



Fosse Green Energy

EN010154

8.5 Statement of Common Ground with
Lincolnshire County Council (including
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue)

VOLUME

8

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Regulation 8(1)(e)

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure)

Rules 2010

31 March 2026

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Fosse Green Energy Development Consent Order 202[]

8.5 Statement of Common Ground with Lincolnshire County Council (including Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue)

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1. Statement of Common Ground Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by Fosse Green Energy Limited and Lincolnshire County Council.

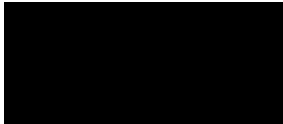
Signed on behalf of Fosse Green Energy Limited

Name: Lloyd Sandles

Position: Director

Date: 31/03/2026

Signature:

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Lloyd Sandles.

Signed on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council

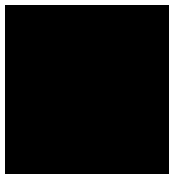
Name:

A black rectangular box redacting the name of the representative from Lincolnshire County Council.

Position: Assistant Director – Growth, Infrastructure, and Environment

Date: 31/03/2026

Signature:

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the representative from Lincolnshire County Council.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this document

- 2.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relates to the application submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 18 July 2025 (the Application) by Fosse Green Energy Limited (the Applicant) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Fosse Green Energy solar project (the Proposed Development).
- 2.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) (together known as "the Parties") in respect of the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.3 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the Parties and where agreement has not yet been reached. This SoCG will be revised and updated as appropriate and/or required by the ExA at relevant examination deadlines.
- 2.1.4 In particular, this SoCG focuses on planning, environmental and draft Development Consent Order matters.
- 2.1.5 As set out in the procedural decision made by the ExA on 22 August 2025 **[PD-005]**, the ExA requires final and signed SoCGs to be submitted at the midpoint of examination. The Examination Timetable set out at Annex A to the Rule 8 Letter **[PD-010]**, confirmed the midpoint of the examination as Deadline 3A (24 March 2026). Further to this, the procedural decision dated 21 November 2025 **[PD-007]** includes Lincolnshire County Council as a party with which the Applicant must enter into a SoCG. Although the deadline for the submission of SoCGs was set as Deadline 3A, as set out in the Deadline 3A Cover Letter **[REP3A-001]**, submission of the SoCG between the Applicant and LCC was put back to Deadline 4 (31 March 2026). This was confirmed via email on Friday 20 March by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the ExA. This extension of time was granted to allow for discussion of matters that arose during Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) and Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4).

2.2 The Proposed Development

- 2.2.1 The Application is for the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts, with battery storage, onsite substation and associated infrastructure to generate and export/import electricity. The associated development includes, but is not limited to, access provision, battery storage, underground cabling, areas of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement, and 400 kV underground grid connection cable to connect the Proposed Development to the national electricity transmission network.
- 2.2.2 The Proposed Development would provide renewable energy over its 60-year operational lifetime. The Proposed Development is infrastructure of critical national priority.

2.3 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 2.3.1 The Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are collectively referred to in this SoCG as “the parties”. The parties have been, and continue to be, in direct communication in respect of the Proposed Development.
- 2.3.2 LCC is responsible for a variety of local government functions at a county-level including waste services; education; adult social services; planning and development and public services.
- 2.3.3 The Applicant is a partnership between Windel Energy Limited and Recurrent Energy.
- 2.3.4 Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company dedicated to driving the transition towards a sustainable future. Specialising in the origination, development and integration of renewable energy projects and low-carbon disruptive technologies, with a portfolio exceeding 5 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power in various stages of development.
- 2.3.5 Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc, is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership, and operations platforms.

2.4 Terminology

- 2.4.1 In the tables in Section 3 of this SoCG, ‘Matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion’ are colour coded in column 5 and categorised as follows:
 - a. “Agreed” (green) indicates where the issue has been resolved;
 - b. “Not Agreed” (red) indicates a final position that a matter cannot be agreed; and
 - c. “Under discussion” (amber) indicates where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the Parties.

3. Record of Engagement

3.1 Summary of consultation

3.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has occurred between the Applicant and LCC is set out in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1 Engagement between the Applicant and LCC

Date	Form of Correspondence	Details
02/05/2023	Meeting – MS Teams	Initial briefing to introduce the Fosse Green Energy Solar Project (the Proposed Development) to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).
10/05/2023	Meeting – MS Teams	Introduction to the Proposed Development.
30/08/2023	Meeting – MS Teams	Project update meeting – discussion of matters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction; b. Scoping Report details; c. Update on environmental constraints and surveys; d. Design update; e. Programme; and f. Update on plans for non-statutory consultation.
11/09/2023	Email exchange	Contacted councillors in the local area at the start of non-statutory consultation.
26/10/2023	Meeting – MS Teams	Project update meeting – discussion of matters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Upcoming statutory consultation period; b. Details of the plans for connection of the Proposed Development to the national electricity transmission network; and c. Details of proposed permissive paths.
06/11/2023	Email exchange	Feedback sought from LCC on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
06/11/2023	Email exchange	Planning Performance Agreement signed by LCC and the Applicant.
07/12/2023	Meeting – MS Teams	Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:

Date	Form of Correspondence	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposition of holding statutory consultation period in late March; b. Submission date for DCO Application; c. Slight layout changes being made as a result of findings from environmental surveys; d. Key themes arising from non-statutory consultation including the scale of the Proposed Development and potential loss of arable land; e. Ecology mitigation; and f. Include minerals sites in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) cumulative assessment where applicable.
13/12/2023	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of highways scope, study area, Construction Traffic Management Plan, cumulatives with National Highways, LCC and NKDC.
18/12/2023	Email	LCC provided feedback to the SoCC consultation.
30/01/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	Meeting held in advance of statutory consultation to assist the development of the SoCC.
06/03/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of scope for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
04/07/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Re-mobilisation of FGE project; b. Ongoing amendments to the design including revised permissive paths and solar layouts; c. Filling ecology survey gaps; and d. Note new potential proposed development in the cumulative chapter.
15/08/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of the PEIR; b. Re-mobilisation of consultation with stakeholders;

Date	Form of Correspondence	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Re-engagement with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), engaging with their new pre-application service; and d. SoCC to be refreshed.
15/08/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	Further discussion of scope for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
26/09/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of the PEIR; b. Statutory consultation to run from 21 October 2024 for 6 weeks; c. Biodiversity net gain (BNG); and d. The possibility of setting up a Community Liaison Group (CLG) as part of the project.
21/10/2024	Email and letter	<p>Notice issued under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) to LCC via email and letter. Launch of statutory consultation and local councillors notified.</p>
07/11/2024	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completion of PEIR and confirmation that notice under Section 46 of the PA 2008 was sent to PINS on 18 October; b. Statutory consultation commenced, to run from 21 October to 2 December 2024; c. Organising/holding briefings with Parish Councils and Councillors. Series of public events organised including an online session; d. Site visits being undertaken; and e. Continued engagement supported and separate topic specific meetings to be arranged where required.
02/12/2024	Written response	LCC provided feedback to the statutory consultation.
10/01/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Statutory consultation closed 2 December 2024. PEIR comments gratefully received;

Date	Form of Correspondence	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Design amendments ongoing along with consideration of statutory consultation comments; c. Plans being made for a CLG meeting – focused around parishes in advance of submission of the DCO Application; d. Flexibility options in design being considered for submission of the DCO Application; e. Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) comments received, and next steps undertaken; f. Aiming for trial trenching to be carried out in February 2025; g. Site Selection and Sequential Test documents to be included in full DCO Application submission; and h. Preparation for Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.
23/01/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of ecology matters following statutory consultation.
30/01/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Project update meeting – discussion of matters including: BNG; Other developments; and Cumulative list being prepared.
03/02/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Further discussion of ecology matters.
24/02/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of comments received in relation to waste and minerals during statutory consultation.
27/02/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of potential construction noise and vibration impacts.
28/02/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Transport discussion on design access parameters.
07/03/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Meeting regarding access and discussion of visibility splay requirements.
13/03/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:

Date	Form of Correspondence	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Final design refinement/red line boundary; b. Submission of DCO Application; c. The provision of bird mitigation land; d. Permissive path changes; e. Adequacy of Consultation Report; and f. CLG.
26/03/2025	Email exchange	Draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AOCM) report shared with LCC for comment.
04/04/2025	Phone call	Cotswold Archaeology (the Applicant's archaeological advisors) discussed the WSI for trial trenching with LCC.
07/04/2025	Email exchange	Comments on draft AOCM report received from LCC.
24/04/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Final design of the Proposed Development; b. Adequacy of Consultation; c. CLG; d. STEM event in Witham St Hughs; e. Submission of DCO Application; f. Cumulative list of developments; and g. BNG.
25/04/2025	Email exchange	Submission of revised WSI to LCC for comment and approval, following previous discussions between LCC and the Applicant's archaeological advisors
07/05/2025	Email exchange	Approval of WSI by LCC.
13/05/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adequacy of Consultation; and b. Environment update.
05/06/2025	Meeting – MS Teams	<p>Project update meeting – discussion of matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Submission of DCO Application; b. Draft DCO Requirements; c. Potential Cumulative Effects Interrelationship Report;

Date	Form of Correspondence	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Potential Main Issues for Examination (PMIE); e. CLG; and f. Trial trenching.
29/10/2025	Site visit	Inspection of trial trenching works carried out by LCC.
22/12/2026	Email	The Applicant issued a draft copy of the Statement of Common Ground to LCC for review / comment.
22/01/2026	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of ecology matters with LCC and NKDC
23/01/2026	Email	LCC issued a version of the draft Statement of Common Ground with comments and amendments.
23/02/2026	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of landscape matters with LCC and NKDC
04/03/2026	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of waste matters with LCC
17/03/2026	Email	The Applicant shared a revised version of the Statement of Common Ground with LCC for review and comment.
18/03/2026	Meeting – MS Teams	Discussion of landscape matters with LCC and NKDC

4. Matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion

4.1 General Planning Matters

Table 4-1 General Planning Matters

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.1.1	The planning policy context of decision making	LCC agrees with the decision-making policy context of the application.	<p>The DCO Application for the Proposed Development will be decided by the Secretary of State (SoS), who under Section 104 of the PA 2008 when deciding the Application must have regard to the relevant national policy statements, in this case being the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1); • National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3); and • National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (NPS EN-5). <p>Regard must also be had to any local impact report and any other matters which the SoS thinks are both important and relevant to the decision.</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.1.2	Consideration of the Planning Balance	<p>LCC will set out their overall position and views on the Proposed Development, and draw the ExA's attention to identified positive, negative, and neutral impacts and in particular where there are areas of conflict or tension with adopted policy.</p> <p>LCC has set out our overall position on the proposed development within the Local Impact Report submitted at deadline 1, 20 January 2026.</p> <p>LCC continues to have concern surrounding a number of matters and their weighting, as set out within the LIR. However, this is a matter for the ExA and SoS to determine.</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that the planning balance has been applied to the Proposed Development in accordance with NPS EN-1 as set out in Section 7 of the Planning Statement [AS-098] and as such, is acceptable. The Applicant has responded to the Local Impact Report as part of the Deadline 2 submission [REP2-031].</p> <p>The Applicant agrees this is a matter for the ExA and SoS to determine.</p>	Agreed
4.1.3	60-year Operational Lifetime of the Proposed Development	<p>Agree that the Applicant considers the project to be long term, temporary. However, LCC has concerns over the longevity of the Proposed Development, it being multi-generational and the potential long term permanent impacts.</p>	<p>The lifespan of 60 years has been identified as being a suitable period during which the Proposed Development can provide energy to the national electricity transmission network.</p> <p>Whilst the land within the Order Limits will be utilised for solar energy generation for the lifetime of the</p>	Not Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>Proposed Development, this is not permanent. It comprises a long-term installation, and at the end of the 60-year operational life of the Proposed Development, the infrastructure will be removed, and the land will be returned to the landowners in its current state and available for its original use. This is in accordance with the Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) [REP3-020]. The Applicant cannot dictate how the landowners choose to manage the land once it is returned, but any material change of use would require planning permission.</p> <p>The non-permanent, and therefore reversible nature of a solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) with a 60-year operational lifetime has been acknowledged in the Secretary of State's decisions on the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO and the Cottam Solar Project DCO, both of which were granted.</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.1.4	Grid Connection Agreement for the Proposed National Grid Substation near Navenby	<p>It is noted that the Proposed Development has a grid connection agreement which relies on connection to a new substation being promoted by National Grid at Navenby.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is contingent upon the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby being granted planning permission and being delivered within the indicated timeframe, with limited flexibility for delays. The certainty of a grid connection being available and therefore the overall deliverability of the Proposed Development is a concern for LCC.</p>	<p>As set out in the Planning Statement [AS-098], the DCO Application is based on the assumption that the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby will be constructed. The grid connection agreement has been secured on the basis of the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby coming forward, therefore alternatives have not been considered.</p> <p>Given the generally supportive national and local policy position, and on the basis that National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) takes a responsible approach to siting, design and mitigation, in compliance with the 'Horlock Rules'¹, there are no obvious reasons known to the Applicant why consent for the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby and associated overhead lines to connect it into the national grid would be withheld.</p>	Not Agreed

¹ The Horlock Rules are non-statutory industry guidelines used to inform the siting and design of electricity substations, with the aim of minimising environmental and landscape impacts while balancing technical and operational requirements

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>According to currently available information, the anticipated completion date for the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby is late 2029. This is around 3.5 years ahead of the connection date proposed for the Proposed Development. Given construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to commence in 2031, to be operational in 2033, there would be no overlap with construction of the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby, even if National Grid's current timeline is slightly revised.</p>	
4.1.5	Fire safety	<p>To enable the Fire and Rescue Service to undertake the necessary monitoring to ensure the BESS is in accordance with the relevant Requirement 7 (Battery safety management), a financial contribution is required via a Protective Provision within the DCO to the Fire Service so that it has sufficient resources in places to undertake monitoring of the BESS connected to this project.</p>	<p>The Applicant will provide funding for annual site visits for Risk Management Planning by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) and will also accommodate onsite familiarisation and training exercises for firefighters. The Applicant and LFRS have agreed protective provisions which were included in the draft DCO [REP3A-004] at Deadline 1.</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		LCC have received draft wording for the protective provisions. Having reviewed the draft wording LCC consider it to be acceptable in principle. LCC would expect this wording to be included within the next iteration of the dDCO [REP3A-004] submitted into examination.		

