
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

**Fenwick Solar Farm
EN010152**

3.2 Explanatory Memorandum to the Draft Development Consent Order

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Overview	1
1.2	Fenwick Solar Project Limited	1
1.3	The Site	1
1.4	The Proposed Scheme	2
2.	Parameters Of The Order And “Consent Envelope”	6
3.	The Purpose And Structure Of This Document	9
4.	Purpose Of The Order	11
4.2	Compulsory Acquisition	13
4.3	Statutory Undertaker’s Land And Apparatus	13
5.	Provisions Of The Order	14
5.2	Part 1 (Preliminary) And Part 2 (Principal Powers)	15
5.3	Part 3 (Streets)	22
5.4	Part 4 (Supplemental Powers)	26
5.5	Part 5 (Powers Of Acquisition)	28
5.6	Part 6 (Miscellaneous And General)	33
6.	Schedules	38
6.1	Schedule 1 (Authorised Development)	38
6.2	Schedule 2 (Requirements)	39
6.3	Schedule 3 (Legislation To Be Disapplied)	43
6.4	Schedule 4 (Streets Subject To Street Works)	43
6.5	Schedule 5 (Alteration Of Streets)	43
6.6	Schedule 6 (Streets And Public Rights Of Way)	43
6.7	Schedule 7 (Permanent Means Of Access To Works)	43
6.8	Schedule 8 (Traffic Regulation Measures)	44
6.9	Schedule 9 (Land In Which Only New Rights Etc. May Be Acquired)	44
6.10	Schedule 10 (Modification Of Compensation And Compulsory Purchase Enactments For The Creation Of New Rights And Imposition Of New Restrictive Covenants)	44
6.11	Schedule 11 (Land Of Which Temporary Possession May Be Taken)	44
6.12	Schedule 12 (Documents And Plans To Be Certified)	44
6.13	Schedule 13 (Arbitration Rules)	45
6.14	Schedule 14 (Protective Provisions)	45
6.15	Schedule 15 (Procedure For Discharge Of Requirements)	46

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared on behalf of Fenwick Solar Project Limited (the Applicant) and forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the Scheme, which in summary comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), associated battery energy storage system (BESS) and export connection to the national grid, at the National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme lies within the administrative area of the City of Doncaster Council.
- 1.1.4 A DCO is required for the Scheme as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1) and 15 of the 2008 Act. This is because it consists of a generating station with a gross electrical output capacity exceeding 50MW.
- 1.1.5 The DCO, if made, would be known as the Fenwick Solar Farm Order 202[*]. A draft of the DCO has been submitted with the Application.
- 1.1.6 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations). It should be read in conjunction with the suite of documents accompanying the Application, in particular the draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1], the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1], the Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.3], Land Plan [EN010152/APP/2.1], Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.3], Statement of Reasons [EN010152/APP/4.1], Consultation Report [EN010152/APP/5.1] and Statement of Need [EN010152/APP/7.3].

1.2 Fenwick Solar Project Limited

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a limited company registered at Companies House under company number 13705886 and whose registered office is at Unit 5e Park Farm, Chichester Road, Arundel, England, BN18 0AG. More information on the Applicant's ownership and corporate structure is set out in the Funding Statement [EN010152/APP/4.2].

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Site comprises approximately 509 hectares (ha) of land for solar PV, BESS, a grid connection and associated infrastructure, along with

landscaping and areas of habitat creation and enhancement. The Site is comprised of the following three areas:

- a. The Solar PV Site which has an approximate area of 407.3 ha, centred on approximate National Grid Reference SE60416. The Solar PV Site will contain the ground mounted Solar PV Panels, BESS, On-Site Substation, Grid Connection Line Drop and associated infrastructure. The Solar PV Site will also include areas of habitat creation/enhancement and landscaping;
- b. The Grid Connection Corridor, which runs for approximately 6.3km with an average width of 100m, centred on the approximate National Grid Reference SE602125. This comprises the Grid Connection Cables and associated cables, linking the On-Site Substation (located within the Solar PV Site) to the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation; and
- c. The Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation, centred on approximate National Grid Reference SE605095. This would comprise a substation bay and associated infrastructure where the Grid Connection Cables would connect to the grid.

1.3.2 Information about the Site, including about the current land use and any environmental constraints, is provided in greater detail in Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

1.4 The Proposed Scheme

1.4.1 A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**. It comprises a generating station of more than 50MW, being the NSIP, and is described in Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order. The Scheme also includes Associated Development, which comprises Work Nos. 2 – 9 in Schedule 1 to the Order.

1.4.2 All elements of the NSIP are described in the sub-paragraphs below, along with relevant definitions contained in Schedule 1 to the Order, and the Associated Development is described in paragraph 1.4.7.

1.4.3 **Work No. 1** – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts including –

- a. solar panels fitted to mounting structures; and
- b. field stations.

1.4.4 The description of Work No. 1 refers to a gross electrical output capacity of over 50MW. This is consistent with sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act which stipulates that a generating station which exceeds an electrical capacity of 50MW will be an NSIP and therefore development consent will be required.

1.4.5 The description of the NSIP at Work No. 1 does not refer to an upper limit on the capacity of the generating station that development consent is being sought for. It is not considered that imposing an upper limit is desirable or necessary. The DCO includes reference to the means by which the parameters of the Scheme will be constrained and it is on this basis that the

Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken, as set out in the Environmental Statement [EN010152APP/6.1] and explained further in relation to the 'consent envelope'. There is no reason to limit the electrical output capacity of the Proposed Development provided those parameters of the consent envelope are adequately captured in the Order. The Applicant is confident that those parameters are adequately secured in the DCO.

- 1.4.6 There are clear advantages in not imposing an upper limit on capacity. For example, the Applicant may take advantage of technological improvements and innovation that may emerge before construction, which would enable it to still construct the Scheme within the assessed parameters but increase capacity beyond that which is currently anticipated. It is in the public interest and accords with national policy to facilitate efficient and maximum generation from renewable sources, which is explained further in the Statement of Need [EN010152/APP/7.3]. The approach taken has precedent in the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 1.4.7 The Associated Development for the purposes of section 115 of the 2008 Act comprises Works Nos. 2 to 9 of the Scheme as provided for in Schedule 1 of the Order. This comprises the following elements:
- 1.4.8 **Work No. 2:** a BESS compound including:
- a. BESS units each comprising an enclosure for BESS electro-chemical components and associated equipment, with the enclosure being of metal façade, joined or close coupled to each other, mounted on one or more of reinforced concrete foundation slab, concrete piles, ground screws, metal piles or compacted stone/gravel;
 - b. transformers and associated bunding;
 - c. inverters, switch gear, power conversion systems (PCS) and ancillary equipment;
 - d. containers or enclosures housing all or any of Work Nos. 2(ii) and (iii) and ancillary equipment;
 - e. monitoring and control systems housed within the containers or enclosures comprised in Work Nos. 2(i) or (iv) or located separately in its own container or enclosure;
 - f. heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems either housed on or within each of the containers or enclosures comprised in Work Nos. 2(i), (iv) and (v), attached to the side or top of each of the containers or enclosures, or located separate to but near to each of the containers or enclosures;
 - g. electrical cables including electrical cables connecting to Work No. 3;
 - h. bunded impermeable surface to manage surface water drainage;
 - i. fire safety infrastructure including water storage tanks, impermeable water capture basins and a shut-off valve for containment of fire water and hard standing to accommodate emergency vehicles; and

- j. containers or similar structures to house spare parts and materials required for the day to day operation of the BESS facility
- 1.4.9 **Work No. 3:** development of onsite substation and associated works including substations, switch room buildings and ancillary equipment including reactive power units and harmonic filters; and monitoring and control systems housed within a control building or located separately in their own containers or control rooms, with welfare facilities.
- 1.4.10 **Work No. 4:** works to lay electrical cables and compounds for the electrical cables including works to lay 400kV electrical cables connecting Work No. 3 to the National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation, including link boxes and tunnelling, boring and drilling works for trenchless crossings; electrical engineering works within or around the National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation including the laying and terminating of the electrical cables and ancillary equipment; and construction and decommissioning compounds, including site and welfare offices and areas to store materials and equipment.
- 1.4.11 **Work No. 5:** works including
- a. electrical cables, including but not limited to electrical cables connecting Works No.1, 2, 3 and 4 to one another and connecting solar panels to one another and the field stations including tunnelling, boring and drilling works for trenchless crossings;
 - b. works to lay electrical cables connecting Work No. 3 to an existing on site overhead line tower including the laying and terminating of the electrical cables and ancillary equipment;
 - c. landscaping and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures including planting;
 - d. earthworks;
 - e. laying down of footpath diversions, permissive paths, signage and information boards;
 - f. hardstanding and parking areas;
 - g. sustainable drainage systems including ponds, runoff outfalls, general drainage and irrigation infrastructure, systems and improvements or extensions to existing drainage and irrigation systems;
 - h. fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure;
 - i. works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV columns, cameras, lighting columns and lighting, weather stations, perimeter fencing and communication infrastructure;
 - j. improvement, maintenance and use of existing private tracks;
 - k. laying down of internal access tracks, ramps, means of access, footpaths, crossing of watercourses and roads, including the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure, signage and information boards;
 - l. construction and decommissioning compounds, including site and welfare offices and areas to store materials and equipment; and

- m. works to divert and underground existing electrical overhead lines.
- 1.4.12 **Work No. 6:** construction and decommissioning compounds including areas of hardstanding; parking areas; site and welfare offices, canteens and workshops; security infrastructure, including cameras, perimeter fencing and lighting; areas to store materials and equipment and waste skips; site drainage and waste management infrastructure (including sewerage); and electricity, water, waste water and telecommunications connections.
- 1.4.13 **Work No. 7:** works to develop operations and maintenance buildings including alteration and maintenance of existing structures; offices, security and welfare facilities; storage facilities; and parking areas.
- 1.4.14 **Work No. 8:** works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 9 including creation of accesses from the public highway; creation of visibility splays; works to widen and surface the public highway and private means of access; and works adjacent to highways and accesses including those to structures, boundary features, drainage features on private land required for the facilitation of movement of abnormal indivisible loads associated with the authorised development.
- 1.4.15 **Work No. 9:** areas of habitat management including landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures; habitat creation and management including earthworks and landscaping, signage and information boards; construction of drainage infrastructure and means of access; laying down of internal access tracks, means of access and crossing of watercourses, permissive paths; and fencing gates boundary treatment and other means of enclosure.
- 1.4.16 The Associated Development includes such other works or operations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme but only within the Order limits and insofar as these works or operations are unlikely to give risk to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**, including:
 - a. works for the provision of fencing and security measures such as CCTV, columns, lighting and communication boxes;
 - b. laying down of internal access tracks, ramps and span bridges, means of access, non-motorised links, footpaths and footways, laying and surfacing of permissive paths;
 - c. laying down of footpath diversions, permissive paths and construction of drainage infrastructure, signage and information boards;
 - d. bunds, embankments, trenching and swales;
 - e. boundary treatments, including means of enclosure;
 - f. habitat creation and management including earthworks, landscaping, means of enclosure and the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure;
 - g. landscaping and other works to mitigate any adverse effects of construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development;

- h. electrical, gas, water, foul water drainage and telecommunications infrastructure connections, diversions and works to, and works to alter the position of, such services and utilities connections;
- i. works to alter the course of, or otherwise interfere with, non-navigable rivers, streams or watercourses;
- j. works to the existing irrigation system and works to alter the position and extent of such irrigation system;
- k. surface water drainage systems, storm water attenuation systems including storage basins, oil water separators, including channelling and culverting and works to existing drainage systems;
- l. site establishments and preparation works including site clearance (including vegetation removal, demolition of existing buildings and structures); earthworks (including soil stripping and storage and site levelling) and excavations; the alteration of the position of services and utilities; and works for the protection of buildings and land;
- m. tunnelling, boring and drilling works;
- n. working sites in connection with the construction and decommissioning of the authorised development and its restoration; and
- o. other works to mitigate any adverse effects of the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the authorised development

and further associated development comprising such other works or operations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development but only within the Order limits and insofar as they are unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1].

