



# Fosse Green Energy

EN010154

## 6.1 Environmental Statement

Chapter 2: The Site and Surroundings

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Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended)

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## Planning Act 2008

### The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulation 2009 (as amended)

Fosse Green Energy  
Development Consent Order 202[ ]

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## **6.1 Environmental Statement**

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## 2. The Site and Surroundings

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter provides a description of the existing conditions of the land within which the Proposed Development is located (hereafter referred to as the 'DCO Site') and the surrounding area, giving context to its setting, existing use, and an outline of constraints, which are detailed further within each technical topic (**Chapters 6 to 14** of the ES [**EN010154/APP/6.1**]).

2.1.2 This chapter is supported by the following Figures [**EN010154/APP/6.1**]:

- Figure 2-1: Environmental Constraints**; and
- Figure 2-2: Public Rights of Way Plan**.

### 2.2 DCO Site Description and Surroundings

#### The DCO Site

2.2.1 The DCO Site (shown on **Figure 1-2** of this ES [**EN010154/APP/6.2**]) lies within the county of Lincolnshire, within the administrative area of North Kesteven District Council. The DCO Site is located approximately 9km south and south west of Lincoln City Centre in a predominantly agricultural landscape surrounded by the villages of Witham St Hughs, Bassingham, Thurlby and Thorpe on the Hill, amongst others.

2.2.2 The DCO Site comprises two distinct parcels of land (see **Figure 1-2** of the ES [**EN010154/APP/6.2**]), which are:

- the 'Principal Site', which is the location where ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure will be installed; and
- the 'Cable Corridor', which will comprise the underground electrical infrastructure required to connect the Principal Site to the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby.

2.2.3 The maximum extent of land required for the construction, operation (including maintenance and repair) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development that is included within the DCO application is shown on **Figure 2-1** of the ES [**EN010154/APP/6.2**], as denoted by the DCO Site Boundary. The area of land within the DCO Site Boundary is 1,368 hectares (ha). There will be no additional land required temporarily for construction or decommissioning outside of the DCO Site Boundary. The land take for the DCO Site Boundary has been refined as the Proposed Development design has progressed, taking into account environmental, planning, landowner and other technical factors, as well as statutory consultation responses.

## Existing Conditions Within and Surrounding the DCO Site

### Landscape Setting

2.2.4 The DCO Site comprises primarily of agricultural fields interspersed with individual trees, small woodland blocks, hedgerows, linear tree belts, farm access tracks, and local transport roads. The nature of the landscape is largely flat with open views. The figures contained within **Chapters 6 to 14** of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.2] show the location of existing baseline features in relation to the DCO Site. **Plate 2-1 to Plate 2-4** illustrate the typical nature of the fields with tree belts, hedgerows and access tracks across the DCO Site.



**Plate 2-1: View north east from PRoW Aubo/8/1**



**Plate 2-2: View south west from the A46 overbridge**



**Plate 2-3: View east from PRoW Bass/21/2, opposite North Field Farm**

- 2.2.5 The hedgerows within the DCO Site are predominantly low and intermittent. Hedgerows on the boundaries of the DCO Site are typically well established and in excess of 2m in height. The arable fields are large and generally of regular shape.
- 2.2.6 There is woodland adjacent to the north of the DCO Site at Morton, known as Housham Wood and Tunman Wood, and at Aubourn, known as Moor Covert

and Fox Covert, with pockets of woodland such as Stocking Wood located adjacent to the centre and northern sections of the DCO Site. There are a few small blocks of woodland located in the Cable Corridor with the largest associated with the dismantled railway line which lies to the east of the River Brant.

2.2.7 Neither the DCO Site nor the immediate surrounding area is covered by any statutory landscape designations, such as National Parks, or National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) as shown on **Figure 2-1** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.2]. The DCO Site does however fall within the Witham Valley Country Park<sup>1</sup>, which covers the entirety of the Principal Site.

2.2.8 More information on landscape designations is presented in, **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

### **Settlements and Surrounding Land Use**

2.2.9 The Settlements immediately surrounding the Principal Site comprise several small rural villages, including:

- Thorpe on the Hill, approximately 0.4km north east of the Principal Site;
- Morton Hall and Morton, approximately 0.4km and adjacent to the west of the Principal Site, respectively;
- Witham St Hughs, adjacent to the west of the Principal Site;
- Norton Disney, approximately 0.6km south west of the Principal Site;
- Bassingham, adjacent to the east of the Principal Site;
- Thurlby, adjacent to the south east of the Principal Site;
- Haddington, approximately 0.3km east of the Principal Site; and
- Aubourn, approximately 0.6km north east of the Principal Site.