4.2 Draft Development Consent Order

Table 4-2 Draft Development Consent Order

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.2.1	Draft DCO Requirements	<p>At this stage LCC wishes to reserve its position on the relevant parts of the draft DCO including the proposed Requirements which are likely to be needed, to be amended or added to as the examination progresses.</p> <p>LCC has commented on the dDCO and proposed requirements within Section 22 of the LIR. Specific comments made regarding requirement 20 (decommissioning) and the request for an additional requirement relating to the grid connection.</p> <p>LCC welcomes the inclusion of paragraph 6.1.4 within the foEMP [REP3-018] and this partly addresses LCCs concerns. LCC would refer to comments made within ISH4 and DL3A submissions which requests additional wording similar to that included within</p>	<p>The Requirements included in the draft DCO [REP3A-004] are considered appropriate for the Proposed Development. The Applicant provided their response to LCC's comments on Requirement 20 in Applicant's Response to Local Impact Report [REP2-031].</p> <p>The Framework OEMP [REP3-018] has been updated at paragraph 6.1.4 to note: "<i>The Applicant must provide notice to the relevant planning authority once any part of the authorised development stops generating electricity for a continuous period of 12 months for non-maintenance reasons ("Period of Extended Outage"). When giving such notice the Applicant must provide details of the steps it is taking to rectify the issue along with an expected timeframe for when generation is predicted to re-commence operation. The Applicant</i></p>	Under Discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>the Springwell oOEMP to strengthen this further.</p> <p>LCC also requested clarity regarding the last sentence.</p>	<p><i>agrees to keep the relevant planning authorities updated following the Period of Extended Outage until the re-commencement of operation. The above does not apply if it was a force majeure event*, the outage occurred as a result of National Grid undertaking any activities to the transmission network, the relevant planning authority agree otherwise (acting reasonably), including where the relevant planning authority agree otherwise following decommissioning commencing pursuant to an approved decommissioning environmental management plan”</i></p> <p>The Applicant provided clarity on this wording in response to question DCO.2.19 of the Examining Authority’s Second Written Questions [REP3-045].</p>	
4.2.2	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan and Article 30(8) of the draft DCO	The DCO should provide for approval by LCC of any subsequent detailed landscape and ecological management plan (planting works), as referenced in Schedule 2 of the draft DCO. This should clearly link to any landscape mitigation that is submitted as part of the Proposed Development, and	Section 7 of the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [REP3-028] secures the need to monitor and review the management prescriptions undertaken. This includes for walkover surveys of the DCO Site to be undertaken between April and June in years 2, 4, 6, 10 of operation and then	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>subsequently that which has been assessed as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). This should not just be a management plan, but a detailed landscape scheme clearly identifying plant species, numbers and specifications along with planting details.</p> <p>The DCO should also include an appropriate period of landscape maintenance, currently referenced at article 30(8), that ties into a period of time identified in the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, and would expect an initial 15-year period of management and maintenance as a minimum, which would align with the assessed residual landscape and visual effects. This would subsequently be regularly reviewed and monitored at a reasonable period, such as every 3 to 5 years and implemented for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. This should include for a reasonable plant replacement program, such as following a significant loss or failure to thrive, to ensure the planting scheme meets the</p>	<p>every 5 years post-construction until year 60.</p> <p>The extent of vegetation clearance is shown on Figure 3-17 Maximum Vegetation Removal Plan of the ES [AS-029]. This corresponds with the Framework LEMP [REP3-028] which commits to removing trees and hedgerows only where access is required and where using existing gaps in hedgerows or trees is not considered practical.</p> <p>The implementation of a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, which is to be substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP [REP3-028], (including in respect of vegetation removal) is secured under Requirement 8 (Landscape and ecological management plan) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004]. Requirement 8 also provides that the detailed LEMP is to be approved by the relevant local planning authority prior to the</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>aims and objectives laid out in the submission. Proposed vegetation removal is identified within the draft DCO [APP-016] and Appendix 10-H Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) of the ES [APP-155]. Clear vegetation removal processes should be put in place to ensure any vegetation loss is aligned with these plans and schedules and to ensure that further removal or works are agreed with the relevant parties prior to any works being carried out. This should clearly relate to vegetation removal plans and the AIA, and this must also include vegetation removal or works to facilitate wider highways and access works, such as for abnormal loads.</p> <p>LCC have reviewed Section 7 of the Framework LEMP and note the reference of BNG and protected species monitoring, LCC is satisfied with the wording in the Framework LEMP and proposed monitoring and review intervals.</p>	<p>commencement of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Text was added to the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP3-028] submitted at Deadline 2, setting out in paragraph 7.1.9 <i>“The monitoring reports for surveys during operation will be sent to the host authorities and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for their information, along with a summary of any changes to management set out in the approved detailed LEMP.”</i></p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		LCC welcomes the inclusion of the Ecological Advisory Group (7.10). LCC would be looking to secure this through the LEMP with draft terms of reference either included or appended to this document.		
4.2.3	LCC's role as a discharging authority for relevant DCO Requirements	<p>LCC wishes to ensure that its role is sufficiently recognised as a discharging authority in relation to the relevant DCO Requirements and that LCC's role as Local Highway Authority, Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) and Waste Planning Authority is appropriately referenced within the draft DCO in relation to any proposed highway works, traffic regulation measures, flooding, drainage, and waste planning matters.</p> <p>LCC is satisfied with the listed requirements in Article 1, Schedule 2 of the dDCO wherein LCC is discharging authority.</p>	Article 1 of Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [REP3A-004] sets out that, for the purposes of that Schedule (which sets out the Requirements) "relevant planning authority" means North Kesteven District Council except for the following requirements where it shall mean Lincolnshire County Council— (i) Requirement 7 (battery safety management); (ii) Requirement 10 (surface and foul water drainage); (iii) Requirement 11 (archaeology); (iv) Requirement 14 (construction traffic management plan); (v) Requirement 17 (permissive paths); and (vi) Requirement 18 (public rights of way).	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Where LCC is required to be consulted in relation to any of the Requirements then the drafting makes clear where this is in LCC's capacity as local highway authority, Local Lead Flood Authority and Waste Planning Authority.	

4.3 Alternatives and Design Evolution

Table 4-3 Alternatives and Design Evolution

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.3.1	Consideration of Alternatives to the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby	<p>The Applicant has received a grid connection offer from National Grid to connect to the proposed Navenby Substation with an export and import capacity of 240MW. However, the required infrastructure does not yet benefit from planning permission and hence is some years away from being available as a point of connection for the Fosse Green project. The proposed new Navenby Substation does not form part of the DCO application and will be subject to planning permission through the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, for which a planning application is to be submitted to NKDC. The DCO Application does not contain any reference to alternatives if the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby did not come forward. LCC is of the opinion that this should be a key consideration within the assessment of alternatives.</p> <p>LCC has no further comments to add, the grid connection remains an area of disagreement.</p>	<p>As set out in the Planning Statement [AS-098], the DCO Application is based on the assumption that the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby will be constructed. The grid connection agreement has been secured on the basis of the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby receiving planning permission and being constructed, therefore alternative substations have not been considered. Given the energy NPSs set out government policy in relation to electricity generation, transmission and storage including association infrastructure, such as substations, it is logical to conclude that the policy support for renewable energy infrastructure, such as the proposed Navenby substation, set out in NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5 will be important material considerations in decision making.</p>	Not Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>It is understood that under NGET's Transmission Owner's Licence: Standard Licence Condition D4A: Obligations in Relation to Planning, NGET is required to undertake all reasonable steps to obtain the required consents. Under the commercial agreement between the Applicant and NGET, should no new substation at Navenby be available, it would fall to NGET to find an alternative point of connection for the Proposed Development. The Applicant fully expects NGET to deliver a connection at the proposed Navenby Substation.</p>	
4.3.2	Site selection	<p>Detailed comments within LIR section 7.</p> <p>LCC have reviewed the applicants response to the LIR and have nothing further to add, other than to reiterate that the ExA will need to be satisfied that the site selection process is robust and in line with the EIA regulations and policy requirements, rather than being a retrofit exercise to align with willing landowner aspirations, which was deemed to be an important consideration at stages 1 and 5 of the site selection process.</p>	<p>The applicant acknowledges the detailed comments provided in the LIR. The Applicant has responded to these comments in document 9.10 Applicant's Response to Local Impact Reports (Revision 1) [REP2-031] submitted at Deadline 2, in pages 98-102.</p>	Agreed

4.4 Cultural Heritage (Archaeology and Built Heritage)

Table 4-4A Archaeology

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.4A.1	Applicable Cultural Heritage Legislation and relevant cultural heritage Policy	LCC agrees that applicable cultural heritage legislation and relevant cultural heritage policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable cultural heritage legislation and relevant cultural heritage policy.	Agreed
Baseline				
4.4A.2	Cultural Heritage Baseline for the Assessment of the Proposed Development	LCC agrees that the detailed baseline conditions are representative of the DCO Site conditions.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions.	Agreed
Assessment Results				
4.4A.3	Findings from Cultural Heritage Assessment carried out for the Proposed Development	LCC continues to have concerns regarding the level of archaeological assessment undertaken to inform the Applicant's DCO Application. LCC acknowledges the Applicant's assessment work to date, including a desk-based assessment (DBA), geophysical survey (magnetometry) and a first phase of	The Applicant is of the opinion that the assessment work completed as part of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] , and relevant Appendices, especially Appendix 7-D: Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment of the ES [APP-127] , Appendix 7-F: Air	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
		<p>targeted evaluation trenching which is currently ongoing. The applicant's own DBA and evaluation work so far shows that archaeology has been identified across the Order Limits.</p> <p>There is currently a very limited data set from trenching results for identifying the presence, depth, date, character, location, state of preservation and significance of archaeology which currently survives across the Order Limits. The current programme of trenching also fails to adequately test areas where these previous techniques have not been successful in identifying archaeological remains.</p> <p>Any areas of unknown potential will need adequate levels of evaluation in advance of any works including plant movement which may damage or destroy currently surviving but unknown archaeology without identification or recording. While some of these concerns can be addressed through a robust programme of investigation work post-consent, LCC would expect that at the stage of submission of the DCO Application and the Examination stage, the Applicant at</p>	<p>Photo and LiDAR Mapping and Interpretation of the ES [APP-129], Appendix 7-G Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report of the ES [APP-130], Appendix 7-I Trial Trenching Report of the ES [REP2-036] is proportionate and fully compliant with the policies of NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3, the NPPF and the EIA Regulations. The ES has been informed by desk-based assessment (which included review of previous archaeological investigations), a LiDAR and aerial photograph report, a geophysical survey and (ongoing) trial trench evaluation, which inform the understanding of potential impacts to archaeological remains and the identification of the appropriate mitigation measures in relation to archaeological resource. The approach to archaeological evaluation via trial trenching has been agreed with the County Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council Of particular note (within all of the relevant policies) is the need to understand the specific nature</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
		<p>least would have evaluated those areas that they themselves have identified as have having significant archaeological potential.</p>	<p>of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development (acknowledged in policy to be 'limited'); to undertake a 'proportionate' assessment of these effects; and to develop mitigation proposals to manage any residual effects. This assessment has been completed, and suitable mitigation can be delivered. On the specific matter of the EIA Regulations, the potential for 'significant effects' has been adequately assessed. This matter is presented in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] (Section 7.7 regarding construction impacts, Section 7.8 regarding additional mitigation and paragraph 7.9.2 summarising the residual effects). The final trial trenching report was submitted into Examination by the Applicant at Deadline 2 (superseding the Appendix 7-I Trial Trenching Report of the ES [REP2-036]), which enables a detailed consideration of the relevant data as part of the decision-making process. The overall results conform to the</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
			summary presented in the interim report, and whilst appropriate mitigation measures will be required, the final results do not materially alter the conclusions presented within Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] regarding the likely impacts of the Proposed Development and the suitability of the mitigation measures on the archaeological resource.	
4.4A.4	Significance of Cultural Heritage Effects Arising from the Proposed Development	Concerns regarding the reductive approach to the impacts of the Proposed Development upon the unrenovable archaeological resource which currently survives across the Order Limits. The DCO Application documents state there will be no significant residual effects from decommissioning impacts or even construction impacts to archaeology. These documents also list activities such as earthworks, excavations, site preparation, levelling, grading operations, cut and fill and de-compacting. The evaluation trenching has demonstrated that archaeology survives at less than 30cm from the ground surface. We do not	Where archaeology will be affected, the Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] clarifies that the loss of evidential value of archaeological remains (truncation of the physical remains) would be offset by the enhanced historical value (advancement of our understanding of the remains) as well as the public benefits the dissemination of the results would deliver. It makes it clear therefore that it is not only the preservation by record (mitigation measures which will be agreed with the Local Authority), but public benefits stemming from this that are being taken into account in the overall balance regarding the effects.	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
		<p>therefore agree the Applicant’s worst-case scenario that the residual effect on buried archaeological remains would be neutral. These and all the other substantial ground impacts from the Proposed Development works will need reasonable evaluation and where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures to effectively deal with impacts on surviving archaeology. The Council maintains that the Applicant’s DCO Application documents for buried heritage and the impacts of the Proposed Development upon it lacks consistency and necessary detail in some areas. This opens the Proposed Development to significant risk in terms of deliverability as proposed and may lead to unnecessary delays, cost increases and unfavourable outcomes for the buried heritage within the Order Limits. LCC will provide more detailed comments within the Local Impact Report.</p>	<p>The trial trenching undertaken thus far was designed to be proportionate, and targeted areas of known remains as well as testing areas where previous surveys did not identify such remains. This has allowed the Applicant to confirm, at the interim report stage, that there is an overall good correlation between the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Appendix 7-G Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report of the ES [APP-130]) and those identified during the trial trenching (Appendix 7-I Trial Trenching Report of the ES [REP2-036]). The ES Appendix 7-H Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of the ES [REP3A-027] was subject to consultation with the archaeological advisor at LCC and was approved on 7 May 2025, prior to the evaluation commencing. For the avoidance of doubt, the final Trial Trenching Report was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 2 (superseding Appendix 7-I Trial Trenching Report (Interim) of the ES [APP-132]), which enables a detailed consideration of the relevant results as part</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
			<p>of the decision-making process. The overall results from the final evaluation conform to the summary presented in the interim report. As such, whilst appropriate mitigation measures will be required, the final results do not materially alter the conclusions presented within Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] regarding the likely impacts of the Proposed Development and the suitability of the mitigation measures on the archaeological resource.</p> <p>The results of the final Trial Trenching Report, and the findings from any additional required trenching, will inform the detailed design process, which will be carried out post-consent, as detailed within the Framework Written Scheme of Investigation [AS-001]. The Applicant is of the opinion that this assessment has been completed and suitable mitigation can be delivered, and the delivery of the mitigation, to be agreed with the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA), will ensure the residual effect will be neutral (with different mitigation options available</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
			including no-impact solutions, or benefits of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, delivering benefits which would offset the loss of remains).	
4.4A.5	Impacts of the Proposed Development on Archaeology beneath the A46	LCC noted at the PMIE stage a concern regarding archaeological significance beneath the A46 and recommendation for ground-truthing by trial trenching.	The Applicant has completed a geophysical survey (results detailed in Appendix 7-F Air Photo and LiDAR Mapping and Interpretation of the ES [APP-129]) and the approach to trial trenching is set out in Appendix 7-H Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of the ES [REP3A-027] which was approved by the LCC County Archaeologist. The results of these investigations (including ongoing trial trenching) inform the ES and further archaeological mitigation.	Under discussion
4.4A.6	Potential Use of Concrete Blocks as an Alternative to Piling and the Potential Impacts of this on Archaeology	LCC noted at the PMIE stage a concern regarding use of concrete blocks as an alternative to piling.	Mitigation measures as proposed within the ES are informed by further surveys and an understanding of the archaeological remains which may be affected by the Proposed Development. Chapter 3: The Proposed Development of the ES [REP1-015] sets out that some of the solar PV array may be mounted on concrete blocks	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
			during the detailed design stage which will be undertaken post-consent. However, this is not the default position and would be subject to archaeological survey and agreement with the relevant stakeholders. The detailed design of the Proposed Development, which must accord with, inter alia, any details approved under Requirement 11 (archaeology), is to be secured under Schedule 2 Requirement 6 (Detailed design approval) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] .	
Mitigation and Management Plans				
4.4A.7	Cultural Heritage Impacts of the Proposed Development on the Settlement of Morton	LCC noted at the PMIE stage that they consider that there are omissions to mitigation measures for example for 'the earthworks associated with the settlement of Morton'.	The impacts of the Proposed Development on the settlement of Morton are deemed limited as set out in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] . It should be noted that impacts of the Proposed Development on this heritage asset have been assessed as limited (resulting in partial loss, and a not significant effect) such that additional mitigation measures are not deemed necessary.	Under discussion