2. PARAMETERS OF THE ORDER AND “CONSENT ENVELOPE”

- 2.1.1 Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) and Schedule 2 (Requirements) operate to create a "consent envelope" within which the Proposed Development would be brought forward. The Scheme is described in Schedule 1 of the Order, where it is referred to as the "authorised development". The authorised development is granted consent pursuant to Article 3(1).
- 2.1.2 In Schedule 1 (the authorised development) the Proposed Development is divided into a series of component parts, referred to as "numbered works".
- 2.1.3 Article 3(2) requires that the numbered works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas shown on the Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.2].
- 2.1.4 The design of the Scheme is also controlled via Requirement 4 (detailed design approval) of Schedule 2 of the Order which requires approval of

details of the Proposed Development's design and requires that the details submitted accord with the Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]**. The Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** set out the basis on which the assessment set out in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]** has been undertaken, and secures the key design mitigation measures referenced in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** capture the important parameters that are necessary to ensure that the Scheme is constructed, operated and decommissioned in such a way that the impacts and effects would not exceed the scenario assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

- 2.1.5 This approach is taken to ensure suitable flexibility in the design of the Scheme, such that new technology or different layouts can be used within that envelope, while ensuring that the development will not fall outside of the scope of the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**. The principle of using a design envelope is recognised as appropriate for a wide range of NSIPs and is described in PINS' Advice Note 9: Rochdale Envelope (July 2018).
- 2.1.6 In addition to the Outline Design Parameters Statement **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** and Works Plans **[EN010152/APP/2.2]**, other DCO requirements, certified documents and plans will operate to control and manage the detailed design of the Scheme, as well as its construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning. These include:
- a. approval and implementation of a battery safety management plan (Requirement 5);
 - b. approval and implementation of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Requirement 6);
 - c. approval of a biodiversity net gain strategy (Requirement 7);
 - d. approval and implementation of permanent fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 8);
 - e. approval and implementation of any surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 9);
 - f. implementation of the written scheme of investigation for archaeological mitigation, in accordance with the Framework Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Requirement 10);
 - g. approval and implementation of the operational noise assessment (Requirement 14); and
 - h. approval and implementation of the public rights of way management plan (Requirement 17).
- 2.1.7 Where the Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** do not include guidance or controls for an aspect of a numbered work, this is justified on the basis of the environmental impact assessment and having regard to the other controls in place via the measures listed above.

2.1.8 The construction phase of the Scheme (as set out in Schedule 1 of the Order and which is required to be constructed within the areas on the Works Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.3]**) is also controlled by:

- a. approval and implementation of temporary fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 8);
- b. approval and implementation of Surface Water Drainage Strategy and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 9);
- c. implementation of the written scheme of investigation in accordance with the Framework Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Requirement 10);
- d. approval and implementation of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 11);
- e. approval and implementation of the Construction Traffic Management Plan (Requirement 13)
- f. approval and implementation of a Soil Management Plan (Requirement 15);
- g. the Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Requirement 16); and
- h. approval and implementation of the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Requirement 17).

2.1.9 The ongoing operation and maintenance of the Scheme is controlled by:

- a. approval and implementation of a Battery Safety Management Plan (Requirement 5);
- b. approval and implementation of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Requirement 6);
- c. approval and implementation of permanent fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 8);
- d. approval and implementation of Surface Water Drainage Strategy and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 9);
- e. approval and implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 12);
- f. approval and implementation of the operational noise assessment (Requirement 14);
- g. approval and implementation of a Soil Management Plan (Requirement 15); and
- h. the Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Requirement 16); and
- i. approval and implementation of the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Requirement 17).

2.1.10 The decommissioning of the Scheme is controlled by the approval and implementation of a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 18).

- 2.1.11 The Application seeks flexibility to undertake the Scheme within the above envelope, in particular within the maximum areas and parameters secured via the Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.2] and Outline Design Parameters Statement [EN010152/APP/7.4]. As set out in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1] and the individual technical chapters, the environmental impact assessment has assessed the upper extent of the areas and sizes allowed by the Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.2] and Outline Design Parameters Statement [EN010152/APP/7.4]. As a result, the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1] has assessed a worst case and has considered and confirmed that any scheme built within the maximum areas and parameters would have effects no worse than those assessed.
- 2.1.12 Any illustrative development layouts have been submitted to provide illustrative examples of the different design layouts that have been considered for the Proposed Development that could be built out within the "consent envelope" (the design aspect of which is controlled primarily through the Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.2] and Outline Design Parameters Statement [EN010152/APP/7.4]. These are provided for illustration only within the Environmental Statement figures [EN010152/APP/6.1] and are not sought to be secured.

3. THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 3.1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and the Schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of the APFP Regulations. This Explanatory Memorandum also explains why each article of, and Schedule to, the Order is required for the Scheme.
- 3.1.2 It also seeks to identify and explain departures from the Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) (England and Wales) Order 2009 (the "**model provisions**"). While the power for the Secretary of State to designate, and the requirement to have regard to, model provisions have both been removed by the Localism Act 2011, the Applicant considers that it is still relevant to note and explain variations made in the Order compared to the model provisions.
- 3.1.3 The Order includes a number of provisions to enable the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. This reflects the integrated consenting objective of the 2008 Act regime. The provisions have been drafted to accord with the wide-ranging powers at section 120 of the 2008 Act, but also the limitations, requirements and exceptions imposed by section 120(8) and sections 122 to 152 so far as these are relevant to the Scheme. All powers provided for within the Order come within the scope of section 120 of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2008 Act.
- 3.1.4 The provisions contained in the Order are briefly described below and then considered in more detail in the following sections:-

- a. **Part 1 (Preliminary): Article 1** sets out what the Order may be cited as and when it comes into force. **Article 2** sets out the meaning of the defined terms used in the Order;
- b. **Part 2 (Principal Powers): Articles 3 to 7** provide development consent for the Scheme, and allow it to be constructed, operated, maintained and decommissioned by the undertaker. Articles 6 and 7 relate to the application and modification of certain legislative provisions and defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance respectively;
- c. **Part 3 (Streets): Articles 8 to 16** provide the undertaker with a suite of powers in relation to street works. The powers include the ability for the undertaker to be able to carry out works to and within streets; to alter the layout of streets; to construct and maintain new or altered means of access; to close permanently and temporarily and divert streets or public rights of way; to use private roads; to enter into agreements with street authorities and provisions relating to traffic regulations;
- d. **Part 4 (Supplemental Powers): Articles 17 to 19** set out three supplemental powers relating to the discharge of water; undertaking protective works to buildings; and the authority to survey and investigate land;
- e. **Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition): Articles 20 to 33** provide for the undertaker to be able to compulsorily acquire the Order Land and rights over and within it, and to be able to temporarily use parts of the Order Land for the construction or maintenance of the Scheme. Article 21 sets out a time limit for the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers and Article 23 provides for the undertaker to suspend or extinguish certain private rights. The provisions provide for compensation to be payable to affected persons in respect of these powers, where that is not already secured elsewhere. Articles 29 and 30 provide for the temporary use of land for constructing and maintaining the Scheme. Article 31 provides for powers in relation to the land and apparatus of statutory undertakers;
- f. **Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General): Articles 34 to 47** include various general provisions in relation to the Order:-
 - i. **Article 34** sets out who has the benefit of the powers contained in the Order and **Article 35** sets out how those powers can be transferred.
 - ii. **Articles 36 and 37** provide (respectively) for how landlord and tenant law applies in relation to the Order and that the Order Land will be "operational land";
 - iii. **Articles 38 and 39** provide (respectively) powers in relation to trees which need to be removed or lopped and for hedgerows to be removed in relation to the Scheme and in relation to trees subject to tree preservation orders;
 - iv. **Articles 40 to 47** include provisions relating to the certification of plans and documents relevant to the Order; no double recovery;

arbitration; protection for statutory undertakers through the protective provisions (set out in Schedule 14); service of notices under the Order; procedure in relation to approvals required under the Order, guarantees in respect of the payment of compensation and the incorporation of the mineral code.

3.1.5 There are then 15 Schedules to the Order, providing for:

- a. **Schedule 1** – the description of the “authorised development”;
- b. **Schedule 2** – the requirements that apply to the Scheme (i.e. the controls that apply to the Order, similar to planning conditions) Schedule 15 then contains details of the procedure for discharge of requirements required under the Order;
- c. **Schedule 3** – a list of the local legislation relating to railways, river navigation, fisheries and water that the Order will disapply insofar as the provisions (in that local legislation) still in force are inconsistent with the powers contained in the Order;
- d. **Schedules 4 to 8** – matters in relation to street works and alterations, public rights of way, access to works and details of the streets subject to temporary traffic regulation measures during construction of the authorised development;
- e. **Schedule 9** – details of land in which only new rights may be acquired;
- f. **Schedule 10** – amendments to legislation to ensure appropriate compensation is payable where new rights over land are acquired under the Order;
- g. **Schedule 11** – details of land over which temporary possession may be taken;
- h. **Schedule 12** – the documents and plans to be certified by the Secretary of State;
- i. **Schedule 13** – arbitration rules that apply to most arbitrations in connection with the Order;
- j. **Schedule 14** – provisions for the protection of statutory undertakers and their apparatus;
- k. **Schedule 15** – procedure for the discharge of requirements.

4. PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

- 4.1.1 The Scheme involves an onshore generating station with a capacity of over 50MW, located in England, and is therefore a NSIP under sections 14(1)(a) and 15 of the 2008 Act. The Applicant requires development consent under the 2008 Act in order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Scheme. Under section 37 of the 2008 Act, development consent may only be granted by a DCO, following an application to the Secretary of State.
- 4.1.2 The Applicant is therefore making an application to the Secretary of State for a development consent order for the Scheme. In the Order, the Scheme is

referred to as the "authorised development". The Order refers to the person authorised to exercise the powers in the Order as the "undertaker" and defines the undertaker as Fenwick Solar Project Limited.

- 4.1.3 The matters for which development consent is sought are summarised below and described more formally in Schedule 1 to the Order.
- 4.1.4 Section 115(1) of the 2008 Act provides that development consent may be granted for Associated Development, as well as for the NSIP. The Secretary of State must therefore be satisfied that all the elements included within the authorised development are either the NSIP or are Associated Development, in order to include them in the Order.
- 4.1.5 The solar photovoltaic generating station within Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order constitutes "development for which development consent is required", and as such is the NSIP.
- 4.1.6 The Order also includes the proposed development of BESS and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid, included at Work Nos. 2 to 9 of Schedule 1 of the Order. The Applicant has considered these works against the policy and criteria in DCLG 'Guidance on Associated Development applications for major infrastructure projects' (April 2013) (the "Guidance") - it is clear that all of these works come within the guidance and are clearly capable of being granted development consent by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 115 of the 2008 Act.
- 4.1.7 The approach taken by the Applicant between those parts of the authorised development which form the NSIP and those parts that form Associated Development follows the approach taken by other DCOs to date, including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2022, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and Cottam Solar Project Order 2024, each of which incorporate BESS as associated development.
- 4.1.8 In particular, Work Nos. 2 to 9 are:
 - a. all directly associated with the NSIP, as they are all required to support the construction, maintenance or operation of the generating station, or to mitigate its impacts (paragraph 5(i) of the Guidance);
 - b. all subordinate to the NSIP – none of them are an aim in themselves (paragraph 5(ii));
 - c. not only necessary as a source of additional revenue for the Applicant, in order to cross-subsidise the cost of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iii));
 - d. all proportionate to the nature and scale of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iv));
 - e. all of a nature which is typically brought forward alongside a solar generating station (paragraph 6);
 - f. all listed in or analogous to the types of Associated Development listed in Annexes A and B to the Guidance. Those annexes mention:
 - i. In Annex A, "Connections to national, regional or local networks", including electricity networks and in Annex B, "substations",

- “jointing pits”, “control buildings” and “underground lines” would include the electrical compounds and grid connection works (Work Nos. 3 and 4);
- ii. In Annex A, “monitoring apparatus” (Work Nos. 3 and 5);
 - iii. In Annex A, “Formation of new or improved vehicular or pedestrian access, whether temporary or permanent”; highway improvements, “Alteration or construction of roads, footpaths”, “Parking spaces for workers” and “lay down areas” (Work Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9);
 - iv. In Annex A, hard and soft landscaping would include landscaping and other works to mitigate adverse impacts (Work No. 5 and 9); and
 - v. In Annex A, “Security measures” and “Working sites, site offices and laydown areas” (Work Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9).
- 4.1.9 As the Order seeks to apply and modify statutory provisions, including those relating to the compulsory acquisition of land, the Order has been drafted as a statutory instrument, in accordance with sections 117 and 120 of the 2008 Act.

