noted in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Applicant has met with the Environment Agency and agreed the scope of hydraulic modelling. Further engagement with the Environment Agency has been undertaken for the DCO Application. The Applicant has engaged with the City of Doncaster Council and North Yorkshire Council LLFAs, as detailed in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the On-Site Substation and BESS Area are located in Flood Zone 1. Further details are provided in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |

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| | | | | returned to its natural state thereafter. Early engagement on this issue would be advisable.<br>We note that the Applicant has requested flood data from us to inform their FRA.<br>However if the Applicant intends to undertake any of their own hydraulic modelling (e.g. to take into account correct climate change allowances) we should be contacted at the earliest opportunity to discuss any modelling requirements and to avoid any issues which may present a risk to the project.<br>The indicative cable route appears to pass through/under, or near, several flood defence assets. Details of how these defences will be protected should be provided as part of the FRA, and we would expect early prior engagement from the applicant to discuss such proposals in more detail. Such proposals may be subject to flood risk activity permit (FRAP) requirements.<br>The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Doncaster Council, should be consulted in relation to impacts on ordinary watercourses, local flood risk issues, groundwater flooding and management of surface water run-off. | |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Main river buffer zone | N/A | Development adjacent to main rivers should be designed with a naturalised buffer zone of at least 8 metres from the bank top/retaining wall or landward toe of any defences to protect and enhance the conservation value of the watercourse and ensure access for flood defence maintenance. This increases to 16 metres for a tidal main river, and the requirement for a buffer zone also applies to culverted watercourses. | Development adjacent to main rivers has been designed with a 10 m buffer zone. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Biodiversity buffer zones | N/A | The [main river] buffer zone should be designed and managed for the benefit of biodiversity and should be undisturbed by development with no fencing, footpaths or other structures. It should not include formal landscaping, and should include the planting of locally appropriate native species. Mowing regimes should be low intensity, allowing plants to flower. Light spill within the buffer zone from external artificial lights should be kept at an absolute minimum and be located and directed so that light levels of 0-2 lux are maintained. The buffer zone will help provide more space for flood waters, provide improved habitat for local biodiversity and allows access for any maintenance requirements. | Noted and agreed. The buffer zone applied to the River Went will be managed for the benefit of biodiversity and will remain undisturbed during the lifespan of the Scheme. Management will be low intensity to allow plants to flower. During operation and maintenance of the Scheme there is no requirement for artificial lighting in areas of Solar PV Panels, other than during temporary periods of maintenance/repair and with existing vegetation and directional use of this away from the buffer area. No light spill is predicted. Further detail can be found in the **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** presented alongside the DCO Application. |

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| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | River restoration opportunities | N/A | There may be opportunities to remove existing ordinary watercourse culverts as part of the proposal. De-culverting and river restoration will provide environmental improvements and contribute to the delivery of BNG, will help deliver WFD improvements and will also reduce the risk of flooding. We strongly recommend you consider all options to remove any culverted sections of watercourses as part of your development proposals, restoring watercourses to their natural state. If de-culverting is not possible we would expect to see adequate evidence for this. Works that affect the ordinary watercourses may require the prior consent of the LLFA, which is Doncaster City Council. | Noted. This has been assessed as part of the aquatic element of the **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]** submitted with the DCO Application. The Applicant has explored opportunities to remove existing ordinary watercourse culverts as part of the Scheme through discussions and agreement with the Environment Agency and other relevant consultation bodies. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Flood Risk Activity Permit | N/A | There are a number of additional permits or consents that the applicant may require under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR), and these are discussed below.<br>Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP): The proposal has the potential to impact statutory main rivers. The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit to be obtained for any activities which will take place:<br>• on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal);<br>• on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal);<br>• on or within 16 metres of a sea defence;<br>• involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert; or<br>• in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission.<br>For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activitiesenvironmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506.<br>Where a FRAP is required, it is unlikely that our consent will be granted for works that do not allow access for maintenance or repair purpose or that have an unacceptable impact on flood risk or the natural environment. The permanent retention of a continuous unobstructed area is an essential requirement for emergency access to the river for repairs to the bank and for future maintenance and/or improvement works. Where development or works are proposed that would require a FRAP, it is recommended that | Noted. The ES sets out the approach to site specific permits and consents where required. As discussed with the Environment Agency, the Applicant will seek through the DCO for regulation 12 (requirement for environmental permit) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016(35) to be disapplied in respect of a flood risk activity on the basis that the merits in respect of acceptability can be addressed and resolved with the Environment Agency if the Order is made through protective provisions. Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Scheme. Engagement with the Environment Agency has been undertaken to discuss and agree the proposed approach. |

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| | | | | detailed pre-application planning advice is obtained from us any concerns can be resolved up front.<br>There is no mention at this stage regarding whether the Applicant will seek to disapply The Environmental Permitting Regulations in regard to flood risk activities. Whilst disapplication is common practice in DCO proceedings, we still require to be formally notified of this intention. If disapplication is formally notified to us, we still require discussions with the Applicant around the proposals and will secure our interests by way of approval of plans through Protected Provisions. There is no guarantee that we will agree to disapply EPR. | |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Dewatering/Abstraction | N/A | Dewatering/Abstraction:<br>If dewatering is required, the development may require an environmental permit if it doesn't meet the exemption in The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 Section 5: Small scale dewatering in the course of building or engineering works.<br>Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water: RPS 261 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) If the development doesn't meet the exemption and requires a full abstraction licence the Applicant should be aware that some aquifer units may be closed for new consumptive abstractions in this area. More information can be found here, Don and Rother abstraction licensing strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).<br>Please note that the typical timescale to process a licence application is 9-12 months. The Applicant may wish to consider whether a Scheme-wide dewatering application rather than individual applications would be beneficial. We suggest talking to our National Permitting Service early in the project planning. | Noted. The ES sets out the approach to site specific permits and consents where required. As discussed with the Environment Agency, the Applicant will seek through the DCO for regulation 12 (requirement for environmental permit) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016(35) to be disapplied in respect of a flood risk activity on the basis that the merits in respect of acceptability can be addressed and resolved with the Environment Agency if the Order is made through protective provisions. Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Scheme. Engagement with the Environment Agency has been undertaken to discuss and agree the proposed approach. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Discharge of water | N/A | Discharge of water:<br>The applicant may also need to consider discharge of groundwater, especially if it is contaminated. If the developer identifies the need to discharge to surface water during construction, then a permit may also be required. More information can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwaterenvironmental-permits A permit does not mean they can deteriorate the watercourse and may not be granted. Only clean, uncontaminated water should be discharged to surface water or groundwater and any permits need to be planned for well in advance of construction. | Noted. The ES sets out the approach to site specific permits and consents where required. As discussed with the Environment Agency, the Applicant will seek through the DCO for regulation 12 (requirement for environmental permit) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016(35) to be disapplied in respect of a flood risk activity on the basis that the merits in respect of acceptability can be addressed and resolved with the Environment Agency if the Order is made through protective provisions. Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Scheme. |

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| | | | | Discharging run-off to watercourses has the potential to transport pollutants such as herbicides/pesticides/nitrates/phosphates and silt and should be a last resort with mitigation in place to reduce the impact. Additional guidance in relation to discharging and permits is available at the following links:<br>• https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwaterenvironmental-permits<br>• https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-advice-before-you-apply-for-an-environmentalpermit<br>The use of drilling muds for the directional drilling may require a groundwater activity permit unless the 'de minimis' exemption applies. Early discussion about this is also recommended. | Engagement with the Environment Agency has been undertaken to discuss and agree the proposed approach. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Materials and Waste | Waste management | N/A | Waste on site: Excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be re-used on-site under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. This voluntary Code of Practice provides a framework for determining whether or not excavated material arising from site during remediation and/or land development works are waste.<br>Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays. The Environment Agency recommends that developers should refer to our:<br>• Position statement on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice and;<br>• Website at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency for further guidance. | Noted. If required, a MMP will be developed under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice by the appointed construction contractor to support the reuse of excavated materials, minimise off-site disposal, and to demonstrate the necessary lines of evidence to support the proper reuse/off-site disposal of materials and ensure compliance with regulatory guidance. |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Materials and Waste | Waste management | N/A | Waste to be taken off site: Contaminated soil that is, or must be disposed of, is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal is subject to waste management legislation, which includes:<br>• Duty of Care Regulations 1991<br>• Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005<br>• Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 | A **Framework Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) [EN010152/APP/7.18]** and **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]** covering these aspects has been submitted as part of the DCO Application with the preparation of and implementation of a detailed version secured through a DCO Requirement. |

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| | | | | • The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standards BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterisation of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan' and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear.<br>If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays. If the total quantity of waste material to be produced at or taken off site is hazardous waste and is 500kg or greater in any 12 month period the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to our website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency for more information. | |
| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Air quality | N/A | Where development involves the use of any non-road going mobile machinery with a net rated power of 37kW and up to 560kW, that is used during site preparation, construction, demolition, and/or operation, at that site, we strongly recommend that the machinery used shall meet or exceed the latest emissions standards set out in Regulation (EU) 2016/1628 (as amended).<br>Use of low emission technology will improve or maintain air quality and support LPAs and developers in improving and maintaining local air quality standards and support their net zero objectives.<br>We also advise, the item(s) of machinery must also be registered (where a register is available) for inspection by the appropriate Competent Authority, which is usually the Local Authority. The requirement to include this may already be required by a policy in the local plan or strategic spatial strategy document.<br>The Environment Agency can also require this same standard to be applied to sites which it regulates. To avoid dual regulation, this advice should only be applied to the Site preparation, construction, and demolition phases at sites that may require an environmental permit.<br>Non-Road Mobile Machinery includes items of plant such as bucket loaders, forklift trucks, excavators, 360 grab, mobile cranes, machine lifts, generators, static pumps, piling rigs etc. The Applicant should be able to state or confirm the use of such machinery in their application. | Noted. Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) will be expected to comply with the emissions standards and mitigation measures set out in the dust management plan in **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality and in the **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]**. |