Table 4-4B Built Heritage

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.4B.1	Applicable Cultural Heritage Legislation and relevant cultural heritage Policy	LCC agrees that applicable cultural heritage legislation and relevant cultural heritage policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable cultural heritage legislation and relevant cultural heritage policy.	Agreed
Methodology				
4.4B.2	Cultural Heritage Assessment Study Area for the Proposed Development	LCC confirms that this matter has been addressed through the additional information provided by the Applicant on 11 March 2026.	With regard to the study areas for the assessment, the Applicant acknowledges there is a difference of opinion regarding suitable scope of assessment between the consultees. As clarified in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] , the approach to study areas was agreed through consultation with Historic England, who approved of the flexible approach to setting matters at the Scoping stage, and this approach was further discussed and agreed in a meeting on 31 March 2025 between Historic England and Cotswold Archaeology (the Applicant's archaeological advisors). As such, following Historic England's advice, the flexible approach, based on expertise and	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>not constrained by fixed radii, was utilised in the submission documents, and it is considered that this approach provides sufficient understanding of the cultural heritage resource and the potential impacts from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The historic landscape aspects are considered not only within Appendix 7-D: Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment of the ES [APP-127] but also within Appendix 7-E: Historic Landscape Character Assessment of the ES [APP-128] and the Applicant is of the opinion that a proportionate level of assessment with regard to historic landscape was undertaken taking into account the overall significance and impacts from the Proposed Development. A Heritage Technical Note has been prepared by the Applicant and was be submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3A which includes responses to matters relating to study areas.</p>	
4.4B.3	Programme of Engagement with Heritage Stakeholders in	LCC considers that earlier engagement on built heritage matters may have enabled several issues to be identified and resolved at an earlier stage.	The Applicant has engaged with the County Archaeologist and Historic England throughout the pre-application stage, as per the details set out at Section 2.1 of this	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	Relation to Cultural Heritage	For clarity, agreement between the Applicant and Historic England does not constitute agreement with LCC, which is a separate statutory consultee in respect of built heritage matters.	SoCG. The suite of desk-based and field investigations, presented in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [AS-032] has allowed for confident and robust statements (acknowledging any specific and inherent limitations) to be made on the likelihood of the presence of buried archaeological remains, their potential importance, the likely effects of the Proposed Development and to direct a suitable mitigation strategy.	
Assessment Results				
4.4B.4	Cultural Heritage Group Value Assessment	LCC confirms the applicant's additional assessment of group value (historic farmsteads), including the material provided on 11 March has addressed previous concerns.	The historic landscape aspects are considered not only within Appendix 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment of the ES [APP-127] but also within the standalone ES Appendix 7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment of the ES [APP-128] and the Applicant is of the opinion that a proportionate level of assessment with regard to historic landscape was undertaken taking into account the overall significance and impacts from the Proposed Development. A Heritage Technical Note was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3A which included	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			responses to matters relating to group-value assessment in relation to historic farmsteads.	
4.4B.5	Impacts from the Proposed Development on the Cultural Heritage Value of River Farmhouse and Grange Cottage	<p>LCC notes the applicant's assessment of effects on River Farmhouse (Grade II) and does not object to the conclusion of less than substantial harm. LCC considers that land to the east of the property, including its approach, which is currently identified for retention as permanent grassland or for biodiversity mitigation, contributes positively to the assets wider setting and the way it is experienced within the surrounding rural landscape.</p> <p>LCC's position is contingent on the retention of these areas, such that they remain free from built solar infrastructure for the duration of the scheme. This is material to the assessment of effects on the asset's significance.</p>	Noted.	Agreed
4.4B.6	Other Cultural Heritage Assets	LCC notes that, following the applicant's response and design evolution, concerns in	The Applicant's position on these matters can be summarised as::	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	on the DCO Site Boundary	<p>relation to the following assets are no longer pursued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church of St Germain and associated assets • Grange Cottage • Hill Cottage • Thurlby Hall and associated outbuildings <p>However, LCC maintains that for a limited number of designated assets, the ES may understate the effect of the development on their significance through change to setting. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Close Scheduled Monument, where LCC considers that the assessment does not fully reflect the contribution made by the surrounding landscape, including River Witham corridor and associated medieval features to the SM's significance and experiential qualities. • Morton Manor and Morton Grange (Grade II), where LCC considers that 	<p>. Regarding Morton Manor and Morton Grange, the detailed settings assessment considered, and detailed, elements of the assets' setting which contribute to their significance, which includes elements such as views of the buildings from Morton Lane and the wider rural landscape, highlighting those which contribute to the heritage significance of those assets, including the visibility of the Principal Site in those views. This assessment subsequently informed the assessment of impacts of the Proposed Development upon those assets, also presented within Appendix 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment of the ES [APP-127], concluding that with the proposed mitigation measures, the appreciation and understanding of the special interest of the Listed Buildings would not be affected (resulting in no harm).</p> <p>Regarding Hall Close Scheduled Monument, an appropriate understanding of the significance of the asset and contribution made by setting to that significance is presented in Appendix 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>the assessment understates the effect of change to their wider rural setting and landscape context.</p> <p>LCC notes that design evolution has introduced increased setbacks and areas of retained land around certain heritage assets (i.e. for permanent grassland or biodiversity mitigation). These areas contribute positively to the setting of heritage assets. The extent to which such areas remain free from development for the duration of the scheme is material to the assessment of effects in the ES.</p>	<p>Assessment of the ES [APP-127]. It is also highlighted that the sensitivities associated with this asset have informed the layout of the Proposed Development (including the removal of panels from areas immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Monument). The detailed assessment concluded that the Proposed Development will not obscure or impact on the appreciation, understanding or experience of the Scheduled Monument and whilst the solar panels will introduce change to one part of the asset’s surroundings, this change will in no way harm its historic, aesthetic and evidential values, or the understanding and appreciation of these values. Consequently, it was concluded that there would be no harm to the significance of this asset and Historic England in their Relevant Representations did not raise any concerns with regard to the Hall Close Scheduled Monument.</p>	
4.4B.7	Assessment of the Impacts of the Proposed Development on the Cultural	LCC notes the applicant's assessment, including Tonge’s farm and has no further comments. We acknowledge that the embedded mitigation, including setbacks	Noted.	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	Heritage Value of Tonge's Farm	and retention of intervening land reduced the degree of impact.		
4.4B.8	Assessment of the Impacts of the Proposed Development on the Cultural Heritage Value of Somerton Castle	LCC confirms it has no further concerns in relation to Somerton Castle, having regard to the applicant's assessment and consultation with Historic England.	Noted.	Agreed

4.5 Ecology and Nature Conservation

Table 4-5 Ecology and Nature Conservation

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.5.1	Applicable Ecology and Nature Conservation Legislation and Relevant Ecology and Nature Conservation Policy	LCC agrees that applicable ecology and nature conservation legislation and relevant ecology and nature conservation policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable ecology and nature conservation legislation and relevant ecology and nature conservation policy.	Agreed
4.5.2	Ecology and Nature Conservation Methodology adopted for the Environmental Statement	LCC is currently reviewing draft documents provided by the Applicant on 09/03/2026.	The Applicant considers that the methodology adopted within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] is acceptable.	Under Discussion
4.5.3	Ecology and Nature Conservation Baseline	LCC notes the Applicant's comments and now considers this matter Agreed.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions, including surveys. Section 5.3 of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-155] defines how veteran and ancient trees have been classified, as follows; "the classification of such trees is relatively subjective with no universally	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>accepted criteria to determine status. Various attributes are associated with veteran trees including extensive decay or hollowing, crown retrenchment, large girth, fungi, dead wood etc. For the purposes of this assessment, the Applicant considers ancient trees to be individuals beyond maturity that are “aged” in comparison with other trees of the same species (intraspecies). Veteran trees are considered those with a mature stem diameter, showing extensive decay or deadwood habitat features, they may feature fungal fruiting bodies or other associated organisms, often with a good development of functional units. Veteran trees are generally considered to be ‘survivors’. Both ancient and veteran tree features are considered to be irreplaceable habitats under planning policy”. Data for all veteran trees has been reviewed by a VETCert accredited consultant. A meeting has been held with the NKDC Tree Officer (24 February 26) to discuss veteran trees classification and the Officer is satisfied with the Applicant’s approach.</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.5.4	Results of Ecology and Nature Conservation Assessments in relation to the Proposed Development	LCC notes the Applicant's comments and now considers this matter Agreed.	The assessment results set out within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] , including likely significant effects anticipated, are acceptable.	Agreed
4.5.5	Ecology and Nature Conservation Mitigation and Habitat Creation	LCC notes the Applicant's comments and now considers this matter Agreed.	<p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] and are considered acceptable.</p> <p>As described in the Framework LEMP [REP2-021] over 16km of additional native hedgerows will be planted as part of the Proposed Development, this will provide opportunities for invertebrates, including butterflies. To benefit the White-letter hairstreak butterfly, the proposed hedgerow mix includes Elm (<i>Ulmus</i> 'Wingham'), which is a fast-growing, highly resistant hybrid elm cultivar specifically developed to replace the English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>) lost to Dutch Elm Disease. It possesses strong, demonstrated resistance to the fungus, making it a reliable choice for conservation and landscaping.</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>A programme of post-construction monitoring has been provided in Section 7 of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028]. This will be formalised, agreed and included within the detailed LEMP and includes pre-construction surveys and post-construction surveys for bats in years 1, 3, 5, 10 and 15 post-construction and thereafter every ten years from years 20 to 60.</p>	
4.5.6	Framework Management Plans	Agrees with the proposed measures contained within the framework management plans	<p>The measures secured within Section 3.4 of the Framework CEMP [REP3-016], Section 3.4 of the Framework Operational OEMP [REP3-018], and Section 3.4 of the Framework DEMP [REP3-020] are considered acceptable. The provision of a detailed CEMP, a detailed OEMP, and a detailed DEMP, to be substantially in accordance with the respective frameworks, is secured under Requirements 12 (Construction environmental management plan), 13 (Operational environmental management plan) and 20 (Decommissioning) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004].</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.5.7	BNG Commitments Secured within the draft DCO	LCC welcomes the Applicant's commitment to delivering BNG and considers that this will need to be secured in the DCO. The Applicant will also need to demonstrate that the commitments made to delivering BNG are achievable via the final LEMP.	The Applicant's commitment to the delivery of biodiversity net gain (BNG) is outlined in the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). The provision of a detailed LEMP, which is to be substantially in accordance with the framework, is secured under Requirement 8 (Landscape and ecological management plan) of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] . This Requirement provides that the detailed LEMP is to be submitted to the relevant LPA for approval and the detailed LEMP must be implemented as approved.	Agreed
4.5.8	Habitats Regulations Assessment and Potential Impacts from the Proposed Development on statutory and non-statutory designated sites	The Applicant has undertaken desk studies and a search of information held by Lincolnshire Ecological Records Centre to identify important ecological sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. There are no internationally important sites designated for biodiversity within 10km of the Proposed Development and two nationally important sites designated for biodiversity within 5km of the Order Limits. The location of these sites is shown in	The Applicant notes that LCC are satisfied with the assessment provided in both Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] and the Habitats Regulation Assessment [APP-181] . These assessments conclude that there will be no adverse effects on any statutory sites designated for biodiversity importance or their features, nor on any non-statutory sites designated for biodiversity importance with the	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>Figure 8-1 Sites Statutorily Designated for Biodiversity Value AS-042.</p> <p>A Habitats Regulation Assessment [APP-181] has been prepared which concludes that there will be no adverse effects on any designated sites or their features. LCC has no reason to disagree with this conclusion; however, the Examining Authority (and the Secretary of State in deciding the DCO Application) will need to satisfy itself that sufficient information has been submitted by the Applicant to enable this conclusion to be reached.</p> <p>There are 29 non-statutory sites designated for biodiversity importance either within the Order Limits or within 2km of them. The locations of these non-statutory sites are set out in Figure 8-2 Sites non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity value AS-043. When proposed mitigation measures are taken into account, no significant effects on these designated biodiversity sites are predicted.</p>	<p>implementation of the proposed mitigation measures.</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.5.9	Approach to BNG for the Proposed Development	<p>LCC considers that changes are required to elements of the baseline biodiversity calculations specifically in relation to the assessment of Strategic Significance. Strategic Significance has not been applied in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guide. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guide states that where Local Authorities have identified criteria for assessing strategic significance, the medium strategic significance category (Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy) in the metric should not be used. Given that North Kesteven District Council has identified criteria (Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping) for assessing Strategic Significance, the metric should be updated to reflect this, with areas previously assigned medium strategic significance being assessed as either significant or not. This will affect the baseline biodiversity value calculations.</p> <p>In addition to the above LCC has requested additional information on the following in the Local Impact Report:</p>	<p>The approach assigning Strategic Significance does not follow the guidance outlined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. These methods of assigning Strategic Significance only apply when there is a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for that area. As none exists yet, methodology outlined in Table 8 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide has been used in Biodiversity Net Gain Report [REP3-024]. Section 3.1.4. of the Biodiversity Net Gain Report [REP3-024] outlines the methodology used, which is further justified in Appendix E. This methodology was approved by North Kesteven District Council in their response to ENC.1.26 of their response to the Examination Authority's First Written Questions [REP2-045].</p> <p>The Applicant met with LCC on 22 January 2026 and issued an updated Biodiversity Net Gain Report on 09 March 2026 to provide further clarification on new points raised by LCC here. This revised Biodiversity Net Gain report [REP3-024]</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on assumption of ‘good’ habitat condition where access for survey was not available. • Confirmation that the habitat baseline reflects habitat condition prior to any degradation since January 2020. • Clarification of the implication of using either fixed or tracker panels. <p>LCC is currently reviewing draft documents provided by the Applicant on 09/03/2026.</p> <p>In relation to the assessment of Strategic Significance, Table 8 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide states that Medium strategic significance “... can be applied when the LPA has not identified a suitable document for assessing strategic significance.” In the absence of a published LNRS, North Kesteven District Council has identified the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping as a suitable document and therefore the Medium strategic significance category should no longer be used. Habitats should therefore only be assigned to either High or Low strategic significance.</p>	<p>was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3.</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.5.10	Habitat parcels in the BNG Report	<p>The Applicant should review the areas assigned to habitat parcels in the metric as a number of these have been assigned an area of 0ha. If a habitat parcel is included with the Order Limits, it should be assigned an accurate area in the metric and included in the calculations.</p> <p>LCC is currently reviewing draft documents provided by the Applicant on 09/03/2026.</p>	<p>For the Proposed Development, in line with UKHab survey methodology (Ref 2), any distinct habitat area below the minimum mapping unit was not to be included within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric associated with the Biodiversity Net Gain Report [REP3-024] and have therefore been allocated a 0ha size measurement.</p>	Under discussion
4.5.11	BNG Trading Rules	<p>LCC notes that the Trading Rules in the metric are not currently met. This is due to the loss of 'Lakes – Reservoirs', 'Heathland and shrub – Mixed scrub' and 'Cropland – Arable field margins' habitats, which have not been directly mitigated for by the Proposed Development. LCC advises that the Applicant should seek to meet the trading rules by creating additional areas of high distinctiveness habitat.</p> <p>LCC is currently reviewing draft documents provided by the Applicant on 09/03/2026. However, LCC notes the Applicant's comments in relation to meeting the</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook a review of the classification of 'arable field margins' against the Priority Habitat description and where appropriate re-defined the definition. This resulted in a reduced area of arable field margin habitat.</p> <p>To offset the residual loss of arable field margins and the small area of mixed shrub the Applicant has done the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partly offset this with the creation of a higher distinctiveness habitat - Traditional Orchard Committed to the annual creation of arable field margins within the areas of retained arable within the Order limits. 	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		Trading Rules and remains of the opinion that the Trading Rules should be met.	<p>These are set out in the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan an updated version of which was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3.</p> <p>The metric still reports a loss of 'Lake-Reservoir', as a worst-case, however, efforts to avoid any loss of this poor biodiversity value agricultural reservoir will be considered during detailed design, post-development.</p> <p>As this is a DCO Application, and therefore not subject to mandatory BNG legislation, satisfaction of the Trading Rules is not required. However, as described in Paragraphs 3.3.2 - 3.3.4 of the updated Biodiversity Net Gain Report [REP3-024] it is considered that either the impact to these habitats will be avoided at detailed design stage or sufficient alternatives have been provided.</p>	
4.5.12	Detailed design of new habitats to be established within	[Position at PMIE - LCC would welcome the opportunity to provide further input to the detailed design of new habitats to be	Full details of habitat creation, management and monitoring for the lifetime of the Proposed Development are set out in the Framework LEMP [REP3-	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	the Proposed Development	established on site at the appropriate stage].	028] . The locations of proposed ecological mitigation and enhancement measures are illustrated on the Framework Landscape Masterplan in Annex A of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028] . LCC will be a consultee for the discharge of requirements related to the preparation of a detailed CEMP and LEMP.	
4.5.13	Cumulative effects	LCC notes the Applicant’s comments and now considers this matter Agreed.	Section 5.3 of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-155] defines how veteran and ancient trees have been classified, as follows; “the classification of such trees is relatively subjective with no universally accepted criteria to determine status. Various attributes are associated with veteran trees including extensive decay or hollowing, crown retrenchment, large girth, fungi, dead wood etc. For the purposes of this assessment, the Applicant considers ancient trees to be individuals beyond maturity that are “aged” in comparison with other trees of the same species (intraspecies). Veteran trees are considered those with a mature stem diameter, showing extensive decay or deadwood habitat features, they may feature fungal fruiting bodies or other	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>associated organisms, often with a good development of functional units. Veteran trees are generally considered to be ‘survivors’. Both ancient and veteran tree features are considered to be irreplaceable habitats under planning policy”. Data for all veteran trees has been reviewed by a VETCert accredited consultant. A meeting has been held with the NKDC Tree Officer (24 February 26) to discuss veteran trees classification on this project and the Officer is satisfied with the Applicant’s approach.</p>	
4.5.14	Ecological Steering Group	<p>LCC agrees with the Applicant’s comments in relation to the role of the Ecological Advisory Group. LCC considers that a draft Terms of Reference including the funding mechanism to cover Officer time attending meetings of the group should be included in the FLEMP. LCC provided the Applicant with a suggested Terms of Reference on 27/02/2026.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the Council's suggestion of setting up an Ecological Steering Group, which was also raised in its relevant representation (RR) [RR-210]. As noted in the Applicant’s responses to RRs [REP1-047], the Framework LEMP [REP3-028] already includes wording on the monitoring provisions.</p> <p>The purpose of the “Ecological Advisory Group or similar” referenced at paragraph 7.1.9 of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028] is to oversee the post-construction</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>ecological monitoring works, with the key function of the Group comprising review of monitoring data on habitats and species to inform future management plans (as necessary).</p> <p>As noted at paragraph 1.3.7 of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028]: “Any long-term biodiversity monitoring and management requirements specified in this document will be carried out by the Applicant and/or a Contractor appointed by the Applicant”. As such, the Ecological Advisory Group (or similar) will comprise the Applicant or Operations Contractor, Environmental Manager (as defined in the Framework OEMP [REP3-018] – ref. paragraph 6.1.2, 6.1.3 and 6.2.1), a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist, and if relevant to the Proposed Development any research institution(s) carrying out ecological studies onsite during operation.</p> <p>As set out at paragraph 7.1.11 of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028], results from the post-construction monitoring will feed into the detailed management plan</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>and, if required, management proposals may be amended accordingly based on this monitoring (for example, replacement planting and/or changes to planting species where planting has failed to establish). As noted in paragraph 7.1.7 of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028] “A <i>post-construction monitoring programme will be formalised, agreed and included within the detailed LEMP. Walkover surveys of the DCO Site will be undertaken between April and June in years 2, 4, 6, 10 and then every 5 years post-construction until year 60. This monitoring will also be used for the purposes of BNG Condition Assessments that requires a 30-year management plan</i>”. Paragraph 7.1.9 of the Framework LEMP [REP3-028], the monitoring reports for surveys during operation will be sent to the host authorities and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for their information, along with a summary of any changes to management proposed. Any material changes proposed to the approved detailed LEMP management proposals, in response to the findings of post-construction monitoring, will be sent to the host authorities for their</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>review and approval prior to their implementation. The Applicant considers that the aforementioned Ecological Advisory Group (or similar) to be the same as the suggested Ecological Steering Group and would fulfil the same role.</p> <p>The Framework LEMP [REP3-028] has been updated (submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3) to clarify the purpose and function of the Ecological Advisory Group (or similar) and the composition of the Group, as outlined above.</p>	