4.2 Compulsory Acquisition

- 4.2.1 In addition to providing for the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme, the Order will, in accordance with section 122, section 120(3) and Schedule 5 of the 2008 Act, authorise the acquisition of land and rights over land, and the extinguishment of, or interference with, interests in or rights over land.
- 4.2.2 The Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]** sets out a description of, and interests included in, the Order Land, split by “plots”, and these are shown on the Land Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.1]** (the Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]** is divided into parts, dependent upon whether interests are Category 1, 2 or 3 interests, and the identification of those interests is explained in both the Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]** and the Consultation Report **[EN010152/APP/5.1]**). The Order provides for land to be compulsorily acquired, rights to be compulsorily acquired and other rights and interests that will be affected. The Order and the Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]** should be read together with the Land Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.1]** and the Statement of Reasons **[EN010152/APP/4.1]**, which sets out the justification for the inclusion of compulsory acquisition powers in the Order.
- 4.2.3 Further information on the compulsory acquisition powers sought is provided below.

4.3 Statutory Undertaker’s Land and Apparatus

- 4.3.1 The interests held by each statutory undertaker identified by the Applicant as owning land or having a right to keep or access apparatus within the Order Land are identified in the Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]**.

- 4.3.2 Section 127(2) of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of statutory undertakers' land to the extent that:
- a. the land can be purchased and not replaced without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
 - b. the land can be replaced by other land belonging to or available for acquisition by the undertakers without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking.
- 4.3.3 Section 127(5) of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of a right over statutory undertakers' land by the creation of a new right over land to the extent that:
- a. the land can be purchased without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
 - b. any detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking, in consequence of the acquisition of the right, can be made good by the undertakers by the use of other land belonging to or available for acquisition by them.
- 4.3.4 Section 138 of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision for the extinguishment of rights of way, or rights to lay down, erect, continue or maintain apparatus on, under or over the land belonging to statutory undertakers for the purposes of their undertakings only if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the extinguishment is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the development to which the DCO relates.
- 4.3.5 The Order includes protective provisions in respect of statutory undertakers (see Article 43 and Schedule 14). The Applicant has agreed several of these protective provisions with the relevant undertakers and is currently seeking to agree protective provisions with the remaining affected undertakers. Further details as to how the tests under sections 127 and 138 of the 2008 Act have been satisfied are set out in the Statement of Reasons **[EN010152/APP/4.1]**.

5. PROVISIONS OF THE ORDER

- 5.1.1 The Order consists of 47 operative provisions, each referred to as articles and 15 Schedules. The articles are considered below in numerical order (split between the different Parts of the Order), and Schedules are considered along with the article which introduces them or to which they relate. Given the Order refers to the Applicant as the "undertaker", for ease when reading this document with the Order we use the term "undertaker" when explaining the provision of the Order below. Equally, the Scheme is referred to as the "authorised development" in the Order and so for ease this document refers to the "authorised development" when explaining the provisions of the Order.

5.2 Part 1 (Preliminary) and Part 2 (Principal Powers)

- 5.2.1 Articles 1 (*Citation and commencement*) and 2 (*Interpretation*) are preliminary provisions. Article 1 provides for the way in which the Order should be cited and when it takes effect.
- 5.2.2 Article 2 (*Interpretation*) provides for the interpretation of the rest of the Order, including the Schedules. Where appropriate, some Schedules also contain provisions setting out what terms mean in that particular Schedule. Article 2 makes alterations to the model provisions to accommodate departures from model provisions elsewhere in the Order, and to add required definitions, including:
- a. definitions of documents submitted as part of the Application and which are referred to in the Order have been added. These documents are more fully identified in the table in Schedule 12 to the Order.
 - b. the definition of "apparatus" has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the 1991 Act. However, for the purposes of the Order this has been expanded to include pipelines, aerial markers, cathodic protection test posts, field boundary, markers, transformer rectifier kiosks, electricity cables, telecommunications equipment and electricity cabinets. This is required to ensure that the definition of apparatus is sufficiently broad to encompass the type of apparatus that the undertaker may encounter when constructing the authorised development. This definition has precedent in the Riverside Energy Park Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
 - c. the definition of "authorised development" means the authorised development described in Schedule 1 to the Order and as defined in section 32 of the 2008 Act. This was amended at Deadline 1 to clarify the development must be captured within Schedule 1 (ie, it cannot just be a form of development as defined in section 32). The definitions of "ancillary works" and "authorised project" from the model provisions have not been used in the Order, instead the concept of Associated Development is included in the definition of "authorised development" and is described in detail in Schedule 1, as it is considered that this drafting is neater and more accurate. This definition has precedent in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
 - d. the definition of "commence" ~~is~~ has been updated in reflection of the Secretary of State's decision on East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025 to reference "material operation" as defined in s 155 of the Planning Act 2008 rather than s 56 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It is also defined so as to exclude "permitted preliminary works". This exclusion is required to enable the undertaker to carry out certain preparatory works prior to the submission of relevant details for approval under the requirements contained in Schedule 2 to the Order so that certain works can be carried out without "commencing" the

authorised development, in order to build the required flexibility into how the authorised development can be constructed. The works identified in the "permitted preliminary works" include pre-commencement activities such as surveys, monitoring and site investigations which are considered appropriate as the nature of these works (i.e. non-intrusive, above ground works or actions) means they are not expected to give rise to environmental effects requiring mitigation. However, the undertaker does recognise that prior to some of the works identified as "permitted preliminary works", there may be a requirement to submit details to the Relevant Planning Authority. Where this is the case, the requirement expressly prevents the "permitted preliminary works" from being carried out until those details have been approved. This definition has precedent in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

- e. a definition of "maintain" has been added to make clear what activities are authorised under Article 5 during the operation of the authorised development. The definition has been drafted to directly reflect the nature and context of the authorised development, which will need to be properly maintained, managed and protected throughout its operational lifetime. The drafting, therefore, reflects this operational period and likely framework of maintenance that will be required while enabling technological and practice advancement and improvements within identified environmental performance standards. Therefore, some flexibility must be built-in to what maintenance of the authorised development will involve, particularly to keep up with changing standards and controls and advances in technology. The approach taken has precedent in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024, and similar drafting also appears in the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024 and the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022.
- f. For the purposes of the authorised development, examples of the activities anticipated to be covered are listed below:
 - i. **Maintenance and inspection:** Throughout the life of the Scheme there will be a planned maintenance regime and, on occasion, the need for unplanned maintenance due to plant failures. It is anticipated that staff will attend when required for maintenance and cleaning activities;
 - ii. **Repair / Refurbish / Replace:** Through the planned maintenance regime and indeed through any unplanned maintenance required due to plant failures, it is likely that plant and equipment, will need to be repaired, refurbished or replaced where it is damaged or comes to its anticipated end of life. The Scheme has provided for the appropriate staggering of all anticipated plant and equipment replacement requirements;
 - iii. **Adjust and alter:** Through the planned maintenance regime, and indeed outside the planned maintenance regime, there may be a

- need to adjust or alter elements comprising the authorised development to respond to changing conditions;
- iv. **Remove:** Adjustment and replacement activities will require plant, equipment and material to be removed;
 - v. **Reconstruct:** If, for example, a part has to be dismantled in order to be repaired or refurbished, then that part will need to be reconstructed;
 - vi. **Improve:** Technology will improve over the life of the authorised development and therefore there may be opportunities to "improve" the workings of the plant and equipment by, for example, the removal of an old part and replacing it with a new, more efficient part;
- g. the definition of "Order land" means the land which is required for, or is required to facilitate, or is incidental to, or is affected by the authorised development shown on the Land Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.1]** which is within the limits of land to be acquired or used and described in the Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]**. This land is coloured pink (land to be permanently acquired), blue (land in which the undertaker can create and acquire rights), and green (land over which rights of temporary possession only can be exercised by the undertaker). The Book of Reference confirms the Order land is the land described in the second column of Part 1 of the Book of Reference.
- h. the definition of "Order limits" means the limits shown on the Works Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.2]** within which the authorised development may be carried out and land acquired or used;
- i. the definition of "statutory undertaker" includes reference to a public communications provider defined by section 151(1) of the Communications Act 2003. This is on the basis that a "public communication provider" is providing a network or service to members of the public and, insofar as they may have assets or apparatus within the Order Limits, it is considered appropriate to ensure that this Order applies equally to those providers as statutory undertakers under section 127(8) of the Planning Act 2008. There is precedent for this approach, for instance the Riverside Energy Park Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024;
- j. the definition of "street works" has been amended to refer to the works listed in the street works Article (Article 8(1)) so as to ensure consistency between the powers in the Article and the definition itself; and
- k. the "undertaker" is defined as Fenwick Solar Project Limited, who has the benefit of the provisions of the Order, subject to the provisions of Article 34.
- 5.2.3 Paragraph (2) of Article 2 has been included to reflect that "rights over land" include references to do or restrain or to place and maintain anything in, on

or under land or in the airspace above its surface and to any trusts and incidents, including restrictive covenants. Paragraph (2) also makes it clear that references to the imposition of restrictive covenants are references to the creation of rights over land which interfere with the interests or rights of another.

- 5.2.4 Paragraphs (3) to (89) of Article 2 have been added to provide clarity (respectively) that all distances, directions, capacities and lengths are approximate; that references to numbered works are to the works as described in Schedule 1 and shown on the Works Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.2]**; as to how the word "includes" is to be construed; that any statutory body includes that body's successor in title; that all [references to the singular is a reference to the plural, and vice versa, except where explicitly stated](#); that all areas described in the Book of Reference **[EN010152/APP/4.3]** are approximate; and that references to materially new or materially different environmental effects in comparison to those reported within the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]** do not include those where adverse effects are reduced or positive effects are increased.
- 5.2.5 Article 3 (*Development consent etc. granted by this Order*) grants development consent for the authorised development. This article is adapted from the model provisions. Schedule 1 defines the authorised development in detail, split into 'work numbers', each of which represents different parts of the authorised development. This split of the authorised development between different work numbers enables the Order to refer to different parts of the authorised development by citing the relevant work number. The content of the works contained within each work number is described in greater detail above.
- 5.2.6 Paragraph (2) of Article 3 requires that the works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas shown on the Works Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.2]**. This is in order to provide certainty as to what has been consented by the Order, in respect of which areas of land.
- 5.2.7 The purpose of Article 3(2) is to provide some certainty for the means of assessing the authorised development as to the location and extent of works, while providing the undertaker with a necessary, but proportionate, degree of flexibility when constructing the authorised development. This flexibility reduces the risk that the authorised development as approved cannot later be implemented for reasons which, at the time the Application was made and the development consent was granted, could not reasonably have been foreseen. It also gives a proportionate amount of flexibility for the detailed design of the authorised development within the set limits.
- 5.2.8 The use of parameters is appropriate in the current Order as they serve to precisely define the authorised development by reference to the Works Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.2]**, while preserving the aforementioned flexibility for implementation. The Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]** accompanying the application for development consent has assessed the authorised development within the envelope provided by using these parameters, and so development within this envelope will not create effects that exceed the worst-case scenario assessed in the Environmental

Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**. Further detail in this respect is provided above.