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| Environment Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Consultation and engagement | N/A | Should the Applicant wish us to review any technical documents or want further advice to address the environmental issues raised, this would fall under our charged for planning advice service outside of statutory consultation. Further engagement will provide the Applicant with the opportunity to discuss and gain our views on the proposals, and resolve an issues which may present a risk to the delivery of the project, for example. It should also result in a better quality and more environmentally sensitive development. As part of our charged for service we will provide a dedicated project manager to act as a single point of contact to help resolve any problems. We currently charge £100 per hour, plus VAT. We will provide you with an estimated cost for any further discussions or review of documents. The terms and conditions of our charged for service are available here. We will be unable to offer this service where we consider that a request is unreasonable, goes beyond what we can advise on through our planning remit or where other operational activities and issues prevent us from doing so. | Discussions have been undertaken with the Environment Agency, as required, to seek their views and resolve any issues or concerns following the meeting held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on 3 October 2023 agreeing the approach for engagement on the Scheme. |
| Health and Safety Executive | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | Major accidents | N/A | The Scheme, does not appear to be of a type that would store or process hazardous substances in quantities relevant to the potential for industrial major accidents with respect to The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015.<br>The development is not located within a safeguarding zone of an Explosives site licensed under the Explosives regulations 2014 or the Dangerous goods in harbour area regulations 2016.<br>The development is not located within HSE's land-use-planning consultation zones for major-accident-hazard pipelines and hazardous substances consented sites (licensed explosives sites are covered in the previous paragraph).<br>Due to the above 3 points, there appears to be no need to consult HSE.<br>If there is a major accident hazard establishment with no HSE consultation zones, in the vicinity of the Scheme, and you are concerned that the Scheme might increase the risk or consequences of a major accident at the existing establishment then please directly consult the operator of the establishment, as appropriate. | Noted. |

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| Health and Safety Executive | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | General health and safety at work | N/A | HSE realises that Environmental Risk Assessments are not expected to include general health and safety at work however we take this opportunity to point out that it may be beneficial for employer(s) to undertake a risk assessment as early as possible to satisfy themselves that their design and operation will meet requirements of relevant health and safety legislation as the Scheme progresses. | The Applicant will comply with the following legislation which is in place to ensure the protection of workers in the workplace:<br>a. Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;<br>b. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; and<br>c. The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.<br>The comment about the benefits for employer(s) to undertake a risk assessment as early as possible in the process is noted. |
| Historic England | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Heritage assets | N/A | Paragraph 7.7.3 should state that an assessment of the potential impact of the Scheme on the value of heritage assets through changes in their setting will be undertaken using the methodology outlined in Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3. The Setting of Heritage Assets. Historic England (2nd edition, 2017) (Ref 57). | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** sets out the guidance that is of relevance to cultural heritage which has been utilised in the ES and includes the Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3. The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd edition) (Ref. 4). |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | Specific Comments – Electricity Infrastructure:<br>• NGE's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement, allowing full right of access for retention, maintenance, repair, and inspection of the asset. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>The Scheme will comply with the requirements relating to access to NGE's Overhead Line/s for retention, maintenance, repair and inspection of assets and the Applicant will consult with National Grid should any complications arise. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained. No proposed buildings should be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. EN 43–- 8 Technical Specification for "overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004)" outlines these distances. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>The Scheme will comply with the statutory electrical safety clearances and the Applicant will consult with National Grid as necessary. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • Any changes in ground levels near existing overhead lines could reduce safety clearances and should be avoided. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained at all times. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>The Scheme will always maintain safe clearances for existing overhead lines and the Applicant will consult with National Grid as necessary. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • Site staff should follow the Health and Safety Executiv''s Guidance Note GS 6“"Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Line”" when working near existing overhead lines. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>The Scheme's site staff will follow the Health and Safety Executive's Guidance Note GS 6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Line” when working near existing overhead lines and the Applicant will consult with National Grid as necessary. |

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| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • No plant, machinery, equipment, buildings, or scaffolding should encroach within 5.3 meters of high voltage conductors under their maximum“"sa”" and“"swin”" conditions. To contact National Grid for overhead line profile drawings. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>Any Scheme plant, machinery, equipment, buildings and scaffolding will comply with this distance from high voltage conductors and the Applicant will consult with National Grid as necessary. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • Landscaping schemes should use slow and low-growing species of trees and shrubs beneath and adjacent to existing overhead lines to prevent compromising statutory safety clearances. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>Where necessary, the Scheme will utilise slow and low-growing species of trees and shrubs beneath and adjacent to existing overhead lines and the Applicant will consult with National Grid as necessary. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • Drilling or excavation works must not disturb or adversely affect the foundations or "pillars of support" of existing towers. To contact National Grid for foundation drawings. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>Any drilling or excavation works during the construction phase will not disturb or adversely affect the foundations or pillars of support of existing towers. The Applicant will consult with National Grid as necessary. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • High voltage underground cables are protected by agreements, and no permanent/temporary structures should be built over them or within the easement strip without prior agreement with National Grid. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>No permanent/temporary structures will be built over high voltage underground cables without prior agreement with National Grid. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Electricity Infrastructure | | • Ground levels above underground cables must not be altered, as it can compromise the reliability, efficiency, and safety of the electricity network. To consult with National Grid before any changes in level or construction. | The Applicant will seek to agree Protective Provisions with National Grid.<br>The Applicant will consult and seek agreement with National Grid prior to altering the ground levels above existing underground cables are not altered. |
| National Grid | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Telecommunications and Utilities | General comments | N/A | Further Advice: We would request that the potential impact of the proposed Scheme on NGET’s existing assets as set out above and including any proposed diversions is considered in any subsequent reports, including in the Environmental Statement, and as part of any subsequent application. Where any diversion of apparatus may be required to facilitate a Scheme, NGET is unable to give any certainty with the regard to diversions until such time as adequate conceptual design studies have been undertaken by NGET. Further information relating to this can be obtained by contacting the email address below. Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGET apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form | The Scheme layout has been developed taking into account existing infrastructure such as overhead lines, towers, buried pipelines and substations. Section 14.6 of **ES Volume 1 Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** presents an assessment of the potential effects of the Scheme on existing electrical infrastructure. Further engagement will be undertaken with National Grid, including in respect of any protective provisions which may be required. |

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| | | | | acceptable to it to be included within the DCO. NGET requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following email address: box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment methodology | N/A | A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities, based on relevant and up to date environmental information, should be undertaken prior to an application for a Development Consent Order. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Scheme. | Noted. **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** presents an assessment of ecological impacts and opportunities based on the survey information obtained. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment methodology | N/A | Natural England Advice on EIA Scoping 1. General Principles 1.1 Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 - (The EIA Regulations) sets out the information that should be included in an Environmental Statement (ES) to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:<br>• A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the Site during construction and operational phases;<br>• Appropriately scaled and referenced plans which clearly show the information and features associated with the development;<br>• An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen;<br>• A description of the aspects and matters requested to be scoped out of further assessment with adequate justification provided;<br>• Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the Scheme;<br>• A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation, cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;<br>• A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, | Noted. The ES includes all points listed and presents sufficient information to assess potential impacts of the Scheme on the natural environment in accordance with the referenced regulations. |

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| | | | | and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment;<br>• A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment; and<br>• An outline of the structure of the proposed ES. | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative and in-combination effects | N/A | 2. Cumulative and in-combination effects. 2.1 It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the Scheme with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole Scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment. 2.2 The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment, (subject to available information):<br>a. existing completed projects;<br>b. approved but uncompleted projects;<br>c. ongoing activities;<br>d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and<br>e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e., projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects. | The cumulative effects assessment in **ES Volume I Chapters 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes all elements listed. The approach to the cumulative and in-combination effects assessment is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>The list of relevant cumulative developments considered in the assessment have been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities (City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council) for comment. A long list of cumulative developments has been provided in **ES Volume III Appendix 15-1: Initial Long List of Other Developments [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. A shortlist has been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities for comment and is presented in Table 15-2 in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment methodology | N/A | Biodiversity and Geodiversity<br>3.1 The assessment will need to include potential impacts of the proposal upon sites and features of nature conservation interest as well as opportunities for nature recovery through biodiversity net gain (BNG). There might also be strategic approaches to take into account. | Noted. The guidance documents used to inform the assessment presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** are presented in Section 8.2 and include the documents referenced by Natural England.<br>A **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]** is submitted alongside the DCO Application |

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| | | | | 3.2 Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is the process of identifying, quantifying, and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EcIA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. Guidelines have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).<br>3.3 For additional information relating to Solar Parks please refer to the Technical Information Note at the link below, which provides a summary of advice about their siting, their potential impacts and mitigation requirements for the safeguarding of the natural environment. Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits (TIN101).<br>3.4 For additional information regarding the impact of solar farms on birds, bats and general ecology, please refer to the report below, which provides an evidence review of relevant scientific and grey literature. Evidence review of the impact of solar farms on birds, bats and general ecology 2016 - NEER012 naturalengland.org.uk) | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | International and European sites | N/A | 4. International and European sites<br>4.1 The development site is within or may impact on the following European/internationally designated nature conservation sites:<br>• Thorne & Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area (SPA);<br>• Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC);<br>• Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC);<br>• Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and<br>• Humber Estuary Ramsar.<br>4.2 The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance/European sites, including marine sites where relevant. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), listed Ramsar sites, candidate SAC and proposed SPA.<br>4.3 Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive requires an appropriate assessment where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.<br>4.4 For advice on potential air quality impacts on the relevant internationally designate sites, see section 12 below.<br>4.5 We welcome the commitment to complete wintering and passage bird surveys. Natural England recommend amended vantage point (VP) surveys (principally following Nature Scot | In relation to comment 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 – a list of European and International sites within the relevant Study Areas is included in Table 8-7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, with an assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme (in consideration of embedded mitigation presented in Section 8.10) on relevant sites included in Table 8.12. The Applicant also notes and welcomes NE's comments to assist with screening of relevant sites.<br>The Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site is beyond the 10 km Study Area for the Scheme and has been scoped out of the assessment presented in the ES. However, an assessment on any associated qualifying features (such as fish) has been included within the ES and these comments have been taken into account in the preparation of the No Significant Effects Report (NSER) [ EN010152/APP/7.12] submitted as part of the DCO application.<br>Comment 4.4 is noted.<br>In relation to Comment 4.5, the Applicant has engaged with Natural England and agreed the scope of bird surveys. The Applicant does not consider targeted bird VP surveys following NatureScot VP guidance necessary or appropriate at this site, or for a Scheme of this type. Whilst it is acknowledged that VPs do provide useful information and overview of bird usage of a site, it should be noted that this is |