4.6 Water Environment

Table 4-6 Water Environment

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.6.1	Applicable Water Environment Legislation and Relevant Water Environment Policy	LCC agrees that applicable water environment legislation and relevant water environment policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [REP1-021] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable water environment legislation and relevant water environment policy.	Agreed
Methodology				
4.6.2	Water Environment Methodology adopted for the Environmental Assessment	LCC agrees with the methodology adopted within Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [APP-034].	The methodology adopted in Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [REP1-021] is considered acceptable.	Agreed
Baseline				
4.6.3	Water Environment Baseline utilised for the Environmental Assessment	LCC agrees that the detailed baseline conditions are representative of the DCO Site conditions.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [REP1-021] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions.	Agreed
Assessment Results				

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.6.4	Results of the Water Environment Assessment in relation to the Proposed Development	LCC considers the Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 9-C: Flood Risk Assessment of the ES [APP-146]) and Appendix 9-D: Framework Surface Water Drainage Strategy of the ES [APP-147] provide suitable assessment at this stage of the surface water flood risk and how it will be mitigated by the Proposed Development. The details of the measures can be approved at the detailed design stage. LCC would expect these mitigation measures to be secured within the draft DCO.	<p>The assessment results set out within Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [REP1-021], including likely significant effects anticipated, are acceptable.</p> <p>The provision of a detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy, to be substantially in accordance with the Appendix 9-D Framework Surface Water Drainage Strategy [REP3-014] is secured under Requirement 10 (Surface and foul water drainage) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004]. This Requirement also secures that the detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority and implemented as approved.</p> <p>Requirement 6 (Detailed design approval) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] requires the detailed design of the Proposed Development to be submitted for approval and to accord with, inter alia, any details approved under Requirement 10 (Surface and foul water drainage).</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
Mitigation and Management Plans				
4.6.5	Water Environment Mitigation and Framework Management Plans	LCC broadly agrees with the proposed mitigation measures. However, LCC note that there are a small number of areas within the proposed Order Limits where fields that are proposed to house solar panels intersect with Flood Zones 2 and 3 (fields 45, 54 and 57). Whilst LCC do not disagree with the technical assessment that the applicant has undertaken with regard to fluvial flood risk and solar PV panels, we note that as part of the discussions around flood risk for the adjoining Springwell Solar Farm NSIP, the ExA is seeking the removal of areas of panels that intersect with areas of higher flood risk.	<p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [REP1-021] and are considered acceptable.</p> <p>The measures set out in Section 3.2 of the Framework CEMP [REP3-016], Section 3.2 of the Framework OEMP [REP3-018], and Section 3.5 of the Framework DEMP [REP3-020]. The provision of a detailed CEMP, a detailed OEMP, and a detailed DEMP, to be substantially in accordance with the respective frameworks, is secured under Requirements 12 (Construction environmental management plan), 13 (Operational environmental management plan) and 20 (Decommissioning) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004].</p> <p>Paragraph 6.3.71 of the Planning Statement [AS-098] explains that there are areas where Solar PV panels are located within Flood Zone 2 and the climate change extents of Flood Zone 3a. While there are areas of lower flood risk within</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
			<p>the Principal Site, the need to balance areas for solar generation with the provision of environmental mitigation, such as the provision of land for bird mitigation in a dispersed nature in order not to create flocking, and the need to retain intervisibility between heritage assets has resulted in the need for a solar PV panels to be located within areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3a, and there being no reasonably available locations within the site itself. This is required in order for the Proposed Development to maximise the delivery of low carbon renewable energy. The sequential test is therefore considered passed for the Principal Site due to flood risk from any source to be low following the embedded mitigation.</p>	

4.7 Landscape and Visual Amenity

Table 4-7 Landscape and Visual Amenity

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.7.1	Applicable Landscape and Visual Amenity Legislation and Relevant Landscape and Visual Amenity Policy	LCC agrees that applicable landscape and visual amenity legislation and relevant landscape and visual amenity policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable landscape and visual amenity legislation and relevant landscape and visual amenity policy.	Agreed
Methodology				
4.7.2	Methodology adopted for Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment	LCC agrees with the methodology adopted within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [APP-035] .	The methodology adopted within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] is considered acceptable.	Agreed
Baseline				
4.7.3	Landscape and Visual Amenity Baseline	LCC agrees that the detailed baseline conditions are representative of the DCO Site conditions.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions.	Agreed
Assessment Results				

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.7.4	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Results	<p>It is agreed that significant residual landscape effects would largely arise from landscape character areas directly affected (where the Proposed Development is located within these areas).</p> <p>It is also agreed that a number of sensitive visual receptors will continue to experience Significant adverse effects at year 15 and we consider the applicant's judgement of Moderate to Major Adverse and Significant effects at year 15 for these receptors to be appropriate.</p> <p>These will include recreational users of PRow TOTH/7/2, TOTH/21/1, TOTH/6/2 and TOTH/6/3 which traverse the Principal Site. It is noted that development offsets help to mitigate visual effects in some places but for these specific receptors it is acknowledged that at operation the views will change from long distance and open, to short distance and channelled by new landscape mitigation planting and therefore a Major adverse effect is reported at Year 1 and at Year 15 (winter).</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that the level of effects reported within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] accurate.</p> <p>Both parties also agree that the RVAA threshold has not been reached.</p> <p>In response to the matters where agreement has not been reached between the Applicant and NKDC, the Applicant notes the following:</p> <p>LCT 4a: Unwooded Vales was judged to experience non-significant levels of effect, despite direct impacts, because the scale and extent of the changes will affect a small geographic extent of a much larger regional LCT. As such, there will only be subtle iteration to the landscape character.</p> <p>In the case of Sub-area 6: Lincoln Cliff, this was judged as Minor adverse during construction but then no effect at Year 1 and Year 15 because of the associated cabling works being buried and no physical</p>	Not Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>Within the cable corridor, it is agreed that by year 15 landscape receptors subject only to temporary and/or indirect effects, where works are below ground and land is reinstated, would not experience significant residual landscape effects, subject to the retention and protection of existing vegetation.</p> <p>Within the cable corridor, it is agreed that the number of visual receptors experiencing Significant adverse effects would reduce between Year 1 and Year 15, primarily due to the completion of underground cable works and the establishment of mitigation planting</p> <p>Overall, LCC agree with many of the Applicant's judgements on landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development as reported in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117].</p> <p>However, LCC judge that the level of effects reported for the following landscape receptors would be moderate and</p>	<p>infrastructure remaining above ground. This is in line with the agreed position with NKDC that by year 15 landscape receptors subject only to temporary and/or indirect effects, where works are below ground and land is reinstated, would not experience significant residual landscape effects, subject to the retention and protection of existing vegetation.</p> <p>Sub-area 2: Terrace Sandlands and Sub-area 5: Witham and Brant Vales was judged to experience non-significant levels of effect at Year 15 of operation, due to the establishment and maturation of the proposed landscape mitigation, providing an increased density of planting in both sub-areas, such that perceived changes will be limited to the Order Limits and its immediate setting. In the context of these sub-areas, this will amount to a small geographic extent and therefore only a subtle alteration to the landscape character.</p> <p>With regard to Stepping out walks generally, the scope of visual receptors</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>significant at year 15 due to changes in perceived openness and rural qualities, and potential enclosure where currently absent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCT 4a: Unwooded Vales • Sub area 6: Lincoln Cliff • Sub-area 2: Terrace Sandlands • Sub-area 5: Witham and Brant Vales <p>LCC also judge that the significance of the following visual receptors would be moderate and significant at year 15 due to the presence of solar PV arrays and/or the embedded landscape mitigation planting in views:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational users of PRow TOTH/6/1 and TOTH/6A/1 • Residents of Housham Wood Farm • Residents of Church Farm and Low Barn • Stepping out walks 	<p>and representative viewpoints were reviewed and agreed by AAH Consultants on behalf of North Kesteven District Council within Landscape Technical Memo 3 (November 2024). This included recreational users of PRow TOTH/6/1 and TOTH/6A/1, as well as recreational users of TOTH/7/2, TOTH/21/1, TOTH/6/2 and TOTH/6/3 which form part of the Stepping Out Network. The level of effects on recreational users of TOTH/7/2, TOTH/21/1, TOTH/6/2 and TOTH/6/3 are agreed with NKDC.</p> <p>Recreational users of PRow TOTH/6/1 and TOTH/6A/1 were judged to experience non-significant levels of effect at Year 15 of operation due to the filtering and screening in views provided by the established and mature landscape mitigation planting, and reduced visibility of the proposed solar PV arrays as a result.</p> <p>Residents of Housham Wood Farm were judged to experience non-significant levels of effect at Year 15 of operation due to the establishment and maturation of the</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>proposed landscape mitigation contributing to existing vegetation in the curtilage of the house and middle ground of views to provide heavy filtering of the solar PV further beyond.</p> <p>Residents of Church Farm and Low Barn were judged to experience non-significant levels of effect at Year 15 of operation due to the establishment and maturation of the proposed landscape mitigation providing heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to the west and screening in distant views to the south. Views to the east will be filtered by existing vegetation whilst views to the north will be unchanged.</p>	
Mitigation and Management Plans				
4.7.5	Establishment and the On-going Management of Planting	It is agreed that the most recent revision of the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP3-028] provides improved detail on how the proposed planting will be established and how mitigation planting will be protected across the lifespan of development.	The Framework LEMP [REP2-021] sets out how the habitats will be monitored at Section 7, in line with the proposed management measures set out in Section 5, to ensure correct establishment and growth is achieved, and remedial action (such as re-seeding if establishment fails) would be taken as necessary to ensure the implementation of planting is successful	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			and planting remains throughout the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development.	
4.7.6	Zone of Theoretical Visibility	It is agreed that the ZTV methodology and presentation is appropriate and sufficient to support the Applicant's judgements on the LVIA study area alongside other evidence provided within Appendix 10-G LVIA Study Area Analysis of the ES [APP-154] .	The ZTVs [AS-058 and AS-059] were updated in response to comments raised by LCC about their presentation, and are now agreed to be appropriate.	Agreed
4.7.7	Offsets from components of the Proposed Development	LCC agrees that a bespoke approach to offsets from different features is appropriate.	The Applicant considers that the offsets used in the design of the Proposed Development are appropriate. The design parameters, including offsets from different features, are detailed in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development [REP1-015] and the assumptions on which the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is based are detailed at Section 10.4 of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] . Appendix A to the Design Approach Document [APP-186] also acknowledges that the proposed offsets are minimum distances rather than a blanket approach	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.7.8	Detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	It is agreed that the provision for securing a detailed LEMP substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP via Requirement 8 of the draft DCO [REP2-005] is sufficient, and the reservations in the Framework LEMP for some details to be provided post-consent are appropriate.	The provision of a detailed LEMP, which is to be substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP [REP2-021] , is secured under Requirement 8 (Landscape and ecological management plan) of the draft DCO [REP2-005] . Requirement 8 (Landscape and ecological management plan) also provides that the detailed LEMP is to be approved by the relevant Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of the Proposed Development. LCC will be a consultee for the discharge of Requirement 8 related to the preparation of a detailed LEMP.	Agreed
4.7.9	The provision of grazing within the Principal Site of the Proposed Development	It is agreed that the provisions for grazing within the Framework LEMP [REP2-021] are appropriate at this stage, and that the provision for securing a detailed LEMP substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP via Requirement 8 of the draft DCO [REP2-005] is sufficient.	Paragraph 5.3.51 of the Framework LEMP [REP2-021] outlines states that grassland within the solar PV areas will be managed by mowing and/or commercial sheep grazing.	Agreed
4.7.10	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts	LCC generally agree with the methodology used by the applicant to assess cumulative effects and welcome the Applicant's inclusion of four other solar DCO projects beyond the 2km Zol namely Springwell	The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual effects is consistent with PINS Guidance on Cumulative Effects and follows a proportionate methodology as outlined in GLVIA3. In Landscape	Not agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>Energy Farm, Great North Road Solar, One Earth Solar Farm and Leoda Solar Farm.</p> <p>LCC also agree that it is appropriate and best practice to consider schemes that have not yet commenced construction as part of the cumulative assessment..</p> <p>However, LCC disagree with the Applicant's conclusions on the cumulative assessment and judge that there may be significant cumulative landscape effects on regional landscape character areas and significant sequential cumulative visual effects on people travelling across the wider landscape as a result of other NSIPs in the area.</p>	<p>Technical Memo 3 (November 2024) contained at Appendix A of LCC's LIR [REP1-053] AAH supported this approach.</p> <p>The cumulative assessment contained in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] primarily focus on the cumulative schemes within the 2km Zone of Influence (Zol), as this was judged to be the geographic area across which landscape and visual effects were most likely to occur, although the nearest NSIP scale solar schemes beyond 2km were also scoped in given their similar scale and typology to the Proposed Development. This is noted in at Appendix A of LCC's LIR [REP1-053] within AAH's Landscape and Visual Review (November 2025) as an appropriate approach (ref. paragraph 6.2). Furthermore, negligible residual effects noted within the standalone assessment of the Proposed Development were excluded from the cumulative assessment as, by virtue of their definition, they are considered to be imperceptible and are unlikely to lead to a significant in-combination effect.</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>In response to the matters where agreement has not been reached between the Applicant and LCC, the Applicant notes the following</p> <p>As set out in the detailed assessment of landscape effects provided at Appendix 10-E: Landscape Assessment of the ES [APP-152], no regional landscape character areas were identified as likely to experience more than negligible residual effects due to the anticipated scale of changes being perceived over a very small geographic extent in relation to the regional character areas or not being perceived at all and were therefore not considered further as part of the cumulative assessment.</p>	