- 5.2.9 Article 4 (*Operation of generating station*) permits the operation and use of the generating station comprised in the authorised development and is included pursuant to section 140 of the 2008 Act. Article 4(2) specifically preserves the need for the undertaker to obtain any other operational consent that may be needed for the generating station, in addition to the Order. It is included so that the undertaker has powers to operate the generating station.
- 5.2.10 Article 5 (*Power to maintain the authorised development*) provides for the maintenance of the authorised development at any time and is required so that the undertaker has power to maintain the authorised development. Article 5 reflects the terms of the model provisions, but text has been added to make clear that maintenance must be in accordance with the provisions of the Order. Article 5(2) restricts maintenance to the Order Limits in order to provide a defined parameter within which this power can be exercised. A definition of "maintain" has been included, as referred to above, so that it is clear what the term involves. The Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]** has assessed maintenance as defined in the Order and therefore Article 5(3) does not permit the undertaker to undertake such maintenance activities if they will give rise to any materially new or different environmental effects to those identified in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.2.11 Article 6 (*Application and modification of statutory provisions*) disapplies a number of statutory provisions. Section 120 of the 2008 Act makes comprehensive and wide-ranging provision about what may be included in a DCO, as part of the 2008 Act's integrated approach to consenting. Section 120(5) provides that, subject to specified limitations and requirements, a DCO may apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the Order; and make amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application. It is common for DCOs to contain such provisions, although the scope and content inevitably differs according to the circumstances of different projects. Precedent for most of the provisions sought for this Order can be found in the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 5.2.12 Article 6 provides for the disapplication of the following specified provisions:
- a. section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, which prohibits the obstruction and other works in watercourses without the consent of the lead local flood authority or relevant internal drainage board;
 - b. section 32 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, which would inappropriately allow the provisions of the Order relating to drainage to be revisited;
 - c. the provisions of any byelaws made by drainage undertakers under section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991;

- d. the provisions of any byelaws made, or having effect, under paragraphs 5, 6 or 6A to Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991;
- e. section 118 of the Water Industry Act 1991, which relates to the discharge of any trade effluent into public sewers;
- f. Regulation 12 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, only insofar as a flood risk activity permit(s) would be required under this Regulation; and
- g. the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 in so far as they relate to temporary possession of land under articles 29 and 30 of this Order. At present the reforms to the temporary possession regime contained in the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 have not yet been commenced (nor consulted on). When this may happen is uncertain, as are the detailed implications of implementation for the authorised development. A DCO should achieve certainty, and it is therefore appropriate and necessary to disapply the reforms whilst taking account of their principles in the relevant articles of the Order, these being articles 29 and 30. This approach has precedent and has been accepted by the Secretary of State; see for example the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019, the Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019, the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

5.2.13 These disapplications are sought on the basis that they address matters whose merits and acceptability can, and will, already have been sufficiently considered and resolved if the Order is made, notably in relation to the provisions under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Water Resources Act 1991, the Water Industry Act 1991 and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 through protective provisions for the protection of relevant drainage authorities (Part 3 of Schedule 14 to the Order) and the Environment Agency (Part 5 of Schedule 14 to the Order, noting this disapplication is still under negotiation with the Environment Agency). 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.

5.2.14 Section 150 of the Planning Act 2008 only allows requirements for prescribed consents to be disapplied if the relevant body has consented to this. The relevant consents, where applicable, are being sought in parallel with the negotiation of appropriate protective provisions, which will ensure that the disapplications will not prejudice the statutory objectives and responsibilities of the relevant regulators. The Applicant's approach to obtaining the other consents required for the Scheme is set out in greater detail in the Consents and Agreements Position Statement **[EN010152/APP/3.3]**.

5.2.15 Paragraph 2 of Article 6 also applies section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967 to any felling required as a result of the authorised development. Section 9(1) of the 1967 Act provides that a Forestry Commission licence is required for

felling growing trees. Section 9(4)(d) disappplies the requirement from felling required to implement development authorised by a planning permission – but not to development authorised by a DCO. Paragraph (2) of Article 6 extends the exception to any trees felled as a result of the authorised development.

- 5.2.16 In addition, the Applicant has conducted a review of any local legislation that might conflict with the powers and rights sought in the Order. The Applicant has included a list of the historic legislation that it seeks to disapply in Schedule 3, which relates to matters including railways, river navigation, fisheries and water within, and in the vicinity of, the Order Limits. This list has been prepared taking a precautionary approach, because in some cases it was difficult to conclusively determine whether or not the provisions of the legislation were relevant to the Order, given that plans were not available in respect of the majority of the Acts considered to make clear their precise geographic scope. Article 6 disappplies the legislation listed in Schedule 3 in so far as the provisions still in force are inconsistent with how the powers in the Order can be exercised and do not impact on the operation or maintenance of the River Don as a navigable river.
- 5.2.17 Article 6(3) in effect disappplies the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, by making clear that any building comprised in the authorised development is to be deemed to be of a type that does not trigger liability for payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy. It has precedence in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 5.2.18 Article 7 (*Defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance*) provides that no person is able to bring statutory nuisance proceedings under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of noise, if the noise is created in the course of carrying out construction, maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and for which notice has been given under section 60 or consent obtained under section 61(9) of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 or which cannot be reasonably avoided as a consequence of the authorised development. Whilst the Statutory Nuisance Statement **[EN010152/APP/7.6]** confirms that there is no statutory nuisance expected as a result of the Scheme, the Applicant has continued to include Article 7 in the DCO as it is a model provision, in recognition that should such noise arise, that provision will provide sufficient definition of its consequences in an appropriate and balanced manner. It should be noted that certain Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** relate to noise.
- 5.2.19 Article 7 is precededented in all made solar DCOs, including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Farm Order 2024. The provision has also been included in other DCOs granted in 2023 including the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the Awel Y Mor Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Development Consent Order 2023, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023, the A38 Derby Junctions Development Consent Order 2023, the

A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 2023 and the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Order 2023.

5.3 Part 3 (Streets)

- 5.3.1 Article 8 (*Street works*) allows the undertaker to carry out certain works to a street for the purposes of the authorised development. It is necessary because implementation of the authorised development will require works to be undertaken to streets. Schedule 4 sets out the streets that are subject to street works, and the nature of those works, thereby clarifying the extent of the powers. Article 8 is a model provision; however, it has been modified to bring in sections 54 to 106 of the 1991 Act to apply to any street work carried out pursuant to paragraph (1). This provides protection for the street authority for the street in question. In addition, the model provision has been extended in paragraph (1)(e) to provide for works which may be required to any culvert under a street. This article has precedent in the Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 5.3.2 Article 8A (Application of the relevant permit scheme) was added at Deadline 1 to clarify the interaction between ~~the street works~~relevant streets and highways articles of the Order and the application of the relevant permitting schemes of the local highway authority, per the request of City of Doncaster Council. The Article clarifies that the permit schemes continue to apply, but cannot be refused or granted subject to conditions which would effect refusal, and that conditions for a permit must be consistent with the Order and its powers. These clarifications ensure certainty that the street works for the authorised development can proceed in accordance with the made Order. The Article also ensures that an appeal process remains open to the undertaker to any decisions under permitting schemes, in order to enable the undertaker to appropriately align any conditions for the schemes with the requirements of the made Order. This drafting is based largely the National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Order 2024, and the draft Tillbridge Solar Order 202* with some amendments to align to definitions in the Order for “highways authority” and “permit scheme” and a clear tie for the Article to the streetworks powers under Article 8.
- 5.3.3 Article 9 (*Power to alter layout, etc., of streets*) allows the undertaker to alter the layout of or carry out any works in a street. Schedule 5 then sets out the alterations to streets (split into two parts showing permanent and temporary works respectively). This Article is necessary because, in order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the authorised development, the undertaker will need to alter street layouts and establish suitable accesses to ensure that the authorised development can be accessed effectively while ensuring there is minimal disruption to the local highway network. The powers conferred by paragraph (2) (which is a general power enabling the undertaker to alter the layout of any street and alter remove, replace and relocate any street furniture) require the consent of the street authority before they can be exercised. Article 9 has precedent and appears in the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019, the Great Yarmouth Third

River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

- 5.3.4 Article 10 (*Construction and maintenance of altered streets*) provides that the permanent alterations to the streets listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the highway authority and, unless otherwise agreed, be maintained at the undertaker's expense for a period of 12 months from their completion. Thereafter, maintenance will be the responsibility of the highway authority (paragraph (1)). Temporary alterations are set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 and they must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority, and they must be maintained at the undertaker's expense (paragraph (2)). The purpose of this Article is to define who will be responsible for the maintenance of altered streets following the carrying out of works and it is required to provide certainty as to who will be responsible for such maintenance.
- 5.3.5 Paragraphs (4) and (5) mirror the defence in section 58 of the Highways Act 1980 where the undertaker is subject to an action for damages and has taken such care as was reasonably required in the circumstances to secure that the street was not dangerous to traffic. Paragraph (6) provides that with the exception of paragraph (1) of this Article, the provisions of this Article do not apply where the undertaker is the street authority for a street in which the works are being carried out. This Article (and the incorporation of the defences in particular) was incorporated as Article 10 in the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024, and is similar to Article 19 in the Hinkley Point C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2013, Article 11 in the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019 and in Article 10 of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024..
- 5.3.6 Article 11 (*Temporary closure of streets and public rights of way*) provides for the temporary closure, prohibition of the use, restriction of use, authorisation of use, alteration or diversion, of streets or public rights of way for the purposes of constructing or maintaining the authorised development. It is required because, in particular, the undertaker will need to temporarily divert certain streets or public rights of way in order to construct the authorised development, for up to a period of 2-3 weeks at any location as provided for in the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan **[EN010152/APP/7.17]** and secured by Requirement 13). Schedule 6 is comprised of six parts (streets to be temporarily closed and diverted; public rights of way to be temporarily closed and diverted; permanent use of motor vehicles on public rights of way; temporary management of public rights of way; temporary use of motor vehicles on public rights of way, and permanent closure and diversion of public rights of way (discussed further below).
- 5.3.7 The authorisation under Article 11 of the use of motor vehicles over public rights of way where there is no public right to use motor vehicles is necessary to enable the undertaker to access parts of the authorised development with construction and maintenance plant, equipment and personnel which would otherwise be severed by public rights of way. The Article broadly follows the approach in the model provisions (save that it

applies to public rights of way rather than streets generally) in that it contains provisions of general application and then also in relation to the specific public rights of way that are set out in Schedule 6 to the Order and as shown on the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans **[EN010152/APP/2.3]** and Public Rights of Way Management Plan **[EN010152/APP/7.13]**. Article 11(3) mirrors Article 11 of the model provisions in providing that where the public right of way is specified in a Schedule to the Order that there is a requirement to consult the street authority, but there would be no need to obtain its consent. In respect of other streets or public rights of way not specified in a schedule to the Order there would be a requirement to obtain the consent of the street authority per Article 11(4). Article 16 (see below) deals with traffic regulation more widely.

- 5.3.8 Article 11(5) provides that compensation is payable in respect of loss suffered by the suspension of any private rights of way. This provision is required so that persons who temporarily lose private rights of way because of the suspension of streets or public rights of way can be appropriately compensated. Paragraph 6 provides an additional power to the undertaker which allows it to use any street or public right of way temporarily closed as a temporary working site. Paragraph 8 notes that the undertaker is not prohibited from temporarily closing a street or public right of way under this article more than once. Paragraph 9 notes that the undertaker may stop up any public right of way within the Order limits which is added to the definitive map and statement (within the meaning of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) on or after the date of the Application for the Project. The same or similar wording to this Article generally has been used in other made Orders, including the Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017, the Meaford Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2016, the Riverside Energy Park Order 2020, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 5.3.9 Article 12 (*Permanent closure of public rights of way*) allows the undertaker to close public rights of way. It was updated at Deadline 1 to prescribe this power can only be utilised for those public rights of way specified in Part 6 of Schedule 6 to be permanently closed (ie the legal public right of way to be stopped up / extinguished). [It was further updated at Deadline 3 in consultation with the City of Doncaster Council to reflect their preferred wording for clarity and alignment with their processes.](#) Articles 12(2) – (43) ~~provided~~[provide](#) that this closure cannot occur unless a substitute public right of way has been completed to the satisfaction of the street authority, or a temporary alternative route is first provided and maintained until the permanent substitute public right of way is provided, again to the satisfaction of the street authority. This wording is updated from the model provisions, with similar wording employed on several made Orders in respect of public right of way closures, including The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019, A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order 2024, and Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2022.
- 5.3.10 Paragraphs (54) and (65) make provision that would require the undertaker, following the opening for public use of new or altered public rights of way to notify the surveying authority of the “as built” alignments of those public rights of way, together with a statement of modifications to the definitive map.