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| | | | | methodologies1) are undertaken of the Site and surrounding fields to provide an overview of bird usage. Please see Annex B for further detailed advice on VP surveys.<br>4.6 We advise that the wintering/passage bird survey results should be considered in the context of the relevant internationally designated sites and may require the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and/or the Humber Estuary SPA to be scoped into further assessment, depending on the bird species recorded. Please see Annex C for guidance on the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area non-breeding waterbird assemblage.<br>Table 1: Potential risk to International designated sites: the development is within or may impact on the following European/Internationally designated site(s). Site name(s) (with link to Conservation Objectives and Citation): Advice on potential impact pathways.<br>Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA: To assist you in screening for the likelihood of significant effects on Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA, Natural England offers the following advice, based on the information provided:<br>- the proposal is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site- the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, and can therefore be screened out from any requirement for further appropriate assessment (excluding from potential air quality impacts). When recording your Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) we recommend you refer to the following information to justify your conclusions regarding the likelihood of significant effects:<br>- Due to the distance between the proposed site and Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA and the nature of the Scheme, direct impacts on the designated site are not anticipated.<br>- Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA is designated for the presence of breeding nightjar. Nightjar are known to forage up to 5 km from their breeding habitat on Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA. As the Scheme is located over 8 km from the designated site, it is unlikely that the habitats within the proposed site represent functionally linked land to the SPA.<br>- There is no hydrological connection between the proposed site and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA<br>For advice on assessing potential air quality impacts during construction, see section 12 below. | where the primary purpose of the VP survey is: to collect data on flight activity (to inform collision risk) and that this is a secondary use of the data gathered by this method, often in upland areas where walked surveys require covering difficult terrain and where visibility is better served from a static location with a good viewing arc. Importantly, the Scheme does not have any moving parts, e.g. rotating blades, nor do Solar PV Panels typically extend to a height where there will be above the existing vegetation. Therefore, collision or disruption of flight paths is not a significant risk and removes the need to collect specific flight activity data. Instead, the Applicant has undertaken a 'hybrid' approach consisting of a series of walked transects to provide coverage of the survey area and allow the habitats present to be sufficiently observed but with incorporating regular stopping points to record all birds within and flying over the Survey Area. Additionally, to avoid disturbance of any birds already present within the Survey Area, prior to entering any new field compartment, the surveyor firstly stopped and scanned the field, recording any birds present. This minimised disturbance and allowed for the collecting of a robust dataset establishing bird abundance, distribution and usage of the Survey Area.<br>In relation to Comment 4.6, the scope of bird surveys has been reviewed in light of the comments made by Natural England in their response to the Scoping Opinion and extended to include land up to 500 m from the Order limits and also to cover the passage period in autumn. VP surveys have not been added to the surveys for reasons described above, but sufficient measures have been incorporated into the survey design to minimise potential disturbance of birds caused by surveyors moving around the Survey Area, thus ensuring data represent an accurate reflection of bird occurrence and usage of the Survey Area. See also Natural England's comments through the DAS in Table 8-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |

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| | | | | Thorne Moor SAC: To assist you in screening for the likelihood of significant effects on Thorne Moor SAC, Natural England offers the following advice, based on the information provided:<br>- the proposal is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site; and<br>- the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on Thorne Moor SAC, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, and can therefore be screened out from any requirement for further appropriate assessment (excluding from potential air quality impacts).<br>When recording your HRA we recommend you refer to the following information to justify your conclusions regarding the likelihood of significant effects:<br>- Due to the nature of the Scheme and the distance between the proposed site and Thorne Moor SAC, direct impacts on the designated site are not anticipated; and<br>- There is no hydrological connection between the proposed site and Thorne Moor SAC.<br>For advice on assessing potential air quality impacts during construction, see section 12 below.<br><br>Hatfield Moor SAC: To assist you in screening for the likelihood of significant effects on Hatfield Moor SAC, Natural England offers the following advice, based on the information provided:<br>- the proposal is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site<br>- the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on Hatfield Moor SAC, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, and can therefore be screened out from any requirement for further appropriate assessment (excluding from potential air quality impacts).<br>When recording your HRA we recommend you refer to the following information to justify your conclusions regarding the likelihood of significant effects:<br>- Due to the nature of the Scheme and the distance between the proposed site and Hatfield Moor SAC, direct impacts on the designated site are not anticipated.<br>- There is no hydrological connection between the proposed site and Hatfield Moor SAC.<br>For advice on assessing potential air quality impacts during construction, see section 12 below. | |

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| | | | | Humber Estuary SAC: Natural England welcomes the commitment to further assess potential habitat suitability of the relevant waterways for river lamprey and sea lamprey. We advise that the assessment of potential impacts on Humber Estuary river and sea lamprey migration routes should consider potential water quality impacts during construction and operation, in addition to potential mortality and habitat fragmentation. The assessment should be informed by more detailed information regarding the proposed Grid Connection Corridor and waterway crossing points.<br>For advice on assessing potential air quality impacts during construction, see section 12 below.<br>Humber Estuary Ramsar: See above advice for Humber Estuary SAC regarding river lamprey and sea lamprey. | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Nationally designated sites - Sites of Special Scientific Interest | N/A | 4.1 Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at www.magic.gov .<br>4.2 The development site is within or may impact the following Sites of Special Scientific Interest:<br>• Thorne, Crowle & Goole Moors SSSI;<br>• Hatfield Moor SSSI;<br>• Humber Estuary SSSI;<br>• Shirley Pool SSSI; and<br>• Went Ings Meadows SSSI.<br>4.3 The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within the SSSI and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. 4.4 For advice on potential air quality impacts on the relevant nationally designated sites, see section 12 below.<br>4.5 We note that currently SSSIs within 2 km of the development site have been scoped in for further assessment. However, if significant increases in vehicle movements are predicted to occur adjacent to SSSIs which are outside of this zone of influence then potential increases in pollutants NOx, NH3 and nitrogen deposition should be assessed.<br>4.6 Our advice regarding the potential impact pathways upon Thorne, Crowle & Goole Moors SSSI and Hatfield Moor SSSI broadly coincides with those set out in paragraph 4.5 above | The desk study identified relevant SSSI sites within the 2 km Study Area and these are presented in Section 8.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology**.<br>An assessment of the potential effects on relevant SSSI is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>As stated in **ES Volume 1 Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, construction phase road traffic volumes are not expected to meet the thresholds set out by the IAQM (2017) screening criteria, meaning that air quality effects are not considered further. In addition, there are no SSSIs, either within 2km of the Order limits or beyond that will be subject to increased levels of traffic on any of the adjacent road network, i.e.ec within 200m. A significant change to traffic flows is not anticipated to occur during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme. Therefore, it is not anticipated that any SSSI within or beyond 2 km of the Order limits will be affected by air quality impacts.<br>Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors SSSI and Hatfield Moor SSSI are beyond 2 km from the Scheme, both being >7 km from the Scheme. As noted in Natural England comments addressed in this table above, corresponding European sites have been scoped out of the assessment and, therefore, Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors SSSI and Hatfield Moor SSSI have also been scoped out of assessment as there are no impact pathways.<br>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme on Shirley Pool SSSI is included in the ES but Went Ings |

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| | | | | for their corresponding European sites. However, we highlight that Thorne, Crowle & Goole Moors SSSI and Hatfield Moor SSSI are designated for additional features; therefore, potential impacts on these features should also be considered in the relevant assessment.<br>4.7 Natural England advises that potential impacts on Shirley Pool SSSI and Went Ings Meadows SSSI should also be assessed in the Environmental Statement. In particular, potential water quality and water supply impacts should be considered. | Meadows SSSI is scoped out due to its distance (and therefore, beyond the ZoI of the Scheme), being 2.95 km from the Scheme. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Protected Species | N/A | 5.1 The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the Site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species' populations in the wider area.<br>5.2 The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.<br>5.3 Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may also be required. Applicants can make use of Natural England's charged Pre Submission Screening Service for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. | A desk study was undertaken as part of a PEA, the results of which are summarised in Table 8-8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. An assessment of potential effects on protected species is presented in Section 8.11 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and measures to reduce or remove potential impacts on protected species are included in Section 8.10.<br>Full details of survey methods used to determine the baseline, with regards to protected species, including the full results of surveys is included within the ES, data obtained informing the assessment presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | District Level Licensing for Great Crested Newts | N/A | 6.1 Natural England notes that 3.98 of the 'Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Appendix B: Preliminary Environmental Appraisal Report Solar PV Site' (dated June 2023) *states "Data will be used to inform a DLL Application… If the DLL route is not pursued, a detailed assessment will be provided in the ES."* Natural England welcomes the commitment to use data to inform a DLL application and | The Applicant has been engaging with Natural England and has submitted an Enquiry Form (to obtain the required IACPC) to Natural England. The Applicant is currently awaiting the IACPC, which will be submitted into examination at the earliest opportunity. |