4.8 Socio Economics and Land Use

Table 4-8 Socio Economics and Land Use

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.8.1	Applicable Socio-Economic and Land Use Legislation and Relevant Socio-Economic and Land Use Policy	LCC agrees that applicable socio-economic and land use legislation and relevant socio-economic and land use policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 12: Socio Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable socio-economic and land use legislation and relevant socio-economic and land use policy.	Agreed
Methodology				
4.8.2	Agricultural Land Classification Survey – Grid Connection Corridor	Loss of any BMV land within Lincolnshire is of concern to the Council. Baseline assessment should include the grid connection corridor as well as Principal Site. Important to inform restoration of soils. Pending results from the detailed ALC survey, LCC will review position in terms of how ALC grading results impact decision on cable routing alignment and the measure of ‘significance’ of effects based on IEMA guidance (also referred to at section 3.10.5 below). According to IEMA, Receptor Sensitivity of Grade 3a land is ‘High’ (Table 2 of Guidance);	An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey of the Cable Corridor has not been undertaken at this stage given the need to maintain flexibility in the Cable Corridor (due to the planning application submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the Brant Battery Energy Storage System (Reference Ref: 25/0533/FUL) and existing overhead lines). If any best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land is detected, it may not be able to be avoided. However, it should be noted that when applying the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>Magnitude of Impact (Change) is 'Minor' (Table 3 of IEMA Guidance). Combining these in the Significance matrix (Table 5, IEMA guidance) gives a 'Slight or Moderate' result. Table 6 (Significance Categories and Typical Description) states that effects in the 'Moderate' significant category can be considered material in the decision-making process. Under the applicant's own 'Impact Assessment and Significance' table (Table 12-14 of Chapter 12 [AS-016]), this combination of low (or Minor) magnitude and High sensitivity results in 'Moderate' impacts, which are classed as 'Significant' (reference paragraph 12.4.49)</p>	<p>significance criteria, the presence of BMV land in the Cable Corridor would not constitute a significant effect. Therefore, it is not deemed essential to undertake this survey at this stage as it would not change the significance of effect or the location of the proposed infrastructure. This position has been discussed with Natural England in a meeting held on 20 February 2025. This approach aligns with other, consented solar NSIPs.</p>	
Assessment Results				
4.8.3	Impact on visitor economy as a result of the Proposed Development	Concerns for visual degradation of countryside resulting in an impact on visitor economy.	Impacts on the amenity of visitor attractions have been assessed in Section 12.7 of Chapter 12: Socio Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016]. The villages of Coleby, Bassingham, Navenby and Aourn have been identified as having visitor and recreational attractions. Section 12.5 identifies the size of the visitor economy and recognises that the villages	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>of Coleby, Bassingham, Navenby and Aubourn contain visitor and recreational attractions, and that there is also a network of PRowS in the surrounding area which may be used by visitors. With due consideration given to other assessment findings set out in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [AS-117], Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [APP-036], Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [APP-038] and Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics (Section 14.2: Air Quality) [APP-039] as appropriate, the assessment in Section 12.7 concludes that overall the impact of the Proposed Development on tourism/recreation receptors is not significant during the construction/ decommissioning and operational phases. In respect of views from/for these receptors specifically, a Framework LEMP [REP3-028] has been prepared to accompany the DCO application to provide visual mitigation.</p>	
4.8.4	Impacts on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land	LCC consider that the potential impacts on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land in respect of the Proposed Development and cumulatively with other	Section 12-10 within Chapter 12: Socio Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016] sets out the amount of BMV land in Lincolnshire. As set out in Chapter 12:	Not Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) that are emerging/known about in Lincolnshire are of concern. LCC will seek to protect high quality agricultural land in Lincolnshire (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) from development in accordance with its Energy Infrastructure Position Statement adopted 5 December 2023.</p> <p>As stated at 4.8.2 above, LCC considers the effects of the impact on 3a land, using the IEMA guidance, to be a Significant Effect. Notwithstanding the applicant's reference to 'temporary' effects, the removal of 282.9 ha of grade 3a BMV land for a significantly extended period of time (60 years) from productive agricultural use warrants serious consideration in the overall assessment of impacts, particularly when viewed in cumulative terms with other solar developments across Lincolnshire. The effect at County level described in the application as 'not significant' is also questioned in view of the query of derivation of significance based on IEMA guidance described in 4.8.2 above.</p>	<p>Socio-Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016] (ref. paragraph 12.7.44), the only areas of agricultural land considered to be permanently lost due to the Proposed Development are areas of planting and habitat creation introduced as part of the Proposed Development. The land within the Cable Corridor (outside of the Principal Site) will be returned to previous land use upon completion of the construction phase of the Proposed Development, and all infrastructure within the Principal Site will be removed upon decommissioning in line with the mitigation secured via the Framework DEMP [REP3-020] and Framework Soil Management Plan (SMP) [REP3-022]. The provision of a detailed DEMP and a detailed SMP, to be substantially in accordance with the respective frameworks, is secured under Requirements 20 (Decommissioning) and 15 (Soil management plan) of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] respectively. The extent of the areas considered as permanently lost are based upon the current landscaping designs presented in the Landscape Mitigation Plan, which forms Appendix A of the</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>Framework LEMP [REP3-028], whereby planting and habitat creation amount to a total use of 4.6ha of agricultural land, of which 1.5ha is BMV land (Subgrade 3a).</p> <p>The Applicant has sought to avoid the use of BMV land and minimise impacts on BMV land (and ongoing agricultural operations). BMV agricultural land has been taken into account in the sensitive design of the Proposed Development, in order to minimise the impact on BMV land and agricultural operations. The Design Approach Document [APP-186] explains the design vision and principles that were developed at an early stage to provide a framework for design evolution which included the consideration of BMV land in the site selection process. Design Principle 2 as detailed in Section 3.9 of the Design Approach Document [APP-186], relates to being sensitive to existing agricultural land and reducing development on BMV land.</p>	
4.8.5	Economic impacts on crop production in Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire has the largest combinable crop output of any UK county, with about 12% of England's arable crop area. Its	The total land area required for the Proposed Development represents approximately 0.09% (1,018.7ha) of the	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>combination of climate, soil type and topography make the county ideal for a variety of crops with 437,591 ha of land given over to agriculture and horticulture in Lincolnshire, and producing by value circa 10% percent of England’s cereal, 25% of vegetables and 14% of industrial crops (sugar beet, oil seed rape and protein crops). This has led to the area having the UK’s leading concentration of fresh produce processors, traders and technology suppliers. This high level of production is vital to the county’s economy, with a total crop output of over £1,564 million and a total livestock output of £555 million in 2023. To preserve fresh produce and minimise supply chain distance, highly productive food hubs have built up in the south of the county. The importance of this sector for the local economy is reflected in the number of jobs it generates with an agricultural workforce of 12,000. Across the County, based on above total crop output values above, it is estimated that cumulatively (taking account of existing and potential NSIP and TCPA solar schemes) potential loss of crop income could be in the region of £50 million</p>	<p>total farmland within the East Midlands and therefore constitutes a very small proportion of the regional agricultural resource.</p> <p>Furthermore, approximately 50% of the land within the proposed Principal Site is currently used for the cultivation of non-food crops. Of this, the majority (approximately 81%) is grown for use as fuels for carbon-intensive energy sources, rather than for direct human or animal consumption.</p> <p>While the land is agricultural in character, its current use does not solely support food production. The Proposed Development would therefore result in a limited and proportionate change in land use, set against the wider regional context and the Proposed Development’s contribution to cleaner energy generation As set out in Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use of the ES [APP-037], the permanent loss of BMV land as a result of the Proposed Development relates to the permanent loss of 1.5ha of Grade 3a for</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>annually. Understanding the impact that may arise from this development over its 60 year timeframe, as a potential contributor to that overall loss in crop value, would be helpful.</p>	<p>ecological enhancements, which is noted as likely to be beneficial to the soil resource, although it is acknowledged that the magnitude of impact relates to the withdrawal of land from agricultural production, and therefore is established as a minor adverse effect.</p> <p>With regards to consideration of the economic and other benefits of BMV land, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016] has considered this as part of the assessment undertaken, for example with regards to consideration of the existing jobs supported by the agricultural land. As noted in paragraph 12.7.52 of Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016], it has been confirmed by all landowners that there is not expected to be any job losses as a result of the removal of agricultural land. It is expected that when landowners start receiving the rent revenues from the land, there will be additional jobs created on their farms offsite as landowners will be able to diversify their land further with the</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			underlying financial stability of the rental income.	
4.8.6	Agricultural Land Classification Findings for the Proposed Development	<p>The overall Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) findings for the Proposed Development are set out in the ES Chapter 12: Socio Economics and Land Use [AS-016]. Paragraph 12.5.11 identifies that ‘The land is predominantly Subgrade 3b (moderate quality agricultural land) with the remainder BMV land of Subgrade 3a (good quality agricultural land), with some non-agricultural land. No areas of ALC Grade 1 or 2 have been identified within the Principal Site’. Figure 12.5 presents the data from the ALC survey report. Whilst the loss of BMV land used for solar panels is considered ‘temporary’, 60 years is a long period and there is also the potential for land to be permanently lost to habitat and mitigation. LCC would also question whether the calculation of ‘permanent loss’ should be extended to include compounds, access roads, BESS and substation locations etc.</p> <p>Please see LCCs response to deadline 3 – ExQ2, FS.2.02 [REP03-050].</p>	<p>The loss of agricultural production on the land as a result of the Proposed Development would not be permanent. The Applicant is applying for consent for a 60-year operational period for the Proposed Development. Under Requirement 20 (Decommissioning) of the draft DCO [REP2-005], decommissioning works must commence no later than 60 years following the date of final commissioning. At the end of the operational life of the Proposed Development, the land will be available for its current use, although the landowners would choose how the land is to be used and managed.</p> <p>A table detailing land take (and amount of BMV land) for each element of the Proposed Development was provided in Applicant’s Response to Local Impact Reports [REP2-031] (LIR NKDC Ref. 14.20), which included access tracks, centralised BESS compound and solar stations. Furthermore, the Applicant is not aware of other solar NSIPs including areas</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>of built infrastructure (access roads, compounds, BESS, substations) within the calculation of land permanently lost, except where the Applicant is not proposing to decommission these works. There are other schemes where the applicant has left flexibility for leaving new tracks in place in case the landowners would like these retained, or where the applicant does not own the onsite substation and therefore needs to leave this in place following decommissioning. The Applicant is not seeking flexibility to leave any above ground infrastructure in place after completion of the Proposed Development decommissioning stage, and therefore the approach taken in the ES is considered to be robust</p>	
4.8.7	Maximising Benefits from the Proposed Development on Employment and Skills	As the Proposed Development progresses and should it be granted consent, efforts to maximise local employment should be taken. LCC recommend ongoing dialogue with local skills providers, both public and voluntary sector providers. These may include Lincoln College, The Abbey Access Centre, and LCC Employment and Skills team.	The Applicant notes this comment. The Framework Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan (ESSCP) [APP-197] , submitted as part of the Application, would, once implemented in full post-consent, deliver positive outcomes in terms of employment. This includes the Applicant seeking to maximise opportunities for investing in skills locally, local supply chain	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>The Council welcomes the inclusion of a DCO requirement to secure the Framework Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (FSSCEP). In addition the Council would recommend that an annual funding contribution of £50,000 is provided for the lifetime of the development to assist the implementation of the FSSCEP and support the initiatives identified. Please see Section 16 and paragraph 16.8 of the LIR for further details.</p> <p>LCC has set out its views within its response to ExQ2, DL3 and its response to DL2 documents submitted at DL3A</p>	<p>and businesses that can support the construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other solar projects in the area. With specific regard to maximising local employment, the Framework ESSCP [APP-197] identifies the following potential activity theme, 'Theme 2 – Access to Employment', at Section 3.3, which refers to this and proposed engagement with providers as follows:</p> <p><i>“The Applicant would investigate measures to promote take up of jobs generated by the Scheme by local people. The starting point will be engagement with Local Authorities and Job Centre Plus, in order to tap into existing local employment support networks.”</i></p> <p>The Applicant has not been provided with evidence demonstrating that the proposed contribution is necessary to make the Proposed Development acceptable in planning terms. Chapter 12 of the ES concludes that there are no adverse socio-economic effects that require mitigation to</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>be provided. Similarly, no policy requirement has been identified that would necessitate the contribution in order for development consent to be granted.</p> <p>Therefore, the Applicant's view is that the request for a planning obligation does not meet the tests of Regulation 122 of the CIL Regulations 2010. On this basis, and as the delivery and implementation of the detailed ESSC Plan is secured via Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO [REP3A-004], the Applicant does not consider that the s106 contribution sought is justified.</p>	