2.2.10 The Cable Corridor is approximately 10km in length and passes largely through agricultural land between the villages of Bassingham, Boothby Graffoe and Coleby, extending towards Navenby. The Cable Corridor is proposed to cross the River Brant in a single location west of Broughton Lane and continuing east, before crossing the A607 between the villages of Coleby and Boothby Graffoe. The Cable Corridor is crossed by the existing 400kV overhead powerline in at least one location, east of which the Cable Corridor then continues east and south towards the point of connection crossing Heath Lane (B1202) and Green Man Road.

2.2.11 Public consultation on the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby was undertaken in September-October 2024, and, at the time of writing, National Grid are reviewing the feedback received during consultation with the intention to submit a planning application in Autumn 2025 to North Kesteven

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<sup>1</sup> The Witham Valley Country Park is a Country Park comprising public green space which provides areas for recreation and for people to enjoy the outdoors and experience nature in an informal semi-rural park setting. The Country Park covers approximately 40 square miles of countryside. The Proposed Development does not encroach upon any publicly accessible recreation areas.

District Council seeking planning consent for the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby, which will create the point of connection for the Proposed Development. The proposed substation is located north of Heath Lane, with access from Heath Lane. The substation will be set back from the road and cover approximately 13ha. It will be an 'open air' substation with a maximum height of 15m. Four new pylons will also need to be constructed as part of the plans and two existing pylons will be dismantled.

- 2.2.12 There are limited industrial or commercial land uses within the immediate vicinity of the DCO Site.
- 2.2.13 Other infrastructure within the surrounding area includes 400kV overhead powerlines carried by pylons (shown in **Plate 2-4** below). These overhead pylons largely follow the Cable Corridor and are partially located within the DCO Site from areas south west of Coleby through to the point of connection.
- 2.2.14 Further information on utilities is presented in **Section 14.7 of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].



**Plate 2-4: 400kV overhead powerlines carried by pylons within surrounding landscape**

### Transport Network and Public Rights of Way

- 2.2.15 The A46 intersects the Principal Site within the northern section, and the A607 intersects the Cable Corridor. Local minor roads including Moor Lane, Bassingham Road, Clay Lane, Thurlby Road, Stone Lane, Fen Lane, The Avenue and Fosse Lane are located within or adjacent to the Principal Site. In addition to the A607, the Cable Corridor crosses Broughton Lane, Heath Lane, Green Man Lane, Gorse Hill Lane and an unnamed road.

2.2.16 The Cable Corridor crosses the River Brant which flows south to north and passes through the DCO Site to the north east of Bassingham and to the west of Broughton Lane. The River Witham passes through the south east of the Principal Site to the north east of Thurlby, and to the west of Bassingham Road.

2.2.17 There is no operational railway infrastructure within the DCO Site. A dismantled railway line is located within the Cable Corridor, to the east of the River Brant.

2.2.18 There are 36 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Principal Site and several more in proximity to the Principal Site, there are also seven existing permissive paths within the Principal Site. A claimed PRoW also slightly encroaches on the Principal Site, connecting to Clay Lane at Thorpe on the Hill at the north eastern extent of the Principal Site. There are five PRoW located within the Cable Corridor and several more which are in close proximity to the Cable Corridor. PRoWs within and in proximity to the DCO Site are illustrated on **Figure 2-2: Public Rights of Way** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.2], with the potential impacts discussed further in **Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land use** and **Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. A **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plan** is also submitted along with the DCO application [EN010154/APP/2.3].

### Land Use and Soils

2.2.19 The land within the Principal Site is predominantly classified as Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Grade 3b (moderate quality agricultural land) with some Grade 3a (good quality agricultural land). There is no Grade 2 or Grade 1 land within the Principal Site. Approximately 50% of the land within the Principal Site is currently used for non-food crop (e.g. biofuel, biomass fuel and pet foods). Further information on the soil classification is presented in **Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report** of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. According to Natural England's ALC online mapping (Ref 2-1), the Cable Corridor is located within predominantly Grade 3 ALC land, with a small area of Grade 4 land located to the west of Navenby.

### Ecology and Nature Designations

2.2.20 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), Scheduled Monuments, or Listed Buildings within the DCO Site. For further details refer to **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

2.2.21 There are two areas of Ancient Woodland within 2km of the Principal Site, which include:

- a. Tunman / Housham Woods, adjacent to the north of the Principal Site; and
- b. Hawdins / North Big Wood, approximately 860m west of the Principal Site.

2.2.22 There are no areas of Ancient Woodland within 2km of the Cable Corridor.

2.2.23 Within a 10km radius of the DCO Site, there are a number of statutory designated nature conservation sites, including Ashton's Meadow SSSI, which is located 1.5km to the west of the DCO Site and Lea Marsh SSSI, which is located 1.7km north west of the DCO Site. There are 11 non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation within 2km of the DCO Site, all designated as LWSs. Further information is presented in **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

2.2.24 There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) within and adjacent to the DCO Site, as further discussed in **Appendix 10-H: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].