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| | | | | provide a detailed assessment in the ES if DLL is not possible.<br>6.2 Where strategic approaches such as DLL for GCN are used, a letter of no impediment (LONI) will not be required. Instead, the developer will need to provide evidence to the ExA on how and where this approach has been used in relation to the proposal, which must include a counter-signed IACPC from Natural England, or a similar approval from an alternative DLL provider.<br>6.3 The DLL approach is underpinned by a strategic area assessment which includes the identification of risk zones, strategic opportunity area maps and a mechanism to ensure adequate compensation is provided regardless of the level of impact. In addition, Natural England (or an alternative DLL provider) will undertake an impact assessment, the outcome of which will be documented in the IACPC (or equivalent)<br>6.4 If no GCN surveys have been undertaken, Natural England's risk zone modelling may be relied upon. During the impact assessment, Natural England will inform the Applicant whether their Scheme is within one of the amber risk zones and therefore whether the Scheme is likely to have a significant effect on GCN.<br>6.5 The IACPC will also provide additional detail including information on the Scheme's impact on GCN and the appropriate compensation required.<br>6.6 By demonstrating that the DLL Scheme for GCN will be used, consideration of GCN in the ES can be restricted to cross-referring to the Natural England (or alternative provider) IACPC as a justification as to why significant effects on GCN populations as a result of the Scheme would be avoided. | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Priority Habitats and Species | N/A | 7.1 Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found here. Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.<br>7.2 Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked | In relation to comment 7.1, baseline information on priority habitats and species, defined through a combination of desk study and field surveys, is included in Section 8.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and an assessment of potential effects on relevant ecological features is presented in Section 8.11. This includes priority habitats and species, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites.<br>In relation to comment 7.2, it is noted that the Applicant considered brownfield sites in the assessment and welcome the invitation to search for sites using the OMH inventory which was uploaded in December 2023. The Applicant has reviewed the Natural England draft mapping and confirms |

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| | | | | against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to download. Further information is also available here.<br>7.3 An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the Site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present.<br>7.4 The Environmental Statement should include details of:<br>• Any historical data for the Site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys);<br>• Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal;<br>• The habitats and species present;<br>• The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat);<br>• The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species;<br>• Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures;<br>• Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement. | that there is no OMH within the Solar PV Site. However, it is noted an area immediately west of the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation is identified in the Natural England draft mapping as OMH. A detailed assessment of any impacts to this habitat is presented in the ES.<br>In relation to comment 7.3, a UKHab habitat survey has been undertaken within the Order limits. A suite of other ecological surveys have been undertaken during the appropriate survey periods in 2023 and 2024 (see Table 8-3 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**).<br>In relation to comment 7.4, this is noted and an assessment is included within **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1].**<br>A **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]** has been included as part of the DCO Application. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Ancient Woodland, ancient and veteran trees | N/A | 8.1 The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on any ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement.<br>8.2 Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees are irreplaceable habitats of great importance for its wildlife, its history, and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Paragraph 180 of the NPPF sets out the highest level of protection for irreplaceable habitats and development should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.<br>8.3 Natural England and the Forestry Commission have prepared standing advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.<br>8.4 We note that ancient woodland has been identified within the Study Area and welcome the recommendation to retain notable habitats, including ancient woodland. | An assessment of likely significant effects on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees is included in Section 8.11 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, based on fieldwork and available desk study data. This data has been used to inform the design and buffer zones to protect tree features. This includes a minimum buffer zone of 15 m between the Order limits and Bunfold Shaw ancient woodland. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Biodiversity net gain (BNG) | N/A | 9.1 Natural England notes and supports the Applicant's aspiration to deliver over 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) measured using Defra Metric 4.0 (or the most up to date metric at the time). However, given the scale of the Scheme and a history of successful delivery of BNG for solar projects, | The Applicant is committed to achieving at least 10% BNG for area based, linear and aquatic habitats. Standard BNG good practice, British Standards and guidance documents, including those referred to by Natural England, has been followed in the **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]** |

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| | | | | Natural England encourages the Applicant to commit to delivery of 10% BNG in all habitat types identified within the order limits, in accordance with the Environment Act 2021.<br>9.2 Natural England considers that major infrastructure developments should set the highest environmental standard. They should lead by example in showing how investment in sustainable infrastructure can better serve communities, including through the delivery of environmental goals, such as flood resilience, expanding natural habitats and contributing toward Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions. Nature-based solutions built into infrastructure Schemes provide one means for setting in place the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.<br>9.3 Natural England recognises the high opportunity for the development to deliver BNG onsite and it is recommended that the following guidance is applied in order to achieve this:<br>• Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principals for Development;<br>• BS 8683: 2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification.<br>9.4 In addition, the Applicant should be aware of forthcoming guidance and legislation in relation to the Environment Act 2021, which may be released in the interim prior to submission of the DCO Application.<br>9.5 In order to maximise nature recovery and target habitat enhancement where it will have the greatest local benefit it is recommended that locally identified opportunities should be acknowledged and incorporated into the design of BNG (both on and off-site). This should include any locally mapped ecological networks and priority habitats identified by City of Doncaster Council. In addition, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new mandatory system of spatial strategies for nature established by the Environment Act 2021 which will contribute to the national Nature Recovery Network (NRN). Work is currently underway to develop these strategies, which will identify strategic priorities for nature protection, recovery, and enhancement. Given the size, scale and opportunities afforded by the application is therefore recommended that engagement with relevant local planning authorities, responsible authorities and statutory consultees (including Natural England) is undertaken to align habitat enhancement through the development with any emerging plans and policies in relation to LNRS. | which aligns with guidance and legislation relevant at time of submission. Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken throughout the preparation of the ES. |

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| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Connecting people with nature | N/A | 10.1 The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, public rights of way and, where appropriate, the England Coast Path and coastal access routes and coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph 100 and there will be reference in the relevant National Policy Statement. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.<br>10.2 Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Access to nature within the Site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species. | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** provides an assessment of the potential impacts on existing PRoW and other land that is currently accessible to members of the public. A **Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010152/APP/7.13**] has been submitted as part of the DCO Application which sets out how PRoW would be managed during the Scheme construction phase to ensure the safety of users and Site staff. Section 12.6 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** also presents the mitigation measures which have been incorporated into the Scheme design. The Scheme has been designed to minimise impacts on PRoW and maintain residents access to the countryside.<br>Consideration of the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for the movement of species has been taken forward as the design progresses and fed into the **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]** prepared to accompany the DCO Application. This has also been considered in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Soils and Agricultural Land Quality | N/A | 11.1 Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed. Impacts from the development on soils and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land should be considered in line paragraphs 5.168, 5.167 and 5.179 of the NPS for National Networks. Further guidance is set out in the Natural England Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land.<br>11.2 The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the ES:<br>• The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development; and<br>• The extent to which agricultural land would be disturbed or lost as part of this development, including whether any best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land would be impacted.<br>11.3 This may require a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey if one is not already available. For | Relevant to **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>The impacts on BMV agricultural land and soils (including the requested issues set out by Natural England) have been assessed in Section 12.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The residual and cumulative effects resulting from the Scheme on BMV agricultural land and soil have been assessed in Section 12.10 and Section 12.11 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, respectively.<br>The mitigation measures included in the Scheme design and potential additional measures which could minimise the impacts on BMV agricultural land and soil have been identified in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The **Framework CEMP [EN010152/APP/7.7]** sets out measures to mitigate effects on agricultural land and PRoW and the **Framework Soil Management Plan (SMP) [EN010152/APP/7.10]** sets out how agricultural soils would be managed, preserved, retained and reinstated. |

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| | | | | information on the availability of existing ALC information see www.magic.gov.uk.<br>• Where an ALC and soil survey of the land is required, this should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. The survey data can inform suitable soil handling methods and appropriate reuse of the soil resource where required (e.g. agricultural reinstatement, habitat creation, landscaping, allotments and public open space);<br>• The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on BMV agricultural land can be minimised through site design/masterplan; and<br>• The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed, including consideration in site design and master planning, and areas for green infrastructure or biodiversity net gain. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.<br>11.4 Further information is available in the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites and The British Society of Soil Science Guidance Note Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction. | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Air quality | N/A | 12.1 Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue. For example, approximately 85% of protected nature conservation sites are currently in exceedance of nitrogen levels where harm is expected (critical load) and approximately 87% of sites exceed the level of ammonia where harm is expected for lower plants (critical level of 1µg). A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The Government's Clean Air Strategy also has a number of targets to reduce emissions including to reduce damaging deposition of reactive forms of nitrogen by 17% over England's protected priority sensitive habitats by 2030, to reduce emissions of ammonia against the 2005 baseline by 16% by 2030 and to reduce emissions of NOx and SO2 against a 2005 baseline of 73% and 88% respectively by 2030. Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) | Noted. |