4.8.8	The impact of the temporary workforce during construction of the Proposed Development	<p>During peak construction, 330 workers are expected to require accommodation near to the Proposed Development. While the impact on tourist accommodation is considered, there appears to be no consideration of impacts from the 'influx of workers'</p> <p>(NPS EN1 paragraph 5.13.4 sixth bullet point). Thus, the applicant ignores change to 'local population dynamics', 'demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work', and</p>	<p>Chapter 12 Socio-economics and Land use of the ES [AS-016] includes an assessment of potential effects on tourist/visitor accommodation, which the Applicant considers to be the principal potential impact arising from an influx of workers during the construction and decommissioning phases. The other considerations highlighted by the Council are not expected to result in adverse significant effects during construction or</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>'social cohesion' (also at paragraph 5.13.4 of EN1). Although there appears to be no consideration of travel arrangements and need for accommodation in decommissioning, there is expected to be the same number of jobs (table 12-23 and 12-28) as in construction so there is similar potential for an influx of workers and related impacts.</p> <p>LCCs concern surrounding this matter is regarding a high temporary population that can be 'disruptive' to the permanent residents of the area. That being said the applicants proposed strategy of utilising accommodation in larger settlements would reduce the impacts that were cause of concern for LCC.</p> <p>Please see cumulative section below for further comments.</p>	<p>decommissioning. The reasons for this for each in-turn are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local population dynamics: the construction period is expected to take 24 months or to be phased over 30 months, with decommissioning being completed over a shorter period of 12 to 24 months. Given the short durations of these periods, no workers would move permanently to the local area such as to have any potential to exert influence on local population dynamics. Demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work: the assessment of impact on tourist accommodation has considered all accommodation within a 60-minute drive time study area from the Order Limits. Accommodation in the immediately surrounding area is typically small in size, reflecting its countryside nature. Whilst worker accommodation and travel arrangements will be the choice of the construction/decommissioning contractor, it is expected that for cost- 	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>efficiency, and to minimise trips and impacts on the road network, larger hotels/accommodation would be used which are typically found closer to the larger centres of population such as Lincoln, Newark-on-Trent and Grantham. The number of workers staying locally would be minimised through this. When on-site, workers would not be able to access primary healthcare facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, with any emergency treatment where needed being provided at the nearest hospital with an Accident and Emergency unit, Lincoln County Hospital. Therefore, no significant effects on service provision such as local primary healthcare would be expected to arise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social cohesion: taking together the overall short-term durations of the construction and decommissioning periods, the likely locations of worker accommodation being within larger centres of population and the minimal impact on demand for services and 	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>facilities expected arising from this, there would be no significant effects on social cohesion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>In respect of impacts on visitor accommodation specifically during decommissioning, no assessment has been undertaken in Chapter 12 Socio-economics and Land-use of the ES [AS-016] due to the limitations of estimating baseline provision of accommodation in the future. The assessment approach taken by the Applicant here is consistent with other consented solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire, including Gate Burton Energy Park DCO and Tillbridge Solar Project DCO, both of which have been granted consent. Notwithstanding this, it is expected that worker requirements would be the same or lower than construction during decommissioning. As there is no evidence to doubt that rates of spare capacity in the market-led hotels/inns/B&Bs accommodation sector would be greatly different to service general demand, the same or a lower level of demand for</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			accommodation would very likely still be met year-round. On this basis it can be considered that there would be no likely significant effect on the visitor accommodation sector during decommissioning.	
4.8.9	Impact on Visitor Economy as a result of visual degradation arising from the Proposed Development	LCC are extremely concerned with the visual degradation of the countryside and the consequential impact on the visitor economy which is worth £2.9bn to Lincolnshire. Visitors come to Lincolnshire for its rurality and unspoilt countryside, our landscape, visitor economy attractions and places of interest. Villages to the east of the DCO Site are situated on the ridge of Jurassic limestone on the Lincoln Cliff Edge overlooking the DCO Site. Within these villages there are visitor attractions (such as Mrs Smith's Cottage www.mrsmithscottage.com in Navenby) that are continually frequented by school parties, residents, visitors, foreign visitors, UK visitors, aviation heritage, historians, cyclists and others. There is also the Knight Templar circular route which encompasses the Temple Bruer Knight Templar Preceptory Tower in Temple	Chapter 12 Socio-economics and Land use of the ES [AS-016] includes an assessment of potential effects on tourism/recreation arising from the Proposed Development comprising consideration of impacts on local accommodation facilities, recreational receptors and visitor attractions. Section 12.5 identifies the size of the visitor economy and recognises that the villages of Coleby, Bassingham, Navenby and Aubourn contain visitor and recreational attractions, and that there is also a network of PRowS in the surrounding area which may be used by visitors. With due consideration given to other assessment findings set out in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-035] , Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [APP-036] , Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [APP-038] and Chapter 14: Other	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>Brewer, RAF Wellingore historical site, the roman settlement remains on Ermine Street Navenby and bustling villages consisting of thriving businesses: traditional bakers, tearooms, cafes, florist, public houses, schools, doctors, community venues and others. These are villages that warmly welcome visitors and will enhance their stay. Walkers will still seek to use the PROW network and do so via the Viking Way (along the Cliff) to explore these beautiful villages. The development of a solar farm close to these village and residents' houses will adversely impact on the visitor economy offer and severely the economic returns of the vibrant high streets. Overall, the proposals are an industrialisation of that countryside and will negatively affect our visitor offer and economic vibrancy and change the visual impact/beauty of these villages.</p>	<p>Environmental Topics (Section 14.2: Air Quality) [APP-039] as appropriate, the assessment in Section 12.7 concludes that overall the impact of the Proposed Development on tourism and recreation receptors is not significant during the construction, operational or decommissioning phases. In respect of views from these receptors specifically, a Framework LEMP [REP3-028] has been prepared to provide visual mitigation. The provision of a detailed LEMP, to be substantially in accordance with the framework, is secured under Requirement 8 (Landscape and ecological management plan) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004].</p> <p>Section 12.7 of Chapter 12 Socio-economics and Land use of the ES [AS-016] also includes an assessment of potential effects on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development. Taking into account the assessment findings presented in the ES Chapters set out above, this assessment concludes that there would be no significant effect on local businesses during the construction,</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			operational or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.	
4.8.10	Need for the Proposed Development to provide Sufficient Community gain	It is felt there would need to be further community gain (e.g., greater access to public open space, play provision, other community asset enhancements and/or a community fund) should the Proposed Development go ahead.	<p>The establishment of a Community Liaison Group (CLG) is secured under Requirement 5 (Community Liaison Group) of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] which requires the CLG to be established prior to the commencement of the Proposed Development. Such a group has already been established by the Applicant and will continue during the detailed design stage, through the construction and the operation of the Proposed Development, to date two meetings have been held by the Community Liaison Group.</p> <p>The Applicant is also proposing a community benefit fund, the intention of which is that this will be delivered in cooperation with local community foundations and North Kesteven District Council to benefit causes chosen by the local community. The community benefit fund delivered alongside the Proposed Development will provide a sum of £400 per megawatt (MW) of export capacity per</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>year. The Applicant is exploring how this could best be managed. The Applicant believes those communities living closest to the Proposed Development are best placed to determine what a community benefit would be, and should be able to benefit from funding towards improvements to existing community facilities, such as village halls and sports facilities, provision of electrical vehicle charging points, subsidised solar PV panels for community use and lower cost energy, grants for broadband and wider improvements, educational visits and wider education/apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>The Proposed Development includes approximately 9.5km of new permissive paths as well as the provision of a 1.8ha new community orchard with open access within the landscaping designs, which can have a quality of life benefit for users through improving access to recreation which is an important determinant of good health and wellbeing.</p>	
4.8.11	Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs)	Minerals Safeguarding Assessment at Appendix 12-C of the ES [APP-162], highlights that the proposed site intersects	Nearby borehole SK86SE60 does not identify any sand and gravel which is consistent with its location being outside of	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>with parts of the MSAs identified in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP) for sand and gravel (particularly along the western fringes of the development between Norton Disney and Swinderby, and within the central section of the proposed DCO Order limits north-east of Bassingham) and for limestone (coinciding with the eastern part of the cable corridor). Applicant relies on the development being of a temporary, albeit long term, reversible nature, enabling the land to be returned to its original use at the end of the development. Applicant considers that prior extraction would be impractical and incompatible with the urgent need to establish the development, which is deemed critical national priority. Also reference borehole information to support view that there are no economically viable deposits of sand and gravel within site boundary. LCC question whether sufficient evidence exists to support that conclusion given density of</p>	<p>areas of sand and gravel deposits as indicated by the geological mapping. However, borehole SK86SE28 does indicate a sand and gravel deposit of 6.75m as it is located within an area of Balderton Sand and Gravel. It should be noted that a large proportion of the site is not underlain by deposits of sand and gravel. Where sand and gravel was identified, with the exception of SK86SE28, the thickness was generally limited. Therefore, it was considered that due to the limited extent of underlying sand and gravel deposits across the site and limited thickness of sand and gravels where it was identified, the presence of economically viable deposits of sand and gravel within the site boundary was negligible to limited.</p> <p>With regards to the potential extension of existing near-by quarries we can include the following potential constraints:</p> <p><u>Whisby Quarry</u></p> <p>The proposed extension to the quarry is to the west towards Eagle Hall rather than southwards toward the Order Limits. The</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>boreholes and existence of working mineral sites in relative close proximity. LCC is also concerned that that the proposed 60-year lifespan of the development (to 2091, assuming a 2031 start) goes well beyond the timeline covered by the LMWLP (2031), or its successor (since the Plan is being reviewed), with a new plan period extending to 2041. It is therefore difficult for the Council (or indeed the Applicant) to confirm whether any of the mineral resources that sit within the confines of the current MSA areas might be required to come forward well in advance of the site being decommissioned, thereby potentially presenting a conflict with the premise of mineral safeguarding policy in Lincolnshire. This compromises LCC in being able to fulfil its function as Mineral Planning Authority to ensure there is sufficient landbank of mineral reserves (minimum 7 years for sand and gravel) for plan periods.</p> <p>LCC would refer to the Regulation 18 call for sites which were discounted as part of</p>	<p>presence of Tunman Wood and a Prison / Immigration Centre would preclude to some extent expansion of the quarry southwards. It is considered likely therefore that future extensions would be to the west, north-west of north.</p> <p><u>Swinderby Quarry</u> The presence of the village of Witham St Hughs and previously worked areas would preclude expansion to the east toward the Site. The proposed extension of the quarry to the north towards Ansons Farm was discounted in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Approach for Updating the Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Site Assessment Report June 2024 stating “<i>clear constraints / planning reasons</i>”. Swinderby Quarry was noted as having “<i>existing and currently allocated reserves are considered sufficient to maintain production at this site beyond the plan period</i>”.</p> <p><u>Norton Bottoms Quarry</u> Expansion of the quarry to the north-east towards the site is precluded by the</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>LCCs local plan review. Sites may have been discounted as a preferred site at the Regulation 18 Preferred Approach consultation for the emerging LMWLP period (to 2042) however the proposed Fosse Green Solar Farm would preclude the land being available for mineral extraction to circa 2093 which is 50 years beyond the plan period for the emerging LMWLP.. LCC maintain the view that further consideration should be given to mineral safeguarding.</p>	<p>presence of the village of Norton Disney and lakes of previous worked areas.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the current and potential future plans for mineral extraction are unknown at this stage, there are significant constraints for expansion onto the proposed site.</p>	