This notification is deemed to be a legal event order modifying the definitive map accordingly. The purpose of this provision is to facilitate the prompt updating of the definitive map by avoiding imposing a requirement on the surveying authorities to make legal event orders to modify the definitive map as a consequence of the Project. This approach reflects the position where local highway authorities making Highways Act 1980 orders may combine those with a legal event order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (see the Public Rights of Way (Combined Orders) (England) Regulations 2008). These paragraphs have precedent in several made DCOs, including most highway orders (see for a recent example, the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order 2024) and the Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2022.

- 5.3.11 Article 13 (*Use of private roads*) authorises the temporary passage by the undertaker, in common with other permitted users, over those private roads within the Order limits which are captured within the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans, by persons or vehicles for the purposes of, or in connection with, the construction or maintenance of the authorised development. The article creates a power to ‘use’ a private road for a temporary period that is proportionate to the limited nature of the use, rather than extinguishing, suspending or permanently interfering with the private rights of a landowner. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to use private roads inside the order limits. It has been appropriately constrained by the connection of the power to the roads specified in the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans, as added at Deadline 1.
- 5.3.12 Paragraph (2) provides that the undertaker will compensate any person who has suffered loss or damage as a result of the exercise of this power. Paragraph (3) clarifies that any dispute as to a person’s entitlement to compensation, or as to the amount of compensation, is to be determined under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1961.
- 5.3.13 There is precedent for Article 13 in the Silvertown Tunnel Order 2018, the Port of Tilbury (Expansion) Order 2019, the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020, the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Order 2022, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 5.3.14 Article 14 (*Access to works*) is a model provision which gives the undertaker powers to form new or to improve existing means of access for the purposes of the authorised development, as set out in Schedule 7 to the Order. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to create or improve existing means of access for the purposes of the authorised development (in the locations specified in Schedule 7). The Article also provides that other means of access or works can also be provided in other locations reasonably required for the authorised development with the approval of the Relevant Planning Authority, in consultation with the highway authority.
- 5.3.15 Article 15 (*Agreements with street authorities*) is a model provision which authorises street authorities and the undertaker to enter into agreements relating to strengthening, improvement, repair or reconstruction of any streets, closure, prohibition, restriction, alteration or diversion of any street, works authorised under Articles 8 (*street works*), 9 (*power to alter layout, etc*

~~of streets) and~~ 10 (*construction and maintenance of altered streets*) and 14 (*access to works*) of the Order and the adoption of works. The Applicant has removed reference to the ability to enter into an agreement with a street authority to allow the construction of any new street and the maintenance of any bridge or tunnel carrying a street over or under the authorised development as those powers are not required for the authorised development. This provision has precedent in the Riverside Energy Park Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024 and the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024; and is required so that the undertaker may enter into agreements with the relevant street authorities.

5.3.16 Article 16 (*Traffic regulation measures*) provides the undertaker with powers to place temporarily traffic signs and signals in the extents of the roads specified in Schedule 8. This Schedule identifies the relevant roads, and specifies the extents of the roads that will be subject to temporary traffic signal and banksman control areas. These specific measures are required to safely regulate traffic during the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme. These measures are shown on the Traffic Regulation Measures Plans **[EN010152/APP/2.4]**.

5.3.17 Paragraph (2) includes a general power that would authorise other temporary traffic regulation measures. The inclusion of this power is justified as it allows a degree of flexibility to respond to changing conditions on the road network over the lifetime of the Scheme. The general power is appropriately regulated as it may only be exercised with the consent of the traffic authority concerned.

5.3.18 Paragraph (7) was added at Deadline 3 on the request of the City of Doncaster Council to ensure copies of any instruments made are served on the traffic authority, for their notice.

5.3.19 The Article is not in the general model provisions but is common in orders granting permission for infrastructure projects where it is necessary in the interests of public safety during construction of the authorised development for the undertaker to put in place some temporary restrictions on road usage. The powers under this Article are provided for in section 120(5)(a) of the 2008 Act. For example, similar provision is contained within the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024 and the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024.

5.4 Part 4 (Supplemental Powers)

5.4.1 Article 17 (*Discharge of water*) is a model provision that allows the undertaker to discharge water into any watercourse, public sewer or drain in connection with the construction and maintenance of the authorised development with the approval of the owner of the watercourse, public sewer or drain and subject to certain other conditions, and its purpose is to establish a clear statutory authority for doing so. The reference from the model provisions to section 85 of the Water Resources Act 1991 has been

deleted as this section has now been repealed. This has been replaced with a reference to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The reference from the model provisions to the Homes and Communities Agency has been changed to Homes England, as this body replaced the Homes and Communities Agency in January 2018. References to the harbour authority have also been removed as they are not relevant to the Order. In relation to a drainage authority, these provisions are disapplied as sufficiently detailed provision will be made by the relevant protective provisions (see Part 3 of Schedule 14 (protective provisions)). These amendments align with the drafting of the equivalent article in the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024 and the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024.

- 5.4.2 Article 18 (*Protective work to buildings*) is a model provision which is included in most made DCOs to date including most recently the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. Its purpose is to provide powers to the undertaker to enter any building and land within its curtilage to survey to determine whether protective works are needed and to carry out protective works to buildings within the Order Land, subject to a number of conditions including the service of not less than 14 days' notice (except in cases of emergency) and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. Where the undertaker serves a notice stating the intention to carry out protective works or to enter a building or land within its curtilage there is ability for a counter notice to be served by the land owner/occupier within a period of 10 days from the day on which the notice was served.
- 5.4.3 Protective works can also be undertaken after the carrying out of the works forming part of the authorised development for a period of 5 years from the date of completion of the part of the authorised development carried out in vicinity of the building. This wording is a minor update from the model provision wording, as the undertaker considered that the phrase 'open for use' which is used in the model provision is not appropriate. This Article is required because there are buildings within, and in close proximity to, the Order Land that might feasibly require surveys and protective works as a result of the authorised development.
- 5.4.4 The Article includes compensation provisions in relation to the consequences of the protective works being undertaken, but also where the protective works are undertaken but they are inadequate to protect the building or land from damage (within a period of 5 years from the date of final commissioning).
- 5.4.5 Article 19 (*Authority to survey and investigate the land*) is a model provision that enables the undertaker to enter onto any land within the Order Limits or which may be affected by the authorised development for the purpose of carrying out monitoring or surveys, including bringing equipment onto the land and making trial holes. The power is subject to a number of conditions, including a requirement of at least 14 days' notice on every owner and occupier of the land and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. This power is essential to implementation of the

authorised development, for example in verifying ground conditions or the presence of statutory undertakers' apparatus.

- 5.4.6 The model provision has been modified so that no trial holes are to be made:
- in land located within the highway boundary without the consent of the highway authority; or
 - in a private street without the consent of the street authority.
- 5.4.7 The Article applies section 13 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (refusal to give possession to acquiring authority) thereby providing an enforcement mechanism (by way of a warrant) where entry onto land under the Article is refused. This is considered necessary so that there is no delay in the implementation of the authorised development and has precedent in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024

5.5 Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition)

- 5.5.1 Article 20 (*Compulsory acquisition of land*) is a model provision that provides for the compulsory acquisition of such land as is required for the authorised development, or to facilitate, or is incidental to, the authorised development. The Article is necessary to secure the delivery of the authorised development as set out in more detail in the Statement of Reasons **[EN010152/APP/4.1]** accompanying the application. The Article broadly follows the model provision, although reference to compensation for the extinguishment or suspension of a private right of way has been deleted as this is dealt with in Article 23 (*Private rights*). Similarly, Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*) makes the consequential provision for the extinguishment of rights over the land to ensure that they cannot impact on implementation or use of the authorised development. This approach has precedent in the Riverside Energy Park Order 2020, the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020, the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024 and the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024.
- 5.5.2 Article 20(2) makes clear that the powers in this Article are subject to the powers and restrictions in Article 21 (*time limit for exercise of authority to acquire land compulsorily*) paragraph 2 of Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*), [Article 23 \(private rights\)](#), [Article 25 \(Acquisition of subsoil only\)](#), [Article 26 \(power to override easements and other rights\)](#), Article 29 (*Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development*), and article 31 (*statutory undertakers*) to ensure that, where relevant, the undertaker can only acquire new rights or take temporary possession of land and cannot acquire the freehold interest in that land. This paragraph has been drafted alignment with the wording within the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024, to refer only to other articles which would actually restrict Article 20.
- 5.5.3 Article 21 (*Time limit for exercise of authority to acquire land compulsorily*) is a model provision which imposes a time limit of 5 years for the exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition from the date on which the Order is made, via issuing notices to treat or executing general vesting declarations. The

undertaker considers that 5 years is an appropriate time limit as it is consistent with the time limit for commencing the authorised development set out in requirement 1 of Schedule 2 to the Order and has precedent in the majority of made DCOs to date.

- 5.5.4 The model provision has been amended in this Article to incorporate minor changes that reflect the latest legislative context for compulsory acquisition rights, further to the amendments to the relevant Acts by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Other than amendments to update references to the relevant Acts, the predominant change by this amendment is to enable an extension of the time limit where the Order is subject to legal challenge under section 118 of the Planning Act 2008. This allows for the time limit to extend for a period equivalent to the period whereby the Order is subject to legal challenge (including appeals), or if the legal challenge is resolved in less than a year, then one year.

[5.5.5 This amendment aligns with the wording which is now included within section 5B\(1\) of the Compulsory Purchase \(Vesting Declarations\) Act 1981 and section 4A\(1\) of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. Both of these Acts provide for the same extensions included in Article 21 in the case of legal challenge. This means that the Order aligns with those Acts, and the operation of Articles 24 and 27 below \(which provide for consequential amendments to the application of those acts\) operate consistently with the version of those Acts as updated by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.](#)

[5.5.6 It is noted that the Applicant is not aware of any previous made development consent orders having yet made these changes. This is because the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 has only recently come into force, as has its changes to the compulsory purchase status quo. However, the Applicant considers these changes appropriate to ensure consistency with the made legislation on compulsory purchase, for ease of application by both the undertaker and the agents for any third parties, who will be familiar with the standard legislative approach.](#)

[5.5.7](#) ~~5.5.5~~ Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*) enables the undertaker to acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over the Order Land as may be required for any purpose for which the land may be acquired under Article 20 (*Compulsory acquisition of land*). The Article also provides that rights may be created as well as enabling the undertaker to acquire those already in existence. It should be noted that this provision is subject to Article 29 (*Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development*) which provides that the undertaker must not acquire, acquire new rights over or impose restrictive covenants over land listed in Schedule 11 to the Order (i.e. land of which temporary possession may be taken).

[5.5.8](#) ~~5.5.6~~ The Article provides that, in respect of the Order Land set out in Schedule 9 (*Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired*) the undertaker's powers of acquisition of new rights and imposition of restrictive covenants are limited to the purposes set out in that Schedule. The ability to acquire new rights and impose restrictive covenants is required in order that the undertaker can construct and maintain the authorised development, and it ensures that the undertaker is able to seek a lesser interference with land

where this is appropriate (whether in the context of new or existing rights) during the implementation of the authorised development. Providing the undertaker with powers to acquire rights only and impose restrictive covenants only over the Order Land set out in Schedule 10 allows the undertaker to reduce the area of land that is required to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the authorised development, and therefore allows for a more proportionate exercise of compulsory acquisition powers.

5.5.9 ~~5.5.7~~ Paragraphs (5) and (6) provide that where the undertaker proposes the acquisition of new rights or the imposition of restrictive covenant for the purpose of diverting, replacing or protecting the apparatus of a statutory undertaker, the undertaker may, with the consent of the Secretary of State transfer the powers to the relevant statutory undertaker.