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| | | | | have also been identified as a tool to reduce environmental damage from air pollution.<br>12.2 The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly, or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk). | |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Internationally and nationally designated sites | | 13. Natural England advises that there is currently not enough information provided in the application to determine whether the likelihood of significant effects from air quality impacts during construction can be ruled out for the relevant internationally and nationally designated sites. | Ecological sites are considered in the Dust Risk Assessment presented in Section 14.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics**. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Internationally and nationally designated sites | N/A | 13.1 Natural England has produced guidance for public bodies to help assess the impacts of road traffic emissions to air quality capable of affecting European Sites. Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations - NEA001 13.2 Natural England welcomes the commitment to assess air quality impacts on designated sites associated with construction traffic. We note that 14.2.16 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (dated June 2023) states *"The anticipated number of vehicles that would be used during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Scheme will be considered in the context of the guidance published by Environmental Protection UK (EPUK)/IAQM…"* However, we advise that when undertaking an assessment of the potential impacts on designated sites from traffic, Natural England guidance document NEA001 should instead be referred to. | The current assessment approach to quantifying road traffic emission impacts represents good practice for EIA purposes, providing a clear understanding of the likely significant effects.<br>We note that Natural England's preferred approach to informing the HRA is to use NEA001, which is a staged screening approach that provides additional information that is relevant to the HRA process. An air quality assessment has been undertaken using the NEA001 methodology to inform the **No Significant Effects Report [EN010152/APP/7.12]** and this will include consideration of road traffic ammonia emissions using the CREAM tool. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Internationally and nationally designated sites | | 13.3 As detailed in guidance document NEA001, designated sites within 200 m of a road which will experience a significant increase in traffic movements should be assessed for impacts due to air pollution from traffic. | It is not anticipated that construction phase road traffic volumes will meet the thresholds set out by the IAQM (2017) screening criteria. A significant change to traffic flows is not anticipated to occur during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme.<br>See response to 13.1/13.2 above relating to undertaking an air quality assessment to inform the **No Significant Effects Report [EN010152/APP/7.12]** using the NEA001 approach. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental** | Internationally and nationally | | 13.4 We note that currently SSSIs within 2 km of the development site have been scoped in for further | It is not anticipated that significant increases vehicles movements will occur adjacent to SSSIs as a result of the |

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| | **Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | designated sites | | assessment. However, if significant increases in vehicle movements are predicted to occur adjacent to SSSIs which are outside of this zone of influence then potential increases in pollutants NOx, NH3 and nitrogen deposition should be assessed. | Scheme (see **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**). As traffic flows do not exceed the IAQM (2017) criteria, road traffic emissions from construction and operation and maintenance are not considered within the assessment.<br>See response to 13.1/13.2 relating to undertaking an air quality assessment to inform the **No Significant Effects Report [EN010152/APP/7.12]** using the NEA001 approach, including consideration of ammonia.<br>SSSIs are considered in the Dust Risk Assessment, Section 14.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | Internationally and nationally designated sites | | 13.5 Ammonia emissions from road traffic could make a significant difference to nitrogen deposition close to roads. As traffic composition transitions toward more petrol and electric cars (i.e., fewer diesel cars on the road) – catalytic converters may aid in reducing NOx emissions but result in increased ammonia emissions –therefore consideration of the potential for impacts is needed (see https://www.aqconsultants.co.uk/news/february-2020-(1)/ammonia-emissions-fromroads-for-assessing-impacts).<br>13.6 There are currently two models which can be used to calculate the ammonia concentration and contribution to total N deposition from road sources. One of these models is publicly available and called CREAM (Air Quality Consultants - News -Ammonia Emissions from Roads for Assessing Impacts on Nitrogen-Sensitive Habitats (aqconsultants.co.uk), and there is another produced by National Highways. | Construction phase road traffic volumes are not expected to meet the thresholds set out by the IAQM (2017) screening criteria. A significant change to traffic flows is not anticipated to occur during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Climate Change | N/A | 14.1 The England Biodiversity Strategy published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' (NPPF Para 174), which should be demonstrated through the ES. | As set out in Section 8.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the assessment considers relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) for energy, including relevant sections for solar and biodiversity. These NPS's set out national policy for energy infrastructure and provide guidance and the legal framework for planning decisions. They comprise the government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure and take account of government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.<br>While the NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIP like those in the NPS', it remains a relevant matter for consideration as to the Government's general directions in respect of planning. As such, these national planning policies, along with policies for biodiversity, such as the |

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| | | | | | England Biodiversity Strategy, have informed the approach to assessment set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| Natural England | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Vantage point surveys | N/A | We recommend that 'amended' vantage point (VP) surveys (principally following Nature Scot methodologies) are undertaken of the Site and surrounding fields to provide an overview of bird usage. It would be useful to record birds in flight especially if the application may have the potential to affect bird flight lines. We would expect to see commentary of birds landing and taking off within and out with the development site. The surveys should cover open arable land within the proposed Site Boundary, as well as land adjacent to the development that could be affected and provides the potential to support designated site species. The survey results should also provide some understanding of how the birds use the Site as well as presence/absence. We recommend two wintering bird surveys per month between September to March inclusive. As well as wintering waterbirds, the Humber Estuary provides safe feeding and roosting sites for species migrating between breeding sites in the arctic and subarctic, and wintering grounds in southern Europe and Africa. The Humber Estuary is therefore important for waterbirds on passage in spring and autumn as well as those species that stay all winter. Therefore, if there is potential for passage SPA bird species to be using the Site, we recommend bird surveys during the autumn passage period (August to November inclusive) and spring passage period (March to Mid-May inclusive) to determine the population status of passage birds. The surveys should cover different tidal states and for sites which may potentially affect high tide roosts, observations should be conducted from two hours before high tide to two hours after high tide. Consideration should also be given to surveys in poor weather/visibility conditions as large movements of birds can be observed at this time. If waders have the potential to use the development site, Natural England also recommends nocturnal surveys. VP surveys may also need to take account of surveys at dusk and dawn, depending upon the bird species (i.e. geese and swans). If geese and swans have the potential to use the development site or surrounding area, we would expect to see surveys 1 hour before and 1 hour after, dusk and dawn during the respective bird survey season (i.e. winter, spring and autumn passage (as above)). The Humber Estuary SPA qualifies under article 4.2 of the European Commission Bird Directive (79/409/EEC) in that it | The Applicant has undertaken ornithological surveys in 2023 and 2024, including coverage of a 500 m buffer around the Order limits. Whilst the ornithological surveys have recorded all species present, surveyors have been mindful of the species set out by Natural England in Annex C of their response, with specific observations made on presence and behaviour.<br>The Applicant disagrees that VP surveys are necessary or appropriate at this Site, or for a Scheme of this type. Whilst it is acknowledged in Scottish Natural Heritage VP guidance that VPs do provide useful information and overview of bird usage of a site, it should be noted that this is where the primary purpose of the VP survey is to collect data on flight activity (to inform collision risk) and that this is a secondary use of the data gathered by this method, often in upland areas where walked surveys require covering difficult terrain and where visibility is better served from a static location with a good viewing arc. Importantly, the Scheme does not have any moving parts, e.g. rotating blades, nor do Solar PV Panels typically extend to a height where they would be above the existing vegetation. Therefore, collision or disruption of flight paths is not a significant risk and removes the need to collect specific flight activity data. In addition, surveyors took care to minimise any potential disturbance that their presence on site may have created. This is acknowledged as being important to ensure that any birds present weren't disturbed before they could be recorded or avoided landing within the survey area.<br>A robust dataset i.e. to assess the risks of displacement and disturbance, can be gathered to establish bird abundance, distribution and usage of a site by undertaking walked transects which provide coverage of the survey area and allow the habitats present to be sufficiently observed.<br>The Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar is located 14.2 km east of the Scheme at its closest point and the scope of bird surveys set out in the EIA Scoping Report had been defined on the basis that these internationally important sites were considered to be distant from the Solar PV Site. It is acknowledged that there is no guidance to define an area that may represent functionally linked land. However, the distances separating these European Sites are considered to be well in excess of the distances (up to 8 km) considered in |

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| | | | | supports an internationally important assemblage of waterbirds. Please refer to Annex C for further guidance on the 'main component species' of the assemblage. Natural England has generally advised that if ≥1% of a Humber Estuary bird species population could be affected by a proposal, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then further consideration is required. However, where species are particularly vulnerable due to declines in the Humber population, then it may not be appropriate to rely on the 1% of the estuary population as the critical threshold. Mitigation measures may be required where lower numbers of vulnerable species are using a site that is proposed for development. 2 Scottish Natural Heritage: Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms (March 2017- Version 2). Page 14 of 15 Annex C: Humber Estuary Special Protection Area: non-breeding waterbird assemblage (October 2022) The Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) qualifies under article 4.2 of the European Commission Bird Directive (79/409/EEC) in that it supports an internationally important assemblage of waterbirds. Confusion can arise concerning which species to consider when assessing the Humber Estuary SPA non-breeding, waterbird assemblage feature. Natural England recommends focusing on what are referred to as the 'main component species' of the assemblage. Main component species are defined as: a. All species listed individually under the assemblage feature on the SPA citation (i.e. the species that qualified in 2004 when the Site was designated). b. Species which might not be listed on the SPA citation but occur at site levels of more than 1% of the national population according to the most recent Humber Estuary Wetland Bird Survey (Webs) 5-year average count. c. Species where more than 2000 individuals are present according to the most recent Humber Estuary WeBS count. The assemblage qualification is therefore subject to change as species' populations change. It should be noted that species listed on the citation under the assemblage features, whose populations have fallen to less than 1% of the national population, retain their status as a main component species and should be considered when assessing the impacts of a project or plan on the Humber Estuary SPA. Natural England advises that the main component species of the Humber Estuary SPA nonbreeding waterbird assemblage include (October 2022): a) Species listed individually under the assemblage feature on the SPA citation: • Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* (non-breeding) • Bar-tailed godwit, | previous examples where functionally linked land has been identified (Chapman and Tyldesley 2016) (Ref. 4). Natural England's SSSI impact risk zones for solar sites exceeding 0.5 ha in size also extend up to a distance of 10 km, which is less than the intervening distance between the proposed solar scheme and the associated European sites.<br>The Applicant has engaged with Natural England regarding the scope of ornithological surveys and the potential for connections through functionally linked land with European Sites, through its DAS. The scope of bird surveys has been reviewed in light of the comments made by Natural England in their response to the Scoping Opinion and extended to include land up to 500 m from the Order limits and also to cover the passage period in autumn. VP surveys have not been added to the surveys for reasons described above, but sufficient measures have been incorporated into the survey design to minimise potential disturbance of birds caused by surveyors moving around the Survey Area, thus ensuring data represent an accurate reflection of bird occurrence and usage of the Survey Area. |