4.9 Traffic and Transport

Table 4-9 Traffic and Transport

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.9.1	Applicable Traffic and Transport Legislation and Relevant Traffic and Transport Policy	Agrees the applicable traffic and transport legislation and relevant traffic and transport policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport of the ES [APP-038] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable traffic and transport legislation and relevant traffic and transport policy.	Agreed
4.9.2	Methodology Adopted for the Assessment of Traffic and Transport in relation to the Proposed Development	LCC had extensive pre-application discussions with the Applicant regarding the methodology for the assessment of the traffic and transport impact of the Proposed Development. The methodology set out in ES Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport, is generally agreed.	The methodology adopted within Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport of the ES [APP-038] is considered acceptable.	Agreed
4.9.3	Baseline utilised for the assessment of Traffic and Transport in relation to the Proposed Development	Agrees the baseline conditions are representative of baseline DCO Site conditions.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport of the ES [APP-038] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions.	Agreed
4.9.4	Results of the Traffic and Transport Assessments in relation to the	The traffic impact on LCC's network would be acceptable provided the mitigation measures included in Section 13.6	The assessment results and proposed mitigation measures set out within Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport of the ES [APP-	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	Proposed Development and Mitigation	(Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport of the ES [APP-038]) are undertaken and delivered.	038] , including likely significant effects anticipated, are acceptable.	
4.9.5	Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan	<p>The FCTMP sets out outline proposals for DCO Site working times, HGV routes, security details, compound car parking, wheel washing, delivery management system, traffic management and monitoring. These will need to be expanded in the detailed CTMP and all these will need to be monitored, controlled and enforceable to ensure safety of the public highway and that the traffic impact is within what has been assessed in the ES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FCTMP provides sufficient details at this stage for all proposed access locations (layout, swept paths, visibility splays, radii etc). • The technical and construction details of the accesses will need approving by LCC under its Section 184 Vehicle Access Crossing Procedure. This is acknowledged in 1.3.1 “The draft DCO includes a requirement for the Framework CTMP to be developed into a detailed CTMP that would be 	<p>The measures are secured within Section 3.9 of the Framework CEMP[REP2-013], Section 3.10 of the Framework OEMP [REP2-015], Section 7 of the Framework CTMP [REP2-023], and Section 3.9 of the Framework DEMP [REP2-017] secured by requirements 12 (Construction environmental management plan), 13 (Operational environmental management plan), 14 (Construction traffic management plan), and 20 (Decommissioning) under Schedule 2 in the draft DCO [APP-016], and are considered acceptable.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to work collaboratively with the Council in matters relating to Transport and Access as it has done to date.</p> <p>Production of a detailed CTMP and the requirement for it to be approved by the relevant authorities (including LCC) before construction commences is secured under Requirement 14 (Construction traffic</p>	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>submitted for the approval of the relevant authorities before construction commences. The DCO would, therefore, include a Requirement to secure compliance with the measures set out in the detailed CTMP.</p> <p>LCCs updated comments can be found within section 11 of LCCs LIR. LCC is generally satisfied with the contents of the Framework CTMP, however attention should be drawn to paragraph 11.16. LCC consider the CTMP should include reference to the need for future technical approvals.</p>	<p>management plan) of Schedule to the draft DCO [APP-016].</p> <p>The Applicant submitted the updated the Framework CTMP [REP2-023] at Examination Deadline 2 to reflect paragraph 11.16 of the LCC LIR to state at paragraph 7.1.3 which includes <i>“the detailed CTMP will detail the exact process for these technical approvals.”</i></p>	
4.9.6	HGV Routing for the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development	LCC agree that the access locations are acceptable.	HGV routing is set out in the Framework CTMP [REP2-023] and Figure 13-4: Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) Routing of the ES [AS-072] which identify the key routes which will be used by HGVs and LGVs (including shuttle bus services) to travel to and from each site access. It should be noted that for the Principal Site, all HGVs will be expected to travel via the A46 for the Principal Site and via the A15 for the Cable Corridor, with the exception of trips associated with C-013. Trips	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			associated with access C-013 would adopt the same routing as for access C-009 (associated with the Principal Site) and then utilise the internal haul road to access the relevant extent of the Cable Corridor.	
4.9.7	Swept path analysis for roads in the vicinity of the Proposed Development	LCC agree that the swept path analysis is appropriate.	The result of the swept path analysis, as set out in the Framework CTMP [REP2-023] , is that the proposed routing strategy for HGVs (non-abnormal vehicles) is via the A46 and A15 and then the local highway network to reach the access points for the Principal Site and Cable Corridor. The location of accesses and proposed routes will ensure that larger vehicles take the most direct route to and from the DCO Site, while minimising the number of turning movements.	Agreed

4.10 Materials and Waste

Table 4-10 Materials and Waste

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.10.1	Applicable materials and waste Legislation and relevant materials and waste Policy	Agrees that applicable materials and waste legislation and relevant materials and waste policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Section 14.5 Materials and Waste of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable materials and waste legislation and relevant materials and waste policy.	Agreed
4.10.2	Methodology adopted for the assessment of materials and waste	The methodology for assessment is appropriate, noting the applicant should make every effort to follow the waste hierarchy for all waste streams.	The methodology adopted within Section 14.5 Materials and Waste of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] is considered acceptable.	Agreed
4.10.3	Baseline utilised for the assessment of materials and waste in relation to the Proposed Development	The landfill capacity figures shown in Table 12 of Appendix 14E [APP-174] match the cross-referenced EA Waste Data Interrogator for 2023 for the stated study areas.	The baseline conditions, summarised in Section 14.5 Materials and Waste of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] and detailed in Appendix 14-E Materials and Waste Impact Assessment Methodology and Baseline [APP-174] , are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions (Proposed Development Study Area) and baseline in the Expansive Study Area.	Agreed
4.10.4	Results of materials and waste		The assessment results set out within Section 14.5 Materials and Waste of	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	assessments in relation to the Proposed Development	<p>The assessment results appear to align with the stated methodology.</p> <p>However, LCC remains concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact assessment assumes a 'realistic worst case' of 70% waste recovery when recycling capacity for PV panels is limited at present. <p>Some waste arisings figures (e.g. PV panel waste during construction) have been updated in subsequent documents, making them difficult to consider as a full suite.</p>	<p>Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039], including the Assessment of Likely Significant Effects anticipated (paragraphs 14.5.67-14.5.100 and associated tables) and Cumulative Assessment sections (paragraphs 14.5.105-14.5.121) are acceptable. Paragraph 14.5.48 clarifies that the UK has achieved 94.3% recovery for C&D waste and a UK company SolRecycle reports a recovery rate of 95% for solar PV panels.</p>	
4.10.5	Materials and Waste Mitigation and Framework Management Plans	<p>The mitigation measures seem appropriate provided they are fully secured via the DCO and related documents – e.g. SWMP. In particular, we need to be confident that the Applicant will comply with their commitments to the waste hierarchy, such as in achieving or bettering the assumption (para 14.5.85) of a recovery rate of 70% of components given the current shortfall of recycling facilities for PV panels in our area. Failure to achieve this could result in a higher quantity of waste going to landfill.</p>	<p>The proposed mitigation measures are set out within Section 14.5 Materials and Waste of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] (paragraphs 14.5.54-14.5.66) and the relevant framework management plans and are considered acceptable.</p> <p>Recovery includes reuse, recycling and energy recovery. The main assessment (paragraphs 4.5.67 - 14.5.100) assumes an absolute worst case that all waste goes to landfill, however it is anticipated that the majority of waste would be recovered. A recovery rate of 70% is assumed be</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>achievable for the purpose of the cumulative waste assessment (realistic worst case). No commitment or target has been set.</p> <p>Chapter 14 Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-39] paragraph 14.5.85 states that <i>“recycling routes are generally available for decommissioning materials at present, and it is likely that there will be even greater opportunities for recycling in the future, not least because the market will have expanded to meet demand as solar PV installations increase.”</i></p> <p>As outlined in The Examining Authority's Recommendation Report for the East Yorkshire Solar Farm, dated 17 February 2025 paragraph 3.13.50. <i>“While the capacity of facilities to deal with the decommissioned solar PV panels is still evolving, I see no reason to disagree with the Applicant’s view that the system will respond to demand over time. There is nothing to suggest that the type or number of panels involved in the application scheme would lead to particular difficulties in this regard.”</i> Therefore, the Applicant</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			considers it reasonable to assume that solar panel recycling will expand to meet demand as solar PV installation increase.	
4.10.6	Waste Management in relation to solar PV panels and associated infrastructure	<p>Currently the LCC area has a lack of capacity for recycling solar panels, particularly when it comes to decommissioning, but also in terms of waste generated during construction, wasted generated by operational failures and the need for panel replacement during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The cumulative impacts alongside other proposed solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), are particularly significant in terms of waste management capacity.</p> <p>LCC the clarification in this SoCG document of anticipated arisings both overall and for PV panels.</p> <p>Whilst the information provided via this SoCG clarifies some of these matters, this item remains “under discussion” because we note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant’s comments suggest that the waste forecasts were previously stated in the ES [APP-039] but some 	<p>Forecasts for waste arisings are outlined in Chapter 14 Other Environmental Topics [APP-039] of the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction – refer to Table 14-24 Estimated Construction Waste, the specific waste management route would be confirmed by the construction contractor however the wastes listed are recyclable or recoverable; Operation – refer to paragraph 14.5.84 Component Replacement Waste; and Decommissioning – refer to Table 14-25 Estimated Decommissioning Waste, the specific waste management route would be confirmed by the decommissioning contractor however the wastes listed are recyclable or recoverable. <p>Assuming a 2-year construction period and a failure rate of 0.05%, as outlined in the operational Component Replacement</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>are new here and need to be included in subsequent documents for clarity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be helpful to see the waste arisings forecasts during each phase, particularly for PV panels, stated as a tonnage (annual and total). 	<p>Waste section (paragraph 14.5.84) of Chapter 14 Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039], failed panels during the construction phase of the Proposed Development would result in 78 m³ of waste per year.</p> <p>The failure rate of 0.05% is based on a 2017 study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) (Ref 1) which found a median annual failure rate of 5 per 10,000 panels for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems installed between 2000 and 2015. This is equivalent to an annual failure rate of 0.05%. The study analysed data from over 4,500 globally deployed panels and 50,000 installed systems. With the improvement of panel reliability this is considered a worst-case failure rate.</p> <p>In summary solar panel waste is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction – 39 m³ of solar panel waste per year, 78 m³ total. Operation (ad hoc replacement) – 39 m³ of solar panel waste per year. 	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation (full replacement) - 77,190 m³. • Decommissioning - 77,190 m³. 	
4.10.7	Minerals extraction	<p>The Applicant's Assessment suggests that 'the connection cables have the option to remain in situ or be removed'. If they were to remain in situ, that may inhibit future extraction so we welcome the commitment to seek LCC's agreement on whether they should be removed at decommissioning. However, we also note that, as stated in the Applicant's Minerals Safeguarding Assessment [APP-162], other parts of the site are also within a Minerals Safeguarding Area and consideration should be given to how those materials should be safeguarded, particularly as those resources may be needed during the lifespan of this project.</p>	<p>Section 2.3 of the Framework DEMP [REP3-020] provides flexibility as to the method of cable decommissioning. Cables and cable ducting could either be left in situ or removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, avoiding the need to open up the entire length of the Cable Corridor. The mode of cable decommissioning for the Cable Corridor and interconnecting cables will be dependent upon government policy, the preferences of LCC and best practice at the time of the decommissioning phase. Should LCC wish for the connection cables to be removed, this would be discussed and agreed prior to decommissioning.</p>	Under discussion
4.10.8	Replacement of solar PV panels and other infrastructure during the operational lifetime	<p>LCC are seeking more detail with regards to the replacement of both the PV and larger equipment on Site throughout life of development. In particular, given the intention for a programme to fully replace</p>	<p>The detail on the replacement of components of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development of the ES [REP1-015] which sets out the maintenance and servicing</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	of the Proposed Development	all panels (see 3.10.6 above), and the statement that this will not all happen ‘at the same time’, the Applicant is asked to clarify the likely duration of this programme.	which would be undertaken during the operation of the Proposed Development. As defined in Article 2(1) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] , to “maintain” includes to inspect, repair, adjust, alter, remove, refurbish, reconstruct, replace and improve any part of the Proposed Development. However, this Article specifically excludes the removal, reconstruction or replacement of the whole of Work No. 1 at the same time. Work No. 1, as set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] is the ground mounted solar PV generating station which includes the PV modules. Therefore, the replacement of solar PV panels during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development would be a phased process, and the draft DCO does not provide for all solar PV panels to be replaced at the same time. The Applicant has provided an indicative scheduled maintenance checklist, together with the anticipated replacement rates of the components of the solar farm, including a separate estimate for the “repowering period” of years 29-33 in response to	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			question DCO.2.01 of the Examining Authority's Written Questions 2 (ExQ2) [PD-016] . This is provided within Appendix C of the Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions [REP3-045] .	
4.10.9	Replacement of Solar PV Panels during the Operational Lifetime of the Proposed Development	<p>LCC are seeking clarification as to whether panel replacement would be once or multiple throughout duration of Scheme, in addition to further information on the proposed construction approach (i.e. whether this would be undertaken in a single stage or a series of staged reconstruction stages).</p> <p>Specifically, given the intention for a programme to fully replace all panels (see 3.10.6 above), and the statement that this will not all happen 'at the same time', the Applicant is asked to clarify the likely duration of this programme.</p>	<p>Further detail on the replacement of components of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development of the ES [REP1-015] which sets out the maintenance and servicing which would be undertaken during the operation of the Proposed Development. As defined in Article 2(1) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] to "maintain" includes to inspect, repair, adjust, alter, remove, refurbish, reconstruct, replace and improve any part of the Proposed Development. However, this Article specifically excludes the removal, reconstruction or replacement of the whole of Work No. 1 at the same time. Work No.1, as set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004], is the ground mounted solar PV generating station which includes the PV modules.</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Therefore, the replacement of solar PV panels during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development would be a phased process, and the draft DCO does not provide for all solar PV panels to be replaced at the same time.	

4.11 Major Accidents and Disasters

Table 4-11 Major Accidents and Disasters

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
Legislation and Policy				
4.11.1	Applicable Major Accidents and Disasters Legislation and Relevant Major Accidents and Disasters Policy	LCC agrees that applicable major accidents and disasters legislation and relevant major accidents and disasters policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable major accidents and disasters legislation and relevant major accidents and disasters policy.	Agreed
Methodology				
4.11.2	Methodology adopted for the Assessment of Major Accidents and Disasters	LCC agrees with the methodology adopted within Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] .	The methodology adopted within Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] is considered acceptable.	Agreed
Baseline				
4.11.3	Baseline utilised for the Assessment of Major Accidents and Disasters in Relation to the	LCC agrees that the detailed baseline conditions are representative of the DCO Site conditions.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions.	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	Proposed Development			
Assessment Results				
4.11.4	Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment Results	LCC agrees with the presented assessment results, including likely significant effects anticipated.	The assessment results set out within Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] , including likely significant effects anticipated, are acceptable.	Agreed
Mitigation and Management Plans				
4.11.5	Major Accidents and Disasters Mitigation and Framework Management Plans	LCC agrees with the proposed mitigation and the measures set out in the framework management plans.	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] and the relevant framework management plans are considered acceptable	Agreed

4.12 Electric and Electromagnetic Fields

Table 4-12 Electric and Electromagnetic Fields

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.12.1	Applicable Electric and Electromagnetic Fields Legislation and Relevant Policy	Agrees that applicable electric and electromagnetic fields legislation and relevant policy has been considered.	The Applicant considers that Section 14.8 Electric and Electromagnetic Fields of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] has identified and given appropriate consideration to all applicable electric and electromagnetic fields legislation and relevant policy.	Agreed
4.12.2	Methodology Adopted for the Assessment of Electric and Electromagnetic Field Impacts Resulting from the Proposed Development	The assessment does not appear to have included battery storage, however, the extent to which these emit ionizing EMFs is not known.	The potential impact of Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) generated by the centralised BESS will not be significant as it will be located approximately 300m (note a minimum commitment of 200m) from the nearest residential receptor. Due to the distance, it is considered that EMF field strength will fall below the ICNIRP reference level at all residential receptors. The positioning of ancillary infrastructure, such as for the locations of inverters, transformers and other sources of EMF, have also been considered so they are at safe distances. With regards to the potential for cumulative EMF impacts, it is expected that the potential EMF associated with other	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>relevant developments included within the cumulative developments shortlist (as discussed in Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040]) would have no significant effect on receptors given they would be required to adhere to the same relevant Government policy as set out above to ensure all EMF is below the relevant exposure limits. Furthermore, the nearest residential receptor to the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby is located approximately 600m to the west. Given this distance, it is anticipated that any cumulative EMF from the substation, along with 400kV cabling from projects connecting to it, would be suitably attenuated. Therefore, no cumulative effects are expected due to EMFs.</p>	
4.12.3	Baseline Utilised for the Assessment of Impacts on Electric and Electromagnetic Fields as a Result of the Proposed Development	Agrees the baseline conditions are representative of the DCO Site conditions.	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Section 14.8 Electric and Electromagnetic Fields of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] are representative of the baseline DCO Site conditions.	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.12.4	Results of Assessments of Electric and Electromagnetic Field Impacts in Relation to the Proposed Development	LCC notes the assessment of Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) and conclusion that there would be no significant impact, with levels below those recommended by the International Commission on the Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).	The assessment results set out within Section 14.8 Electric and Electromagnetic Fields of Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [APP-039] , including likely significant effects anticipated, are acceptable.	Agreed