5.5.10 ~~5.5.8~~ This form of drafting originates from article 18 of the model provisions, which grants broad powers of acquisition which are then subject to subsequent articles to limit that broad power. It is standard and well precedented drafting including in the Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

5.5.11 ~~5.5.9~~ Article 23 (*Private rights*) is a model provision that (i) extinguishes private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers contained in Article 20 (*Compulsory acquisition of land*); (ii) provides that private rights and restrictions over land cease to have effect in so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of compulsory acquisition of rights or the imposition of restrictive covenants under Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*); and (iii) suspends private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of temporary possession powers under the Order. This is required because it enables the undertaker to take land with a clear, unencumbered title, thereby minimising impediments to the delivery of the authorised development.

5.5.12 ~~5.5.10~~ The Applicant has adopted the text as included by the Secretary of State in respect of the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

5.5.13 ~~5.5.11~~ Paragraph (4) provides that compensation is payable to any person who suffers loss as a result of the exercise of the powers in this Article and that such compensation would be payable under section 152 of the 2008 Act rather than the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. Paragraph (8) also clarifies that references to private land include references to any trusts or incidents to which the land is subject.

5.5.14 ~~5.5.12~~ Article 24 (*Application of the 1981 Act*) is a model provision which applies the general vesting procedures in the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 to the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers pursuant to the Order. This provides the undertaker with the option to acquire the land via the vesting process set out in the 1981 Act rather than the notice

to treat procedure. Vesting declarations allow title in the land concerned to pass to the acquiring authority more quickly than using the notice to treat method. They also enable several parcels of land to be acquired under the same legal instrument and therefore more efficiently than under the notice to treat procedure.

[5.5.15](#) ~~5.5.13~~ This Article has been amended from the model provision to incorporate and reflect the changes brought about by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which has precedent in numerous DCOs including the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019, the Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. It has also been amended to reflect the changes brought about by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, including alignment with the subsequent amendments to Article 21 (discussed above).

[5.5.16](#) ~~5.5.14~~ Article 25 (*Acquisition of subsoil only*) is a model provision that permits the undertaker to acquire only the subsoil of land which is to be compulsorily acquired (either pursuant to Article 20 or Article 22), thereby giving the undertaker the ability to minimise the extent of interests acquired from landowners. This Article is appropriate in the context of the cables or pipes to be laid underground as part of the authorised development, where acquisition of the 'entire' freehold may not be required. It therefore enables the undertaker to minimise as far as possible to extent of interests to be acquired, thereby reducing the impact on landowners.

[5.5.17](#) ~~5.5.15~~ Article 26 (*Power to override easements and other rights*) provides that in carrying out or using the development authorised by the Order and doing anything else authorised by the Order, the undertaker may interfere with any easement, liberty, privilege, right or advantage annexed to land and affecting other land, including any natural right to support, or breach any restriction as to use of land arising by virtue of contract. It also provides that compensation may be payable under section 7 or 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 for any such interference or breach. This is not a model provision, but is added to clarify the position with regard to rights burdening land required for the authorised development. It has precedent, for example, in the Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

[5.5.18](#) ~~5.5.16~~ Article 27 (*Modification of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965*) modifies the provisions of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 as applied to the Order by section 125 of the 2008 Act. This provision reflects changes introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and is required to ensure that Part 1 of the 1965 Act is applied correctly to compulsory acquisition authorised under the Order. Paragraphs (2) to (5) amend the provisions of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 so they are consistent with the terms of the Order. These modifications have precedent in numerous made DCOs and other legislation including the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton

Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. Further modifications to this provision to reflect the changes introduced by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 have been made at Deadline 1. These delete the references to the time limit for the exercise of compulsory purchase, aligning with the amendments to Articles 21 and 24 (discussed above).

[5.5.19](#) ~~5.5.17~~ Article 28 (*Rights under or over streets*) is a model provision which has been included in the majority of made DCOs to date to enable the undertaker to enter on and appropriate interests within streets where required for the purpose of the authorised development without being required to acquire that land. It is therefore required in order to reduce the amount of land that needs to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the authorised development.

[5.5.20](#) ~~5.5.18~~ The purpose of this Article is to allow the undertaker to appropriate and use land above or below streets within the Order Land, without having to acquire the street or any right or easement in it. The exercise of this power without acquisition is prohibited in the circumstances set out in paragraph (3). Paragraphs (4) and (5) provide for the payment of compensation in certain circumstances.

[5.5.21](#) ~~5.5.19~~ Article 29 (*Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development*) allows the land specified in Schedule 11 (*Land of which temporary possession may be taken*) to be temporarily used for the carrying out of the authorised development. There is a clear limit on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, which in the case of land that may only be used temporarily is the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of final commissioning of that part of the authorised development for which temporary possession of the land was taken. The Article also requires the undertaker to give 14 days' notice before taking possession, and to restore the land following the temporary works.

[5.5.22](#) ~~5.5.20~~ Wording has been added to paragraph (1)(a)(ii) in order to allow Article 29 to apply to land which may later be the subject of compulsory acquisition. This reflects a common approach to designing and building infrastructure projects, whereby possession is taken of a wider area required for the purposes of construction, and once the location of new apparatus is known definitively (after it has been built), then the final area of land required permanently is defined and acquired. This allows a more proportionate approach to the extent of land acquisition.

[5.5.23](#) ~~5.5.21~~ Wording has also been added to paragraphs (4) and (5) to take into account that the undertaker may, pursuant to Article 29(1)(a)(ii), temporarily use land that it may compulsorily acquire. This is also subject to a general requirement for the undertaker to not remain in possession of land for longer than a one year, beginning with the date of final commissioning of the authorised development.

[5.5.24](#) ~~5.5.22~~ Paragraph (10) makes clear that the undertaker cannot compulsorily acquire, nor permanently acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over, the land specified in Article 29(1)(a)(i) (which is land of which temporary possession only is required). Wording has also been deleted in paragraph (9) to dovetail with the new drafting in paragraph (1).

- [5.5.25](#) ~~5.5.23~~ Wording has been added at paragraph (11) to make clear that the Article does not preclude the creation or acquisition of new rights, imposition of restrictions or acquisition of rights in land specified in Schedule 9 (land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired), and nor are the powers under Article 25 (*Acquisition of subsoil only*) or Article 28 (*Rights under or over streets*) precluded.
- [5.5.26](#) ~~5.5.24~~ The additional wording added above to the Article has precedent in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- [5.5.27](#) ~~5.5.25~~ Article 30 (*Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development*) provides for the temporary use of land for maintenance of the authorised development. There are clear limits on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, provisions requiring not less than 28 days' notice to be given and restoration of the land following the temporary possession. This Article is broadly based on the model provision and provides for the payment of compensation for that temporary use of the land.
- [5.5.28](#) ~~5.5.26~~ The maintenance period has been adapted from the model provision to apply to the period 5 years beginning with the date of final commissioning as opposed to the date on which the project is opened for use as this is more appropriate for this type of development. Similar wording has been used in other made Orders in connection with generating stations, including the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. However, in order to be able to carry out the landscaping commitments set out in the landscape and ecological management plan, the maintenance period has been extended to the period in the landscape and ecological management plan approved pursuant to Requirement 5. A similar provision was included in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- [5.5.29](#) ~~5.5.27~~ Article 31 (*Statutory undertakers*) provides for the acquisition of land belonging to statutory undertakers within the Order Land. This includes a power to move the apparatus of those statutory undertakers and to extinguish their rights. This article is subject to the protective provisions (see Article 43 below) included at Schedule 14 of the Order. Further details on statutory undertakers' land and apparatus are included in the Statement of Reasons [EN010152/APP/4.1]. This power is required over the whole of the Order Land and similar wording has been used in other made Orders including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- [5.5.30](#) ~~5.5.28~~ Article 32 (*Apparatus and rights of statutory undertakers in closed streets*) governs what happens to statutory utilities' apparatus (pipes, cables, etc.) under streets that are closed by the Order. This Article is required

because, without it, the statutory undertaker would not have access to the apparatus, since there would no longer be a right of way along the street. The Article is a model provision but has been amended in that paragraphs (2) onwards have been deleted from the model provision to avoid duplication with the protective provisions contained in Schedule 14. This approach has precedent in Article 30 of the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024

[5.5.31](#) ~~5.5.29~~ Article 33 (*Recovery of costs of new connections*) provides that persons who have to create a new connection following the exercise of powers under Article 31 may recover the costs of new connections from the undertaker. It is a model provision.

5.6 Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General)

- 5.6.1 Article 34 (*Benefit of the Order*) overrides section 156(1) of the 2008 Act (which is permitted by section 156(2)) and provides that the benefit of the Order is for the undertaker, rather than anyone with an interest in the land. Given the nature of the Scheme and the fact that powers of compulsory acquisition are sought, it would be impracticable and inappropriate for the Order to be 'open' as to who may implement it, as might occur without this provision. Overriding section 156(1) is common in DCOs that have been made, including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022 and the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.
- 5.6.2 Paragraph (2) makes specific provision for Work No. 4(b), in respect of which the provisions of the Order are for the benefit of the undertaker and National Grid to connect cabling from the Project within or around the National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation.
- 5.6.3 Article 35 (*Consent to transfer the benefit of the Order*) is a standard article included in numerous made DCOs that makes provision for the transfer of any or all of the benefit of the provision of the Order. This Article is required in order that the undertaker has commercial flexibility to transfer the benefit of the Order to a third party, subject to the provisions of the Article. Under paragraph (3), the consent of the Secretary of State is needed before the undertaker can transfer or lease the Order except where:
- a. the transferee or lessee is the holder of an electricity generating licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989;
 - b. the compensation provisions for the acquisition of rights or interests in land or for effects on land have been discharged or are no longer relevant.
- 5.6.4 The justification for these provisions is that in such cases, the transferee or lessee will either be of a similar regulatory standing to the undertaker so as to protect the provision for compensation for rights or interests in land that are compulsorily acquired pursuant to the Order, or there are no outstanding actual or potential compulsory purchase claims.

5.6.5 Article 35(2) has been amended from the model provisions so that it refers to 'transfer or grant', which is considered to be more accurate than 'agreement'.

5.6.6 Paragraphs (4) to (7) within Article 35 set out a requirement to notify the Secretary of State of transfers where the Secretary of State's consent is not required, and the form and process for this notification. This wording has been brought across from the Secretary of State's decisions in the recently made Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

5.6.7 Article 35(9) was added on the request of City of Doncaster Council to ensure the undertaker notifies the relevant planning authority of any transfer or grant made under Article 35(3) or (4).

5.6.8 ~~5.6.7~~ Article 35(~~8~~9) provides that where the undertaker has transferred the benefit of the Order or granted the benefit of the Order then:

- a. the transferred benefit will include any rights that are conferred and any obligations that are imposed;
- b. the transferred benefit will reside exclusively with the transferee or the lessee and shall not be enforceable against the undertaker;
- c. the benefits or rights conferred under paragraph (1) of the article are subject to the same restrictions, liabilities and obligations as applies to the undertaker.

5.6.9 ~~5.6.8~~ This approach has precedent in the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

5.6.10 ~~5.6.9~~ Article 36 (*Application of landlord and tenant law*) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs which would override landlord and tenant law so far as it would prejudice the operation of any agreement for leasing the whole of the authorised development or the right to operate the same or any agreement entered into by the undertaker for the construction, maintenance, use or operation of the authorised development. This provision is required to ensure that landlord and tenant law does not impede the construction, use or maintenance of the authorised development. Although there is no immediate anticipation that such an agreement would be made, it could become appropriate at a future time during the lifetime of the Scheme.

5.6.11 ~~5.6.10~~ Article 37 (*Operational land for purposes of the 1990 Act*) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs and has the effect of ensuring that the land on which the authorised development is constructed will be "operational land" under section 264(3)(a) of the 1990 Act. The effect is to ensure that planning rights attaching to the undertaker in relation to operational land have effect as they would do if planning permission had been granted for the authorised development.

5.6.12 ~~5.6.11~~ Article 38 (*Felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows*) is based on a model provision included in numerous made DCOs which provides that the undertaker may fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree or shrub within or overhanging the authorised development to prevent it

obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development; constituting a danger for persons using the authorised development or obstructing or interfering with the passage of construction vehicles.