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| | | | | *Limosa lapponica* (non-breeding) • Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* (non-breeding) • Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* (non-breeding) • Brent goose, *Branta bernicla* (non-breeding) • Curlew, *N. arquata* (non-breeding) • Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina* (non-breeding) • Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* (non-breeding) • Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula* (non-breeding) • Greenshank, *T. nebularia* (non-breeding) • Grey plover, *P. squatarola* (non-breeding) • Knot, *Calidris canutus* (non-breeding) • Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* (non-breeding) • Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* (non-breeding • Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus* (non-breeding) • Pochard, *Aythya farina* (non-breeding) • Redshank, *Tringa totanus* (non-breeding) • Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula* (non-breeding) • Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* (non-breeding) • Sanderling, *Calidris alba* (non-breeding) • Scaup, *Aythya marila* (non-breeding) • Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* (non-breeding) • Teal, *Anas crecca* (non-breeding) • Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres* (non-breeding) • Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus* (non-breeding) • Wigeon, *Anas Penelope* (non-breeding) Species which are not listed on the SPA citation but occur at site levels of more than 1% of the national population according to the most recent Humber Estuary Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) 5-year average count: • Green sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus* (non-breeding) • Greylag goose, *Anser anser* (non-breeding)1 • Little egret, *Egretta garzetta* (non-breeding)1 • Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* (non-breeding)1 • Shoveler, *Anas clypeata* (non-breeding) • White-fronted goose, *Anser albifrons* (non-breeding)1 As stated above, the assemblage qualification is subject to change as species' populations change; therefore, the appropriate WeBS data should be considered in any assessment and the above list should be used as a guide only. Please note, the advice set out above should be considered when assessing potential impacts on the waterbird assemblage feature. You will also need to consider potential impacts on species which are not considered to be non-breeding waterbirds but are listed on the citation qualifying under article 4.1 and 4.2 of the Directive. These include: • Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus* (non-breeding)1 • Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus* (breeding)1 • Little tern, *Sterna albifrons* (breeding) • Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* (breeding) • Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* (breeding) The species marked 1 in bold text are known to use non-wetland habitats (e.g. arable farmland and/or grassland/pasture) and may therefore be the most relevant for assessing potential impacts of a proposed plan/project on birds using functionally | |

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| | | | | linked land associated with the Humber Estuary SPA. However, please note that this list should be used as a guide only; usage may depend on factors such as the habitats available on the Site and distance to the Humber Estuary etc. Therefore, assessments of potential impacts on birds using functionally linked land should consider all relevant species and clear justification should be provided if any species are excluded from the assessment. | |
| Network Rail | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Glint and glare effects on railway infrastructure | N/A | With reference to the protection of the railway, the Environmental Statement should consider any impact of the Scheme upon the railway infrastructure and upon operational railway safety. In particular, it should include a glint and glare study assessing the impact of the Scheme upon train drivers (including distraction from glare and potential for conflict with railway signals). | All railway lines within 1 km of the Solar PV Site were assessed within the Glint and Glare Assessment, including in respect of distraction from glare or conflict with signals, and found to have no impacts.<br>Detailed conclusions are found within **ES Volume III Appendix 14-2: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| Network Rail | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Interaction with existing railway infrastructure | N/A | It should also include a Transport Assessment to identify any HGV traffic/haulage routes associated with the construction and operation of the Site that may utilise railway assets such as bridges and level crossings during the construction and operation of the Site. We note that this is referenced in the scoping document.<br>Please note that if the intention is to install cabling/network connections through railway land, the developer will need an easement from Network Rail and we would recommend that they engage with us early in the planning of their Scheme, in order to discuss and agree this element of the proposals. | The **Framework CTMP [EN010152/APP/7.17]** provides the identification of expected haulage routes for the construction and operation and maintenance of the Scheme. The included figures provide information related to the Study Area (**ES Volume II Figure 13-2: Traffic Survey Locations [EN010152/APP/6.2]**) and the construction routes (**ES Volume II Figure 13-3 and Figure 13-4 [EN010152/APP/6.2]**).<br>Engagement has been sought with Network Rail in terms of construction traffic movements (including HGV and AIL movements) which may utilise Network Rail assets, for example at the level crossing on Moss Road. |
| South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | General comments | N/A | Further to your consultation in respect of the above, SYFR has no observations to make. The above notwithstanding, if the proposal should become the subject of a Building Regulations application then detailed comments may be made at that time. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the officer dealing with this matter. | Noted. Consultation with SYFR Service has been undertaken to inform the BESS Containers design and a **Framework BSMP [EN010152/APP/7.16]** is presented alongside the DCO Application. |
| South Yorkshire Police | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | The Scheme | N/A | Similar sites in the Doncaster area have suffered attacks, which include thefts of solar panels and thefts of copper connectors from within the Site and damage to the solar panels themselves. Entry is gained in most cases by cutting the fence to allow quad bikes to be ridden onto the Site and the attacks carried out. At one nearby solar farm, thefts and damage have occurred to such an extent that it has reduced the capability of the Site to operate at full capacity. A visit to the location for the proposed site highlights the rural and | Noted. Security has been factored into the design of the Scheme, however, environmental impacts, such as landscape and visual effects, have also been considered. As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Scheme includes perimeter stock proof mesh-type security fencing up to 2.2 m high within the Solar PV Site with more robust palisade fencing around the BESS Area and the On-Site Substation. This fencing is |

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| | | | | somewhat remote nature of the Site. There are a small number of domestic residences near to the Site with open farmland in abundance. The roads surrounding the Site are narrow with very little passing traffic on foot or in a vehicle. Farms in the area suffer from anti-social behaviour and damage to crops by offenders using the area to ride off road motorcycles and quadbikes.<br>The documentation provided with this request states that it is the intention to erect a perimeter fence consisting of stock deer fence erected to a height of between 2 metres and 3 metres. This will be insufficient to prevent or even deter attacks on this site. It is strongly recommended that the outer fencing at the Site is a type that is tested by the LPCB to achieve LPS 1175 C5 (previously known as SR3) as a minimum. The fence should be fixed preferably using concrete into the ground. The minimum height should be 3.5 metres. Access gates should be the same height and standards as the perimeter fencing. Both palisade and weld mesh fencing can be manufactured to meet the above security standards Palisade fencing consisting of vertical palings attached to horizontal tie bars has excellent anti climb properties, but older stock has some issues with the strength of the bolts used to attach the palings to the horizontal bars. Upgraded and higher security specifications reduce and almost eliminate the issues with the fastenings. An alternative fencing type to consider is a weld mesh type such as the SecureGuard SL3X mesh fencing. This too achieves the security standard LPS 1175 C5. Weldmesh fencing provides better surveillance of the Site and is less visually intrusive. Lighting should be designed in conjunction with the CCTV and PIDs to facilitate intruder detection during the hours of darkness Lock shrouds should protect gate padlocks and the padlocks should be Sold secure ‘Gold’ standard.<br>Consideration should be given to installation of a fence security topping and the installation of a Perimeter intruder detection system (PIDs) in addition to any other internal alarm system. The detection can be activated either by an offender attacking the fence or by intrusion onto the Site.<br>Monitored CCTV should be installed to current British and European standards and conform to ‘ICO’ Information Commissioners Office regulations.<br>CCTV poles should have ‘Anti Climb Spiked Pole Collars’ fitted. | considered to provide appropriate security for equipment within the Scheme whilst minimising environmental impacts.<br>In addition to fencing, CCTV would be installed to current British and European standards and conform to ‘ICO’ Information Commissioners Office regulations. The cameras would have fixed, inward-facing viewsheds and will be aligned to capture only the perimeter fence and the area inside the fence, thereby not capturing publicly accessible areas. The CCTV will use thermal imaging and Infrared (IR) lighting to provide night vision functionality.<br>During construction, security measures would be in place and there would be regular out of working hours checks of the Order limits by roving security guards who would undertake scheduled patrols of each area, as well as additional checks when an alarm is triggered.<br>All external cabling would be buried underground. |

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| | | | | Lighting should be designed in conjunction with the CTV and PIDs to facilitate intruder detection during the hours of darkness.<br>Any external cabling should be buried or protected by conduit.<br>It is important to have all the security intervention installed and working prior to installation of the battery plant, and control centre.<br>Further advice will be provided should a planning application be made regarding this site. | |
| The Coal Authority | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Baseline conditions | N/A | I have checked the Site location plan against our coal mining information and can confirm that, whilst the Scheme site falls within the coalfield, it is located outside the Development High Risk Area as defined by the Coal Authority. | Noted. |
| UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Public health | N/A | We understand that the Applicant will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the ES. We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.<br>In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime', setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, the Applicant should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation. | Engagement with UKHSA/Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has confirmed that a standalone health assessment is not required at this stage. The ES signposts to the relevant technical chapters to avoid duplication. |
| UK Health Security Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics** | Air quality and public health | N/A | In general, the planned approach to the air quality assessment appears to be reasonable, although more detail is required to consider local air quality impacts, particularly in the absence of representative automatic (continuous) and | Noted. The Applicant has confirmed with the City of Doncaster Council that no baseline air quality monitoring is required. The air quality assessment is presented in Section |