### Archaeology and Heritage

2.2.25 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the DCO Site. There are four Scheduled Monuments within the 3km study area of the Principal Site, namely:

- a. Churchyard Cross, St Germain's Churchyard (NHLE 1013082), located within 200m of the Principal Site;
- b. Remains of a Preceptory, Fishponds and Post-Medieval Gardens at Eagle Hall (NHLE 1008316), within 2km to the north west of the Principal Site;
- c. Churchyard Cross, All Saints' Churchyard (NHLE 1009215), approximately 2km to the south west of the Principal Site; and
- d. Hall Close: A Medieval a Post-Medieval Hall Complex South of Dovecote Lane, with Dovecote, Gardens, Fishponds, Churchyard and Cultivation Remains (NHLE 1021080), abutting the Principal Site.

2.2.26 There are no Listed Buildings within the DCO Site. There are 114 Listed Buildings within 3km of the DCO Site, comprising seven Grade I, six Grade II\* and 101 Grade II Listed Buildings. These Listed Buildings are largely grouped in the settlements of Gate Burton, Lea, Upton, Brampton, Marton, Willingham, Stow and Torksey. Of these designated heritage assets a single Grade II listed building, River Farmhouse (NHLE 1168186), is located within a land parcel excluded from, but surrounded by the DCO Site.

2.2.27 The DCO Site is not within a Conservation Area. The nearest Conservation Areas are the 'Bassingham Conservation Area', which is located adjacent and to the south east of the Principal Site, the 'Boothby Graffoe Conservation Area', which is located approximately 100–200m south and west of the Cable Corridor and the 'Coleby Conservation Area', the southern extent of which is located approximately 500m to the north of the Cable Corridor and approximately 4.2km to the east of the Principal Site.

2.2.28 There are no other designated heritage assets recorded within the 3km study area of the Principal Site, including World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, or Registered Battlefields.

2.2.29 Further information on archaeology and heritage is presented in **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

## Water Environment and Flood Risk

2.2.30 The Principal Site falls under the Witham Upper Operational Catchment and Trent and Trib Operational Catchment. The Cable Corridor falls under the Witham Upper Operational Catchment to the west of the A607 and the Witham Lower Operational Catchment to the east of the A607.

2.2.31 The Water Environment Study Area includes the catchments of seven surface water WFD water bodies, within three operational catchments, as listed below:

- Witham Upper Operational Catchment / Brant Lower Water Body from Brant Upper Water Body to River Witham Water Body (GB105030056770);
- Witham Upper Operational Catchment / Witham from Cringle Brook to Brant Lower Water Body GB105030056780);
- Witham Upper Operational Catchment / Boultham Catchwater Drain Water Body (GB105030062380);
- Witham Upper Operational Catchment / South Hykeham Catchwater Water Body (GB105030062460);
- Witham Lower Operational Catchment / Metheringham Beck Water Body (GB105030056210);
- Witham Lower Operational Catchment / Dunston Beck Water Body (GB105030056230);
- Trent and Trib Operational Catchment / The Fleet Lower Catchment (tributary of Trent) Water Body (GB104028058250).

2.2.32 The DCO Site is located within two WFD River Basin Districts (RBDs): the Anglian River Basin District and the Humber River Basin District. The DCO Site extends across two management catchments, namely Witham (Anglian) and Trent Lower and Erewash (Humber).

2.2.33 The Principal Site is located predominantly within Flood Zone 1<sup>2</sup>, with areas of Flood Zone 2<sup>3</sup> located within parts of both the south east of the Principal Site and central sections, associated with the River Brent and River Witham, respectively.

2.2.34 The western extent of the Cable Corridor, west of Broughton Lane is located within areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3. There are also discrete areas immediately east of Broughton Lane located within Flood Zone 2.

2.2.35 The remaining areas of the DCO Site are located within Flood Zone 1.

2.2.36 Part of the south eastern section of the DCO Site is located within the Witham Washland Flood Compensation Area as shown on **Figure 9-3** of the ES **[EN010154/APP/6.2]**.

<sup>2</sup> Flood Zone 1 refers to land and property with a low probability of flooding (less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding).

<sup>3</sup> Flood Zone 2 refers to land and property with a medium probability of flooding (between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding, or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding).

2.2.37 Further information on flood risk is presented in **Chapter 9: Water Environment** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] and within the **Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 9-C** of this ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]).

## 2.3 References

Ref 2-1 Natural England (2019). Provisional Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) (England). Available online at : <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::provisional-agricultural-land-classification-alc-england/about>