5.6.13 ~~5.6.12~~ Alongside that specific power, the Article also allows for a power for any hedgerows within the Order limits to be removed where required for the purposes of the authorised development, to allow for construction flexibility. This aligns with the final wording of the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024.

5.6.14 ~~5.6.13~~ The Article provides that the undertaker may not fell or lop a tree or remove hedgerows under this Article within the extent of the publicly maintainable highway without the prior consent of the highway authority. The highway authority may attach reasonable conditions to this consent. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The provision is required for safety reasons and its applicability is appropriately limited.

5.6.15 ~~5.6.14~~ Article 38 does not address the statutory protection afforded to trees by virtue of being subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Article 39 (*Trees subject to tree preservation orders*) provides that the undertaker must not fell, lop, prune or cut back the roots of any tree which is subject to a TPO, except any tree subject to a TPO made after 31 October 2024 which is within or overhanging the Order limits if it reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent it obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The effect of the Article is to protect trees that are subject to a TPO dated on or before the date of submission of the Application for the Project, whilst permitting the Applicant to carry out works to a tree which has only been protected by a TPO after that date, if the Applicant considers it to be reasonably necessary. This also includes at Paragraph (3)(b) an exemption from the duty under the 1990 Act to provide replacement trees in accordance with section 206(1) of that Act, on the basis that provision requires trees to be replaced in the same location as where they are felled, which could not be achieved if the tree conflicts with the Scheme infrastructure. Such works are therefore deemed to have consent, and the inclusion of this wording is therefore consistent with the purpose of DCOs being to wrap up all of the required consents for a project. This approach has precedent in the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm DCO, which was accepted for Examination on 23 April 2024, and the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, which was accepted for Examination on 19 December 2023.

5.6.16 ~~5.6.15~~ Article 40 (*Certification of plans and documents, etc.*) is a model provision which provides for the undertaker to submit various documents referred to in the Order (such as the Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.3], plans and Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1]) to the Secretary of State so that they can be certified as being true copies. The Article refers to Schedule 12, where all such documents and plans are listed, along with the appropriate document and revision numbers. The Article and Schedule 12 provide certainty as to which documents will be certified by the Secretary of State in relation to the Order.

- [5.6.17](#) ~~5.6.16~~ Article 41 (*No double recovery*) is not a model provision and is based on article 44 of the model clauses for railway contained in schedule 1 to the Transport and Works (Model Clauses for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006. This article has precedent in numerous Transport and Works Act Orders, as well as recent solar orders including the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. It provides that compensation is not payable both under the Draft DCO and any other enactment, contract or other rule of law. It follows that well established principle of equivalence that a claimant is compensated for no more and no less than their loss.
- [5.6.18](#) ~~5.6.17~~ Article 42 (*Arbitration*) is an arbitration provision and it is a departure from the model provision. This drafting, and that in the associated Schedule 13 (Arbitration rules), has precedent in the Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019, the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024 amongst others. It is considered that this approach will provide greater certainty to all parties involved in the process and is preferential to the approach adopted in the model provisions.
- [5.6.19](#) ~~5.6.18~~ The Article provides that differences under the Order should be settled by arbitration unless another means of resolving a dispute is provided for in the Order. The arbitrator will be appointed by the parties within 10 working days of receipt of a notice of arbitration or failing agreement within this period then by the Secretary of State following application by one of the parties.
- [5.6.20](#) ~~5.6.19~~ It applies Schedule 13 to the Order, which sets out further detail of the arbitration process. The detail of Schedule 13 is set out below.
- [5.6.21](#) ~~5.6.20~~ In addition, Article 42(2) provides that any matter for which the consent or approval of the Secretary of State is required under the Order is not subject to arbitration.
- [5.6.22](#) ~~5.6.21~~ Article 43 (*Protective Provisions*) provides for Schedule 14, which protects the interests of certain statutory undertakers, to have effect. This is set out in detail below. This is a model provision.
- [5.6.23](#) ~~5.6.22~~ Article 44 (*Service of notices*) governs how any notices that may be served under the provisions of the Order are deemed to have been served properly. In particular it allows service by email with the consent of the recipient, and deals with the situation of service on an unknown landowner. The provision is necessary because the service of notice provisions under sections 229 and 230 of the 2008 Act only apply to notices served under the 2008 Act itself and do not apply to notices served under the Order. These provisions are based on those appearing in the Transport and Works (Model Provisions for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006, and numerous made DCOs.
- [5.6.24](#) ~~5.6.23~~ Article 45 (*Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.*) provides procedures in relation to consents and approvals required pursuant to the Order (other than Requirements). Applications for consent submitted by the undertaker will be deemed to be granted if notice is not given of their refusal

by the consenting authority within eight weeks of the submission of the application (unless a longer period has been agreed between the parties). Where these provisions apply to an application, the undertaker is required to notify the consenting authority of the effect of the provisions when it submits the relevant application. The consenting authority must not unreasonably withhold consent where an application has been submitted by the undertaker pursuant to this Article.

5.6.25 ~~5.6.24~~ For any consent, agreement, or refusal pursuant to the Requirements a detailed procedure is provided for in Schedule 15 (Procedure for discharge of requirements) (see below).

5.6.26 ~~5.6.25~~ This Article has precedent in the Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024 and is considered appropriate and justified in order to ensure that the authorised development can proceed in a reasonable timescale, and so that there is a consistent approach to consents that must be sought by the undertaker pursuant to the Order.

5.6.27 ~~5.6.26~~ Article 46 (*Guarantees in respect of payment of compensation*) restricts the undertaker from exercising the powers conferred under articles 19, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and 30 until it has either put in place a guarantee or other form of security approved by the Secretary of State in respect of the liabilities of the undertaker to pay compensation under the Order. This provision is included in order to protect the recipients of any compensation under the Order by providing certainty that the undertaker can make good any compensation owed. The guarantee or alternative form of security is not required to be in place for more than 15 years from the date on which the relevant power is exercised. The wording appears in a number of made DCOs, for example the Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017, the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024

5.6.28 ~~5.6.27~~ Article 47 (*Compulsory acquisition of land – incorporation of the mineral code*) is a model provision which incorporates Parts 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (minerals). The mineral code is incorporated as a precautionary measure given that the Order Limits is located within Mineral Consultation and Safeguarding Areas.

6. SCHEDULES

6.1 Schedule 1 (Authorised Development)

6.1.1 This Schedule describes the authorised development in detail, and split into different work numbers. Each of these work numbers represents a different part of the authorised development. This split of the authorised development between different work numbers is designed to enable the Order to refer to different parts of the authorised development by citing the relevant work

number. Paragraph 1 of the Schedule sets out a number of definitions that are used only within the Schedule and are not in other places in the Order.

- 6.1.2 The works set out in Schedule 1 to the Order are explained in detail above at section 1.4.
- 6.1.3 The mechanics of the drafting in Schedules 1 and 2 ensure that the undertaker does not exceed the basis of the assessment in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**. This is achieved through the following mechanisms in the Order.
- 6.1.4 Article 3 and Schedule 1 provide the power to carry out the authorised development. Pursuant to Article 3(2) each numbered work must be situated within the area delineated on the Works Plan **[EN010152/APP/2.2]** – thus the infrastructure can only be built within these areas. Given these overarching constraints, there is certainty as to where each element identified in Schedule 1 can be built, and that has been factored into the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**.
- 6.1.5 Schedule 1 provides that development which does not form part of a specific Work Number can only be brought forward if it does not lead to materially new or materially different effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**.
- 6.1.6 In respect of the detailed design, Requirement 4 of Schedule 2 (see below) prevents the undertaker from commencing any phase of the authorised development until it has obtained the approval of the Relevant Planning Authorities (or authority, as applicable) to the layout, scale, ground levels, external appearance, hard surfacing materials, access, refuse or other storage units, signs and lighting, drainage, water, power and communications cables and pipelines and programme for landscaping works.
- 6.1.7 Requirement 4 requires that the details submitted must accord with the Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]**. The Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** is a certified document pursuant to Article 40 (certification of plans and documents) and Schedule 12 (documents and plans to be certified). The Outline Design Parameters **[EN010152/APP/7.4]** contain the maximum parameters for the authorised development and are the same as those used for the assessment of effects in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**. These parameters are based on the application of the Rochdale Envelope principle, such that maximum dimensions have been presented and assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**, recognising that the final features may differ from (but will never be larger than) these maxima.
- 6.1.8 [Requirement 4 has also been updated at Deadline 3 to confirm that the final detailed design must confirm if the authorised development will include the construction of either Work No 4 \(being the grid connection corridor\) or Work No 5\(b\) being the line drop within the site. This ensures the approach assessed within the Environmental Statement that only one of these two grid connection options will be pursued in the final design is secured.](#)
- 6.1.9 ~~6.1.8~~ The combined effect of, and relationship between, these provisions means that the final built form of the authorised development will not give

rise to environmental effects beyond those which have been assessed. This approach, and what we have called the "consent envelope" is explained further above.

6.2 Schedule 2 (Requirements)

- 6.2.1 This Schedule sets out the requirements that apply to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the authorised development under the Order. The requirements generally follow the model provisions where these are relevant, and where they have been amended this has been informed by the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment and any discussions with the Relevant Planning Authority or other relevant statutory consultee.
- 6.2.2 The requirements closely relate to the mitigation set out in the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]** and a number of them specifically refer to the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]** and other application documents (in particular, 'outline' or 'framework' strategies or plans) in order to ensure that the mitigation or other measures outlined in those documents are secured.
- 6.2.3 Many of the requirements require submission of details for approval by the Relevant Planning Authority. In some instances, the Relevant Planning Authority is under a duty to consult with a third party or parties in relation to the document submitted to them. This is a departure from the model provisions. Where consultation is required under the Order it is, in each case, the Relevant Planning Authority's duty to carry it out before approving a document submitted to it (rather than, as in some of the model provisions, the undertaker's duty to carry it out before submitting the document for approval). Where it is considered that it would be particularly relevant for the Relevant Planning Authority to consult a third party, that third party has been named within the relevant requirement.
- 6.2.4 In the undertaker's opinion the requirements in Schedule 2 are all necessary and relevant to planning and the development to be permitted as they are outputs from the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.1]**; enforceable and precise in their language; and reasonable in all other respects.
- 6.2.5 In all cases where a scheme or strategy or plan is to be submitted for approval there is a requirement for the undertaker to implement the approved scheme or strategy or plan as approved, and maintain the plan through the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development. This wording to ensure ongoing maintenance has been incorporated from the made Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. This is subject to requirement 1, as explained below.
- 6.2.6 Where relevant and appropriate, certain requirements can be discharged in part, which is facilitated by the wording restricting "part" of the authorised development from proceeding until the relevant details have been submitted and approved in respect of that part. The "parts" are not pre-defined and this approach is designed to ensure necessary flexibility for different aspects of the Scheme to proceed as and when appropriate in the overall development

schedule following detailed design. The approach and drafting is preceded in recently-made DCOs such as the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Development Consent Order 2023, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023, the A38 Derby Junctions Development Consent Order 2023, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.