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| | **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Air Quality | | | diffusion tube monitoring. We note the Applicant will consider whether baseline air quality monitoring is required. Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold, i.e., an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent. | 14.2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| UK Health Security Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Water environment and public health | N/A | Although the preliminary information as provided in the Scoping Report, states that the groundwater vulnerability is generally low, we note the Applicant has yet to obtain details, including locations and users of Private Water Supplies (PWSs) and abstractions in vicinity of the Study Area. We understand that assessments such as a Water Impact Assessment and WFD assessment will be prepared to offer a fuller context of potential impacts to the water environment that may arise from the development. We will be in a better position to gauge potential public health impacts as more details are made available at later consultation stages. | Noted. The presence and potential impacts to abstractions and private water supplies is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>A WFD Assessment has been included in **ES Volume III Appendix 9-2: WFD Assessment [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. |
| UK Health Security Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Ground Conditions | Land condition and public health | N/A | We note that at the current stage of application, the Applicant's intention to prepare a PRA that will detail land condition and pollution history if relevant. Such information is necessary to inform an assessment of potential public health impacts. We await this information before providing comment. | Noted. Phase 1 PRA reports have been prepared for the Scheme (refer to Section 14.4 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**). The Phase 1 PRA reports detail land condition and pollution history, and can be used to inform an assessment of potential public health impacts. |
| UK Health Security Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Major Accidents and Disasters | Scope | N/A | We note that the Promoter has scoped out the further assessment of Major Accidents and Incidents. Considering that more detail will be forthcoming and is required to adequately assess residential receptor impacts arising from the Scheme, we consider that Major Accidents (including and especially fire risks) have not yet been fully assessed and that it is too early to scope out a detailed assessment of Major Accidents at this stage. We recommend that the Applicant considers scoping in Major Accidents and Disasters, until the route for the underground cable route has been finalised and the potential for accidents that might affect | The assessment of major accidents and disasters is presented in the ES in accordance with the methodology presented in Section 14.5 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Not all major accidents and disasters have been scoped out of assessment. The major accidents and disasters scoped into the assessment have been presented in Table 14-2 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and include the potential for fire to result in a major accident or disaster. A **Framework BSMP [EN010152/APP/7.16]** is submitted as part of the DCO |

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| | | | | public health is fully understood. This is not withstanding the fact that safe methods of working would be used. | Application with the preparation of and implementation of a detailed version secured through a DCO Requirement. |
| UK Health Security Agency | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Electromagnetic Fields | Electromagnetic fields | N/A | UKHSA requests that the Applicant confirms that either the Scheme does not contain any EMF sources that has a potential public health impact; or ensures that an appropriate health impact assessment is carried out in the ES. For information, please see the EMF section of the supplementary material that accompanies this reply, entitled - Advice on the Content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime. | As described in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Scheme may connect to the national grid via an overhead line drop or underground cable connecting to the National Grid. The line drop would comprise of below ground cables connecting the On-Site Substation to a new cable sealing end compound at the base of an existing on-site 400 kV overhead line tower within Field SE2. All works to establish the cable sealing end compound, and works within the cable sealing end compound to modify the tower and connect the Scheme's cables to the NETS would remain under National Grid's control and do not form part of the Scheme. The potential effects of Electric or Electromagnetic Fields for the grid connection options (including public health) are presented in Section 14.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** with no significant effects identified either individually or in combination with other electricity infrastructure. |
| Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Board | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Watercourses and land drainage | N/A | We have been in discussions with the Applicant in relation to a similar Scheme in one of our other Drainage Board areas, and are pleased that a similar approach to watercourses and land drainage is proposed here. Please find attached our Standing Advice for large developments. In particular we would like to highlight the following requirements that should form part of a detailed drainage design at the appropriate planning stage:<br>- No structures to be installed within 9 metres of any watercourse.<br>- Surface water discharge to be restricted to greenfield runoff rates, with any new discharge to existing watercourses subject the Land Drainage Consent from the Board.<br>- Access routes to remain to existing Board-maintained watercourses (shown in red on the map below).<br>- Land Drainage Consent will be required for any alterations to watercourses. Crossing points for any cables will require consent; we would generally agree to open-cut methods for smaller watercourses and require directional drilling methods for Board-maintained watercourses. A map of all Board-maintained watercourses and related assets can be found on the link below:<br>https://ohdb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f19ec937c11a4c9e96719d7403a2bf3eWe would | The requirements of the IDB have been noted and are incorporated into the Scheme design in terms of watercourse buffers and have been taken into account when developing **ES Volume III Appendix 9-4: Framework Drainage Strategy [EN010152/APP/6.3]** submitted with the ES. Discussions with the IDB have been undertaken. |

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| | | | | encourage the developer to consult us when appropriate to discuss the above issues in more detail.<br>The Board would like to draw attention to its Technical Guidance for Developers & Standing Advice for Local Planning Authorities, attached to this response. | |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Noise sensitive receptors | N/A | In terms of potential for noise impacts (Chapter 11), there are no noise sensitive receptors identified northwards in the administrative area of North Yorkshire Council when applying a 500m buffer (Figure 11-1). We do not envisage significant noise impacts beyond 500m and, therefore, there are no objections.<br>The proposed grid connection is via the existing National Grid Marsh Substation to the south of the site. | **ES Volume II Figure 1-2: Site Boundary Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]** shows the Order limits for the Scheme. It is also confirmed from OS mapping that there are no receptors within the 500 m Study Area to the north of the Scheme, as shown on **ES Volume II Figure 11-1: Noise Monitoring and Receptor Locations [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | LVIA | N/A | The site red line boundary is within Doncaster City Council planning area. The landscape and visual study area is likely to extend northwards within the North Yorkshire Council planning area. These comments principally relate to Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual in the Applicant's EIA Scoping Report and likely effects or considerations within the North Yorkshire Council planning area. Comments may overlap with other topic areas such as Cultural Heritage, Ecology, Noise, Soils and Agricultural Land, Cumulative Effects, Glint and Glare.<br>We would agree with the EIA Scoping Report, that Landscape and Visual Amenity, Glint and Glare should be 'scoped in' and considered within the EIA. There is potential for significant adverse landscape and visual effects due to the scale and nature of the development.<br>Landscape considerations within the EIA/LVIA should include:<br>- Landscape and visual effects (including tranquillity, glint and glare, night-time effects, cumulative).<br>- The overall scale and nature of the proposed development.<br>- The expected lifespan of at least 40+ years (long-term land-use change).<br>- Wider landscape strategy (green infrastructure and connectivity).<br>- Long-term maintenance and management.<br>- Decommissioning and restoration.<br>The landscape strategy and mitigation should be proportionate to the scale of the development. | The 2 km Study Area extends into the North Yorkshire Council Planning Area. Landscape and visual receptors within this area are therefore included in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>The landscape considerations listed have been considered in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]**.<br>Tranquillity and night time effects are considered in the ES as part of the landscape assessment. The Glint and Glare Assessment is cross referenced in the visual assessment, noting where glint and/or glare may contribute to impacts to people's visual amenity.<br>Cumulative effects have been assessed in **ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** in line with the approach set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>Explanation of the approach to green infrastructure is set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. A **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]** has been prepared as part of the DCO Application. This document sets out the approach to establishment and maintenance of new and existing planting across the Order limits and will include an illustrative landscape masterplan which will show proposed planting designed to mitigate adverse landscape and visual effects and augment the existing green infrastructure network. |

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| | | | | Given the large scale of the Scheme, we would strongly encourage the Applicant to seek out opportunities to protect, enhance and better join up existing green infrastructure, to create new green infrastructure, in addition to incorporation of other measures to mitigate or minimise the consequences of development.<br>In relation to landscape and visual amenity we are generally supportive of an LVIA methodology set out at Chapter 10.7 undertaken to GLVIA3, together with the other listed guidance and publications. | |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Scheme description | N/A | Chapter 2.3 describes flexibility built into the DCO for the type and arrangement of panels, equipment and cabling. These uncertainties are reiterated at 10.8.6. However, we would recommend that sufficient design, layout and detail is needed within the EIA to ensure that local effects can be sufficiently considered and mitigated. | Noted. **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** describes the principal components of the Scheme and the design parameters used and is supported by **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2].**<br>**ES Volume I Chapter 6** to **Chapter 14 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** assess the options expected to present the worst-case scenarios with associated mitigation measures identified as appropriate. This will ensure local effects can be sufficiently considered and mitigated. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Biodiversity and Landscaping | N/A | Paragraphs 2.3.50 and 2.4.15 describes both biodiversity and landscaping indiscriminately. While a coordinated approach to biodiversity and landscape matters is generally welcome, Landscape (effects, mitigation, management) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) should be clearly and separately explained in the EIA and any supporting strategies or framework management documents. | As detailed in **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume I: Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and **BNG Assessment [EN010152/APP/7.11]** are presented with the DCO Application. The potential effects, mitigation and management is provided separately within each assessment.<br>The ecological and landscape strategies for the Scheme will also be presented separately within the **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]** submitted as part of the DCO Application. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, Glint and Glare | Glint and Glare | N/A | Glint and glare has potential to affect landscape and visual amenity. We would wish to see clear explanation of proposed methodology for the Glint and Glare Assessment. | The methodology for the glint and glare assessment is provided in **ES Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and has informed the landscape and visual impact assessment in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | LVIA | N/A | Within North Yorkshire, we would recommend an initial 5 km radius Study Area for the LVIA, where linked to direct visual effects from the proposed Solar PV Site. This may be further refined as the scheme evolves through consultation with the | The 2 km Study Area in North Yorkshire has been agreed with the district's Landscape Architect and kept under review with consultation. |

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| | | | | LPA. The Applicant should also consider a wider landscape Study Area for cumulative effects. | |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Summary of Elements Scoped In and Scoped Out 10.9 | N/A | This is assumed to be inaccurate given the proceeding list of Key Landscape and Visual Receptors at Table 10-1 and Potential Effects and Mitigation at 10.6. | The final list of landscape and visual receptors has been agreed through consultation with the Host Authorities. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Existing Trees and Vegetation | N/A | There is potential for the Scheme to adversely affect existing boundary trees and vegetation. Appendix B: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report illustrates and lists a number of boundary trees and hedgerows within and adjacent to the Site. This should be reviewed, protected and retained where appropriate. A tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment to BS5837:2012 will be required to inform the scheme layout to demonstrate sufficient stand-off and protection. This is important within North Yorkshire if boundary vegetation is needed for ongoing screening of the Site. | **ES Volume III Appendix 10-7: AIA [EN010152/APP/6.3]** has been prepared to inform the Scheme layout and is submitted as part of the ES. A tree survey to BS5837:2012 has been undertaken, with the results presented in **ES Volume III Appendix 10-7: AIA [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. The baseline data and tree constraints plan have been used to inform the design and buffer zones to protect tree features. Tree removal and tree retention measures are addressed on the Tree Protection Plan. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Existing Trees and Vegetation | N/A | We would wish to see a seasonal shading plan included within the EIA and the assessment to consider how this might affect future viability of the scheme and risk of further tree removal. There should be certainty that vegetation within the Site would be retained during the operational maintenance management period and not later removed due to potential shading. | Tree shade has been assessed in accordance with 5.2.2 of BS5837:2012 and industry good practice. This includes current and indicative future shading arcs for individual trees and tree groups, based on published mature tree heights (Ref. 6), as presented in **ES Volume III Appendix 10-7: AIA [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. Where a height is not available an equivalent species has been used.<br>**ES Volume III Appendix 10-7: AIA [EN010152/APP/6.3]**considers the relationship between current and mature shading arcs and trees and solar panel positions, to avoid further removal of vegetation in the future due to shading concerns. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Construction access and working areas | N/A | Temporary access, storage and working areas – these should be taken into account as part of the assessment. | The proposed access strategy and temporary construction compounds, storage and other working areas are provided in the ES. Information is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume II Figure 2-3: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010152/APP/6.2]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Visual Assessment and Representative Viewpoints | N/A | The quantity and location of representative viewpoints should be agreed with the Planning Authority.<br>The principle of using representative viewpoints to illustrate the experience of different types of visual receptor is acceptable, however the assessment should aim describe and assess the full effects of the development (not limited to | The quantity and location of representative viewpoints has been agreed with the City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.<br>The LVIA has adopted a ‘receptor based’ approach in order to fully describe and assess the full effects of the development. This approach was adopted partly in response to consultation with North Yorkshire Council. |

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| | | | | a summary of viewpoints) and to explain the scale and geographical extent of effects. | |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Photographs and Photomontages | N/A | Photographs and Photomontages should be in-line with Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019).<br>We would wish to see photomontages to explain how adverse effects will be mitigated over time. Photographs should include winter views where possible to explain the worst-case scenario. | Photomontages have been prepared in line with Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Ref. 7).<br>Photomontages are presented in the ES and show the Scheme in winter conditions at year 1, as well as at year 15. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Assessment of Tranquillity | N/A | There is potential for significant adverse noise effects associated with construction, decommissioning activities, and operational noise arising from static plant installations (such as inverter stations and energy storage containers). Consideration should be given to assessment of tranquillity and effect on local character and setting, particularly in relation to local sensitive receptors such as residential properties, PRoW, local farmsteads. | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** considers baseline levels of tranquillity (quantitative assessment), landscape character and setting and potential receptors as part of the landscape baseline, and include changes in the assessment of effects, including the influence of noise where appropriate. This has been done in discussion with the author of **ES Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative Effects | N/A | The LVIA should consider cumulative landscape and visual effects. | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects. The lists of relevant cumulative developments considered in the assessment have been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities (City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council) for comment. A long list of cumulative developments has been provided at **ES Volume III Appendix 15-1: Initial Long List of Other Developments [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. A shortlist has been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities for comment and presented in Table 15-2 in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Landscape strategy | N/A | We would wish to see mitigation proposals considered as part of a landscape strategy which includes a masterplan and which considers green infrastructure in a wider context.<br>Initially, the Landscape Strategy should focus on overarching principles with clear aims and objectives.<br>Objectives should be clear and include landscape, biodiversity and green infrastructure. Landscape and visual mitigation should drive the strategy and be linked through to the management plan (rather than just a maintenance schedule for BNG).<br>Landscape proposals and mitigation should have regard for and contribute to the wider landscape character, connectivity | The approach to green infrastructure is set out in **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.<br>A **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]** has been prepared as part of the DCO Application. This document sets out the approach to establishment and maintenance of new and existing planting across the Order limits and includes an illustrative landscape masterplan. |

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| | | | | of green infrastructure and sustainable transport (Selby policy SP12, SP18, SP19, ENV1).<br>The Applicant should consider a wider strategic approach to landscape proposals and mitigation of cumulative effects and how this would contribute to Natural England's 15 Green Infrastructure Principles of 'Why', 'What' and 'How' (https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Principles/GIPrinciples.aspx). Link to Natural England's Green Infrastructure Principles and the England Green Infrastructure Mapping: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Principles/GIPrinciples.aspx | |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Maintenance and management | N/A | Long-term maintenance and management should be considered, particularly where this is needed for ongoing mitigation, screening and biodiversity benefit. Sufficient stand-off distance should be provided from existing trees and vegetation where these are to be retained and protected and to allow maintenance access. Landscape management and mitigation should be considered for the life of the scheme 40+ years (not shorter BNG timescales).<br>The Applicant should consider offsite mitigation to compensate for and offset residual adverse effects where this cannot be achieved within the site. | A **Framework LEMP [EN010152/APP/7.14]** has been prepared as part of the DCO Application. This document sets out the approach to establishment and maintenance of new and existing planting across the Order limits. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Decommissioning and Restoration | N/A | Consideration should be given to how decommissioning and restoration would be funded and secured over a long timescale. | The Applicant is committed to decommissioning the Scheme which will be secured by a decommissioning and restoration requirement within the draft DCO. A **Framework DEMP [EN010152/APP/7.9]** is submitted with the DCO Application.<br>The cost of decommissioning has been taken into account by the Applicant. The Applicant considers the proposed Scheme to be viable. The Applicant provides details of how it intends to fund its DCO obligations in the **Funding Statement [EN010152/APP/4.2]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Ecology | N/A | No comments. | Noted. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Transport and Access | N/A | No comments. It likely that vehicles to the Site will access it by using A19 or the A614 from the M62 so will have little effect on the road network in the North Yorkshire Council administrative area. | Noted. The access strategy is presented in **ES Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and** | Public Rights of Way | N/A | We have checked the North Yorkshire Definitive Map, alongside Doncaster Metropolitan Council's Walkers Map. In conclusion, we are happy that we have no PRoW concerns | Noted. |

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| | **Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | | | that this development would impact upon any *"cross-border"* routes in the area. | |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Heritage and Archaeology | N/A | No comments. | Noted. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Public Health | N/A | We acknowledge that the Scheme itself is outside the North Yorkshire boundary but its proximity does leave scope for impacts to occur within the North Yorkshire area. We have reviewed the Scoping documents and note that no standalone Health Impact Assessment is being proposed, instead health impacts are to be considered within each of the sections of the report. If this is the approach that is taken we would request that the health impacts are made explicitly clear within each of the sections to help with reviewing future documents. | As agreed with UKHSA/OHID, a standalone health assessment is not required at this stage. **ES Volume I Chapter 5: EIA Methodology [EN010152/APP/6.1]** signposts to the relevant technical chapters to make clear where potential effects have been considered. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Socioeconomic effects | N/A | When reviewing the Socio-Economic Impacts the chapter doesn't consider how the impacts of the workforce during the construction, lifetime and decommissioning, is being considered and mitigated. A large influx of people can result in increased pressure on GP and health care services and appropriate consideration should be given to this in the socio-economic chapter. In addition, this should also include the cumulative impact of the increased workforce that this development will have over its duration<br>alongside those development that have been identified to give rise to cumulative impacts. Furthermore, North Yorkshire have an ageing demographic profile and due regard should be given to this demographic within the ES as well as the population as a whole. Therefore, in the absence of a specific Health Impact Assessment, a specific paragraph within the socio-economic chapter describing the impacts on this population group and how these are to be prevented and mitigated, should be included in the Environmental Statement. | Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]** assesses how temporary demand for accommodation (hotels, Bed and Breakfasts etc.) arising from construction workers would affect the accommodation sector within the local area. The section also assesses how temporary demand for healthcare services arising from construction workers could affect General Practitioner (GP) services in the local area. Impacts on older people are considered specifically at paragraph 12.7.40. These considerations have also formed part of the cumulative assessment undertaken in **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Flood risk | N/A | No comments received from North Yorkshire Council LLFA. | Noted. The Applicant has engaged with North Yorkshire Council Lead Local Flood Authority. |
| North Yorkshire Council | **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]** | Cumulative Impact Assessment | N/A | The cumulative impact assessment is in line with the PINS advice note. We anticipate working closely with the Applicant on this matter as the assessment progresses and have no further comment at this time. | The list of relevant cumulative developments considered in the assessment have been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities (City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council) for comment. A long list of cumulative developments has been |

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| | | | | | provided at **ES Volume III Appendix 15-1: Initial Long List of Other Developments [EN010152/APP/6.3]**. A shortlist has been shared with the relevant Local Planning Authorities for comment and presented in Table 15-2 in **ES Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. |

# 2. References

Ref. 1 Planning Inspectorate website (2022). Sunnica Energy Farm, Appendix C: Review of impact of Sunnica Energy Farm on aquatic invertebrates. [online]. Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010106/EN010106-004245-8.08%20Applicant%27s%20Response%20to%20ExA%20First%20Written%20Questions%20-%20Appendices%20A-M.pdf. [Accessed 13 March 2024].

Ref. 2 His Majesty's Stationary Office (HMSO) (2006). The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents. [Accessed 13 March 2024].

Ref. 3 Planning Inspectorate (2017). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Annex to Advice Note 7 – Presentation of the Environmental Statement. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6579a3e4095987001295dfcc/Annex1_advice_note_7.pdf. [Accessed 23 July 2024].

Ref. 4 Historic England (2017). The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition). Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 23 July 2024].

Ref. 5 Chapman, C. and Tydlersley, D. (2016). Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects - a review of authoritative decisions. Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 207.

Ref. 6 NHBC (2023). NHBC Standards 2023. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 23 July 2024].

Ref. 7 Landscape Institute (2019). Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 23 July 2024].


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