- 6.2.7 **Requirement 1 – Commencement of the authorised development:** This requirement provides that the authorised development must not commence later than 5 years from the date of the Order coming into force.
- 6.2.8 **Requirement 2 – Approved details and amendments to them:** This requirement provides that where any documents have been certified under Article 40 (*Certification of plans and documents, etc.*) and where any plans, details or schemes have been approved by the Relevant Planning Authority, the undertaker may submit for approval any amendments to those documents, plans, details or schemes and, if approved by the Relevant Planning Authority, those documents, plans, details or schemes are to be taken to include the amendments approved by the Relevant Planning Authority. Any amendments should not be approved unless it has been demonstrated that that the subject matter of the approval sought is unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1]. Paragraph (3) notes that any approval from relevant planning authorities must be provided in writing ~~and paragraph~~. Paragraph (4) provides that the final detailed design must confirm if the authorised development will include the construction of either Work No 4 (being the grid connection corridor) or Work No 5(b) being the line drop within the site. Paragraph (4) notes that the undertaker must serve written notice of the date of final commissioning on the relevant planning authority within 10 working days of the date of final commissioning.
- 6.2.9 **Requirement 3 – Community liaison group:** This requirement provides that the undertaker must establish a community liaison group prior to commencement of the authorised development, in order to facilitate liaison between representatives of people living in the vicinity of the Order limits, and other relevant organisations in relation to the construction of the authorised development.
- 6.2.10 **Requirement 4 – Detailed design approval:** This requirement stipulates the details that must be submitted to and approved by the Relevant Planning Authority before the authorised development may commence. The details submitted must be in accordance with the Outline Design Parameters [EN010152/APP/7.4]. The authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
- 6.2.11 **Requirement 5 – Battery safety management.** This requirement stipulates that Work No. 2 must not commence until a battery safety management plan has been approved by the relevant planning authority. The relevant planning authority must consult with the South Yorkshire Fire Service and the Environment Agency before approving the battery safety management plan. The battery safety management plan must be implemented as approved.

- 6.2.12 **Requirement 6 – Landscape and ecological management plan:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a written landscape and ecological management plan (substantially in accordance with the framework landscape and ecological management plan) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The landscape and ecological management plan must be implemented and maintained as approved. Paragraph (3) extends the definition of “commence”, for the purposes of paragraph (1), to include parts (h) and (i) of permitted preliminary works.
- 6.2.13 **Requirement 7 – Biodiversity net gain:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body, ~~and~~. This requirement was updated at Deadline 3 to reflect the preferred approach taken by the Secretary of State in recent solar DCO decisions (including East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025 and Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025) for specific commitments in respect of biodiversity net gain percentages directly into the requirement. In line with Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025, the Applicant has included percentages which are less than the estimated figures provided in its initial biodiversity net gain assessment but which it considers it can confidently meet. This provides for a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain for habitat units, a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain for hedgerow units and a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain for watercourse units, which must be maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the landscape and ecological management plan relates.
- 6.2.14 **Requirement 8 – Fencing and other means of enclosure:** The undertaker is required to obtain approval from the relevant planning authority for any proposed temporary or permanent fences, walls or other means of enclosure, for each part in question. The details of permanent fencing must be substantially in accordance with the relevant Outline Design Parameters [EN010152/APP/7.4].
- 6.2.15 **Requirement 9 – Surface and foul water drainage:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until the details of the surface water drainage and (if any) foul water drainage system (substantially in accordance with the framework drainage strategy) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The approved scheme must be implemented and maintained throughout the construction and operation of the authorised development.
- 6.2.16 **Requirement 10 – Archaeology:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a written scheme of investigation for that part (which must substantially accord with the Framework Archaeological Mitigation Strategy) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The written scheme of investigation(s) must be implemented as approved. Commence is separately defined in this requirement to include any permitted preliminary works.

- 6.2.17 **Requirement 11 – Construction environmental management plan:** Under this requirement, no part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan (which must substantially accord with the framework construction environmental management plan) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. All construction works associated with the authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved construction environmental management plan, which must be implemented as approved.
- 6.2.18 **Requirement 12 – Operational environmental management plan:** Before the date of final commissioning of the authorised development, an operational environmental management plan (which must substantially accord with the framework operational environmental management plan) must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The plan must be implemented and maintained as approved.
- 6.2.19 **Requirement 13 – Construction traffic management plan:** Under this requirement, no part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan (which must substantially accord with the framework construction traffic management plan) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, the relevant highway authority and National Highways Limited.
- 6.2.20 **Requirement 14 – Operational noise:** This requirement stipulate that Work Nos. 1, 2 or 3 may not commence until an operational noise assessment (containing details of how the design has incorporated mitigation set out in the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1] in respect of operational noise rating levels has been complied with) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The design in the operational noise assessment must be implemented and maintained as approved.
- 6.2.21 **Requirement 15 – Soil management plan:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a soil management plan (substantially in accordance with the framework soil management plan) for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. All construction works must be carried out in accordance with the approved soil management plan.
- 6.2.22 **Requirement 16 – Skills, supply chain and employment:** this requirement stipulates that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan (which must be substantially in accordance with the framework skills, supply chain and employment plan) in relation to that phase has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The skills, supply chain and employment plan must identify opportunities for individuals and businesses to access employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the authorised development, and the means for publicising such opportunities. The skills, supply chain and employment plan must be implemented and maintained as approved.
- 6.2.23 **Requirement 17 – Public rights of way:** This requirement provides that the authorised development may not commence until a public rights of way management plan (substantially in accordance with the framework public

rights of way management plan) for any sections of public rights of way shown to be closed within Schedule 6 have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the relevant highway authority.

- 6.2.24 **Requirement 18 – Decommissioning and restoration:** This requirement provides that unless otherwise agreed with the relevant planning authority, no later than 12 months prior to the date the undertaker intends to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for its approval a decommissioning environmental management plan (substantially in accordance with the framework decommissioning environmental management plan). Decommissioning must commence no later than 40 years following the date of final commissioning. The plan submitted must be implemented as approved, and must include a resource management plan that includes details of proposals to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials.

6.3 Schedule 3 (Legislation to be disappplied)

- 6.3.1 This Schedule lists out the legislation that the Order disapplies that relates to railways, river navigation, fisheries and water in the vicinity of the Order Limits in so far as such legislation is in force and is incompatible with the powers contained within the Order.

6.4 Schedule 4 (Streets subject to street works)

- 6.4.1 This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be subject to street works by reference to the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. The Schedule relates to Article 8 (*Street works*).

6.5 Schedule 5 (Alteration of streets)

- 6.5.1 This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be permanently altered (Part 1) and temporarily altered (Part 2) by reference to the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. This Schedule relates to Articles 9 (*Power to alter layout, etc., of streets*) and 10 (*Construction and maintenance of altered streets*).

6.6 Schedule 6 (Streets and public rights of way)

- 6.6.1 This Schedule sets out the locations of the streets to be temporarily closed and diverted (Part 1), the public rights of way to be temporarily closed and diverted (Part 2), the public rights of way over which the undertaker seeks authorisation to use motor vehicles permanently (Part 3), the public rights of way to be managed temporarily (Part 4), the public rights of way over which the undertaker seeks authorisation to use motor vehicles temporarily (Part 5), and the public rights of way to be permanently closed and diverted (Part 6). It references the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. This Schedule relates to Articles 11 (*Temporary closure of public rights of way*) and 12 (*Permanent closure of public rights of way*).

6.7 Schedule 7 (Permanent means of access to works)

- 6.7.1 This Schedule sets out the permanent means of accesses to works to the authorised development. It references the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. The Schedule relates to Article 14 (*Access to works*).

6.8 Schedule 8 (Traffic regulation measures)

- 6.8.1 This Schedule contains details of the streets that are subject to temporary traffic regulation measures pursuant to Article 16 (*Traffic regulation measures*) and contains details of the nature of the measures for each affected street.

6.9 Schedule 9 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired)

- 6.9.1 This Schedule sets out the areas of land over which only new rights may be acquired by the undertaker and the nature of the rights that may be acquired. The plot numbers in column 1 of that table correlate with the relevant plot numbers shaded blue and brown on the Land Plan [EN010152/APP/2.1] and the nature of the rights in column 2 explains the purposes for which rights over land may be acquired and restrictive covenants imposed. The Schedule relates to Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*).

6.10 Schedule 10 (Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for the creation of new rights and imposition of new restrictive covenants)

- 6.10.1 This Schedule modifies existing compensation legislation including the Land Compensation Act 1973 and the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. It is commonly included in made DCOs, including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Development Consent Order 2020, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024. This has been updated to reflect any necessary changes arising as a result of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Schedule relates to Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*).

6.11 Schedule 11 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken)

- 6.11.1 This Schedule sets out the land of which only temporary possession may be taken, pursuant to Article 29 (*Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development*). This land is shown green on the Land Plan [EN010152/APP/2.1], and the purpose for the temporary possession is described by reference to the relevant work numbers and corresponding Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.2].

6.12 Schedule 12 (Documents and plans to be certified)

- 6.12.1 This Schedule lists the documents that the undertaker must have certified as true copies by the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 40 (*Certification of plans and documents, etc.*).

6.13 Schedule 13 (Arbitration rules)

- 6.13.1 This Schedule relates to Article 42 (*Arbitration*). The intention is to achieve a fair, impartial and binding award on substantive differences between the parties. Further, the objective is to achieve determination within 4 months from the date the arbitrator is first appointed to ensure that any disputes are resolved quickly. In the context of the pressing need for new power generation, particularly by renewable means, identified in the National Policy Statements, it is considered desirable that any disputes are resolved promptly to enable delivery of the authorised development in as timely a way as possible.

- 6.13.2 Schedule 13 refers to the person who commenced the arbitration as the Claimant and the other party as the Respondent.

- 6.13.3 The timetable for the process is as follows:

- a. Within 14 days of the Arbitrator being appointed the Claimant shall serve on the Respondent and the Arbitrator a statement of claim and all supporting evidence to support the claim.
- b. Within 14 days of receipt of the Claimant's statement of claim and supporting evidence the Respondent will serve a statement of defence and all supporting evidence to support its defence, together with any objections to the Claimant's documentation.
- c. Within 7 days of receipt of the Respondent's documentation the Claimant may make a statement of reply.
- d. The parties would be liable for their own costs of the arbitration, unless otherwise directed by an award made by the arbitrator. Costs will include the arbitrator's costs together with the reasonable legal fees and other costs incurred by the other party.

- [6.13.4 Paragraph 7 of Schedule 13 was updated at Deadline 3 to reflect the changes by the Secretary of State made in the East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025 to change the presumption for any arbitration hearings and documentation to be public, except where the arbitrator directs these to be confidential in order to protect commercially sensitive information.](#)

6.14 Schedule 14 (Protective Provisions)

- 6.14.1 This Schedule sets out protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose equipment may be affected by the authorised development. This schedule relates to Article 43 (*Protective provisions*) and currently contains protective provisions for the benefit of defined classes of service undertakers (electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers at Part 1, electronic communications code operators at Part 2, and drainage authorities at Part 3).

- 6.14.2 This Schedule will be updated with additional parts with bespoke protective provisions for the benefit of particular bodies in the post-application and Examination period. Negotiations with the relevant parties for these additional provisions are at various stages and the provisions included are therefore subject to change. The relevant bodies with final and agreed bespoke provisions currently included are as follows:
- a. Part 4 – For the protection of railway interests (Network Rail);
 - b. Part 5 – For the protection of the Environment Agency;
 - c. Part 6 – For the protection of Exolum Pipeline Systems Ltd;
 - d. Part 7 – For the protection of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc; and
 - e. Part 8 – For the protection of Nothern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc.
- 6.14.3 The protective provisions in Part 1 – for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers, have been amended slightly to include other mains, pipelines or cables not ordinarily falling within the definition of "apparatus" and the owner of such mains, pipelines and cables as a "utility undertaker". This is to capture and protect a water supply to tenants that is privately provided within the Order Limits.

6.15 Schedule 15 (Procedure for discharge of requirements)

- 6.15.1 This Schedule provides a bespoke procedure for dealing with an application made to the relevant planning authority for any consent, agreement or approval required by the Requirements in Schedule 2 of the Order. It sets out time periods within which decisions must be made and provides for deemed approval of the applications in certain circumstances. The Schedule makes provision for appeals to be made in the event of a refusal of an application or if the Relevant Planning Authority requires further information to be provided in relation to that application. Schedules similar to Schedule 15 have been used in various orders and can be seen in a similar form in the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and the Cottam Solar Farm Order 2024.
- 6.15.2 The bespoke process is required in order to ensure that applications under requirements are dealt with efficiently so that the authorised development is not held up. Deemed consent of applications is required for the same reason and ensures that the nationally-needed authorised development will not be held up by the discharge of requirements. A paragraph providing for the payment of fees to the Relevant Planning Authority has also been provided to ensure they are appropriately compensated for processing different kinds of applications to discharge requirements. The Schedule relates to Article 45 (*Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.*).