4.13 Health

Table 4-13 Health

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.13.1	The Environmental Assessment does not include an Assessment of the Potential Impacts on Human Health Arising from the Proposed Development	LCC notes that there is no human health chapter or section in the Environmental Statement, which makes assessing the impact on the population difficult.	<p>It is acknowledged that energy infrastructure has the potential to impact on the health and well-being of the population and therefore, potential effects on human health are considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Section 6.2 of the Planning Statement [AS-098] considers the effects of the Proposed Development on human health in the context of planning policy.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the technical chapters of the ES may not explicitly use the word “human health” or “health” when describing the receptors considered, however the nature of these assessments is such that human health matters are inherently considered by the assessments. Furthermore, the Applicant submitted at Deadline 3 the Health and Wellbeing Summary Statement [REP3-047], which summarises the approach to the consideration and assessment of effects of</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			the Proposed Development on human health and wellbeing (both physical and mental health) that has been undertaken.	
4.13.2	Assessment of Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development on Mental Health	Public Health would like the Examining Authority to require the Applicant to produce a mental health impact assessment for the potential impacts to be properly considered.	<p>Regarding mental health, the Applicant recognises that elements of the Proposed Development have the potential to affect mental health, for example changes in landscape and visual amenity. To address such concerns and support the long-term wellbeing of the community, including mental health, the Proposed Development has been iteratively and holistically designed to minimise impacts on health and wellbeing. This has been achieved through undertaking a comprehensive and robust Environmental Impact Assessment process to identify significant effects and mitigate these wherever needed, as well as recognising beneficial design opportunities.</p> <p>In terms of disruption during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases, and in recognition of the potential for impacts on mental health that could arise from activities on site, and surroundings, there are measures set out in the Framework</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>CEMP [REP3-016-189], Framework OEMP [REP3-018-190], Framework DEMP [REP3-020] and Framework LEMP [REP3-028] to reduce or avoid related impacts. These include measures such as new planting to screen views and by reducing the amount of solar PV in field 46 to avoid a significant visual effect from any residential dwellings during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development. Once the Proposed Development is operational there will be approximately 9.5km of new permissive paths created, as well as the provision of a 1.8ha new community orchard with open access within the landscaping designs, which can have a quality of life benefit for users through improving access to recreation which is an important determinant of good health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Furthermore, a Community Liaison Group is secured through Requirement 5 (Community Liaison Group) of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] which requires the establishment of a community liaison group prior to the commencement</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>of development. Such a group has already been established by the Applicant and will continue during construction and operation. This group provides an opportunity for the local community to engage with the Applicant, learn about the detailed design post consent, express concerns, and be kept up to date. It is expected on this basis that the group will play an important role in helping to reduce/minimise stress.</p> <p>The Applicant is also proposing a community benefit fund, the intention of which is that this will be delivered in cooperation with local community foundations and North Kesteven District Council to benefit causes chosen by the local community. The community benefit fund delivered alongside the Proposed Development will provide a sum of £400 megawatt (MW) of export capacity per year. The Applicant is exploring how this could best be managed. The Applicant believes those communities living closest to the Proposed Development are best placed to determine what a community benefit would be, and should be able to</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>benefit from funding towards improvements to existing community facilities, such as village halls and sports facilities, provision of electrical vehicle charging points, subsidised solar PV panels for community use and lower cost energy, grants for broadband and wider improvements, educational visits and wider education/apprenticeship opportunities. .</p> <p>Furthermore, at Deadline 3, the Applicant submitted a Health and Wellbeing Summary Statement [REP3-047], which includes commentary on Mental Health and Wellbeing and has not identified any likely significant effects on health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Considering the above the Applicant does not consider it necessary to produce a mental health impact assessment.</p>	
4.13.3	Health Impacts Arising as a Result of the BESS Component of the Proposed Development	Other potential health impacts from battery storage, such as fire risk, must also be considered and mitigated with control, containment, and extinguishing provision to the satisfaction of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.	The Framework Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP) [REP3-030] is a key document produced as part of the DCO Application and addresses the safety measures proposed for the BESS, which has been developed in close coordination	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR). The detailed BSMP will be developed, substantially in accordance with the framework, as secured under Requirement 7 (Battery safety management) of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004] , which requires that the chosen BESS work (i.e. Work No. 2 or Work No. 3) must not commence until a detailed BSMP has been submitted to and approved by LCC, in consultation with LFR and the Environment Agency.	
4.13.4	Health and Wellbeing Mitigation measures and framework management plans	There are some proposed mitigation measures that would help improve health and wellbeing outcomes should the Proposed Development receive consent, which includes the provision of permissive paths, new planting and potential for grazing underneath panels.	Measures are set out in the Framework CEMP [REP3-016] , Framework OEMP[REP3-018] , Framework DEMP [REP3-020] and Framework LEMP [REP-028] to reduce or avoid health related impacts. These include measures such as new planting, and the creation of new permissive paths, as well as the provision of a new community orchard with open access within the landscaping designs, which can have a quality of life benefit for users through improving access to recreation which is an important determinant of good health and wellbeing.	Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>The provision of a detailed CEMP, a detailed OEMP, a detailed DEMP and a detailed LEMP, to be substantially in accordance with the respective frameworks, is secured under Requirements 12 (Construction environmental management plan), 13 (Operational environmental management plan), 20 (Decommissioning) and 8 (Landscape and ecological management plan) of the draft DCO [REP3A-004].</p>	

4.14 Cumulative Effects and Interactions

Table 4-14 Cumulative Effects and Interactions

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.14.1	Developments considered for the Assessment of Cumulative Effects and Interactions in relation to the Proposed Development	<p>LCC will make further comments on the Applicant's assessment of cumulative effects and on the potential cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with other developments including NSIP proposals in the LIR and in written representations.</p> <p>The short list of cumulative developments identified within Figure 13-3 [APP-116] includes very few NSIP scale proposals. LCC consider it would be beneficial to include an inter-relationship report considering, at a minimum all NSIP scale solar development proposed within Lincolnshire to highlight the full impact of influx of NSIP scale developments within Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>The cumulative development list is correct for the Proposed Development, including minerals sites.</p> <p>It is acknowledged an interrelationship report has also been requested at question CG.2.08 of the Examining Authority's Written Questions 2 (ExQ2) [PD-016]. The Applicant has prepared an Interrelationships Report which will be submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4. The report provides further information regarding the interplay between the Proposed Development and other development projects within the surrounding area (including nearby Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)).</p>	Agreed
4.14.2	Methodology Adopted for the Assessment of Cumulative Effects and Interaction	LCC will make further comments on the Applicant's assessment of cumulative effects and on the potential cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with other developments including NSIP	The methodology set out within Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040] , including likely significant effects anticipated, is acceptable.	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		proposals in the LIR and in written representations.		
4.14.3	Results of Assessments of Cumulative Effects and Interactions in Relation to the Proposed Development	LCC will make further comments on the Applicant's assessment of cumulative effects and on the potential cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with other developments including NSIP proposals in the LIR and in written representations.	The assessment results set out within Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040] , including likely significant effects anticipated, are acceptable.	Under discussion
4.14.4	Cumulative Impacts and Effects on Historic Environment	The assessment of cumulative impacts remains limited and underplays the incremental erosion of rural historic landscape character through multiple solar schemes. The risk is that dispersed historic farmsteads and settlement patterns lose legibility at a landscape scale.	The Applicant is of the opinion that due regard has been given to the importance of understanding the cumulative impacts, as presented within Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-032] and Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040] in line with the EIA Regulations.	Under discussion
4.14.5	Cumulative Impacts and Effects on Landscape and visual effects	Due to the extent and proximity of additional solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the area, we would suggest the examination is utilised to explore the potential for significant effects from these additional schemes, above those identified in the LVIA. These large-scale solar NSIPs	The cumulative assessment contained in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [AS-117] primarily focusses on the cumulative schemes within the 2km Zone of Influence (Zol), as this was judged to be the geographic area across which landscape and visual effects were most likely to occur, although the nearest solar Nationally Significant	Not Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>occupy some of the same landscape character areas as the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) beyond 2km were also scoped in given their similar scale and typology to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The potential for significant cumulative landscape and visual effects of other solar NSIPs at greater distances from the Proposed Development have also been considered within Joint Interrelationship Reports prepared for these respective examinations, for example, Tillbridge Solar Project [EN010142], West Burton [EN010132], and Cottam [EN010133]. These reports found that given the notable distances and lack of intervisibility between these schemes and the Proposed Development, there was no potential for significant cumulative effects. It is therefore the Applicant's view that the reports prepared for previous examinations further support the conclusion that significant cumulative effects on landscape and visual receptors resulting from the Proposed Development and other schemes beyond the 2km Zone of Influence are unlikely.</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.14.6	Cumulative Impacts on Ground Nesting Birds and Skylark	Given the number of solar developments of varying scales in the County, LCC is concerned about the potential for cumulative impacts on populations of ground nesting birds such as skylark.	<p>An assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on birds is presented in Table 8-14 of Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019], with Section 8.12 of Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] setting out specific mitigation requirements for ground nesting birds such as skylark. With these measures in place Table 8-16 of Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [REP1-019] concludes that no significant effects on ground-nesting birds (or other birds) will arise as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>In adherence with legislation and policy it is reasonable to assume that cumulative schemes proposed in the locality provide suitable mitigation measures to reduce or offset impacts on ground-nesting birds. These measures, in combination with the measures secured by the DCO for the Proposed Development, are considered sufficient to mitigate any cumulative effects</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			of the Proposed Development with respect to ground nesting birds.	
4.14.7	Cumulative Impacts on Agricultural Land	<p>The potential impacts on agricultural land both in respect of the Proposed Development and cumulatively with other solar NSIPs that are consented and emerging in Lincolnshire.</p> <p>LCC consider the cumulative effects on agricultural land to be significant and greater than stated in the ES. LCCs position regarding cumulative impact on agricultural land are further explained within our LIR and within LCCs Energy Infrastructure Position Statement adopted 5 December 2023.</p>	<p>With regards to consideration of the potential cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Development in combination with other solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the area, cumulative effects and interactions between the Proposed Development and other solar NSIPs are assessed in Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040]. The short list of cumulative developments, inclusive of the relevant solar NSIP proposals in the area, has been agreed with North Kesteven District Council and LCC. The agreed short list of cumulative developments is provided in Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040].</p> <p>It is estimated that the solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire, together with the Proposed Development, account for approximately 1.4% of the BMV land in the County of Lincolnshire. Whilst there is a degree of uncertainty around this proportion (based</p>	Not Agreed

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>upon available data and associated limitations of study) it is indicative that the solar NSIPs represent a small proportion of BMV land in the County. All of these developments will be reversible and the land is projected to be returned to agriculture on decommissioning, except for relatively small areas used for habitat creation, such as woodland planting, which is anticipated to be retained, and no significant effects on agricultural land were identified for any of the solar NSIPs identified in Section 12.10 Cumulative Assessment of Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016].</p>	
4.14.8	Cumulative Impacts of EMF	<p>Cumulative impacts (Chapter 15) do not appear to have covered EMFs from other electricity generation, transmission, or storage infrastructure in the area, including where the cable feeds into the substation at Navenby.</p>	<p>It is expected that the potential EMF associated with other relevant developments included within the cumulative developments shortlist (as discussed in Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040]) would have no significant effect on receptors given they would be required to adhere to the same relevant Government policy to ensure all EMF is below the relevant exposure limits. Furthermore, the</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>nearest residential receptor to the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby is located approximately 600m to the west. Given this distance, it is anticipated that any cumulative EMF from the substation, along with 400kV cabling from projects connecting to it, would be suitably attenuated. Therefore, no cumulative effects are expected due to EMFs.</p>	
4.14.9	Influx of NSIP proposals in Lincolnshire	<p>Lincolnshire currently has 13 large-scale solar development proposals, 6 of which have recently received consent. LCC is particularly concerned about the cumulative impacts of these developments, especially regarding the effects on BMV land, landscape character at local, regional, and national levels, the highway network, waste generation, and amenity-related impacts from overlapping construction periods.</p> <p>LCC notes the applicants response and its focus upon BMV and land use, could the applicant also provide commentary on the other cumulative concerns raised either</p>	<p>Cumulative effects and interactions between the Proposed Development and other solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are assessed in Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-040]. It is estimated that the solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire, together with the Proposed Development, account for approximately 1.4% of the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land in the County of Lincolnshire. Whilst there is a degree of uncertainty around this proportion (based upon available data and associated limitations of study) it is indicative that the solar NSIPs represent a small proportion of BMV land in the County. All of these developments will be</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>within this row or within each topic specific table.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts in respect of overnight accommodation has not been taken into account fully. While detailed numbers for temporary workforces on other NSIP projects within the county may not all be available, it is still possible to provide an estimate of potential impact. With a total of 25 NSIPs currently known about within the county, 13 of which being the solar projects referred to previously, there is a very high likelihood of overlap in construction periods. Given the likely number of temporary workers employed at each project, demand for bedspaces is expected to be greater than the supply. The wider impacts of this may well be felt by regular events that attract visitors to the area who would be unable to book accommodation.</p>	<p>reversible and the land is projected to be returned to agriculture on decommissioning, except for relatively small areas used for habitat creation, such as woodland planting, which is anticipated to be retained, and no significant effects on agricultural land were identified for any of the solar NSIPs identified in Section 12.10 Cumulative Assessment of Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use of the ES [AS-016].</p> <p>With regard to accommodation Table 12-19 in Section 12.5 of Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land use of the ES [AS-016] sets out the number of rooms available within a 60-minute drive-time of the Proposed Development. As set out in this table, even during peak summer occupancy, there would be a surplus of 811 rooms available (17% of total rooms) within 60 minutes of the Site after housing these workers. Where the relevant information is available, the Applicant has also considered the cumulative effect of other schemes in the local area together with the Proposed Development, each of which has</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>a slightly different catchment area for accommodation. The Applicant has demonstrated that these workers can be accommodated locally and therefore, the overall effect was assessed as negligible and not significant. The Applicant also identifies that the assessment has considered hotel, bed and breakfast and inns accommodation. Alternative accommodations (such as Airbnb, serviced apartments, etc.) were not accounted for in the assessment, but these types of accommodation could also cater for a portion of any demand generated and therefore further mitigate any impact on accommodation provision.</p>	

Appendix A Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service

A.1.1 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) are responsible for serving the community of Lincolnshire by working together to keep their communities safer. The service is under the authority of Lincolnshire County Council.

A.1.2 A summary of matters raised by LFRS are set out below.

A.2 Access

Table A 1 - Access

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.14.10	Access to buildings	Access to buildings for fire appliances and fire fighters must meet with the requirements specified in Building Regulations 2010 Part B5. These requirements may be satisfied with other equivalent standards relating to access for firefighting.	The Proposed Development layout and design has been developed in consultation with the local fire and rescue service (FRS) and has taken account of guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). Communication with the local FRS will continue through the detailed design stage and the construction phase of the Proposed Development including in the production of the detailed Framework BSMP [REP3-030] .	Under discussion
4.14.11	Minimum carrying capacity	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue requires a minimum carrying capacity for hard standing for pumping appliances of 18 tonnes, not 12.5 tonnes as detailed in the Building Regulations 2000 part B5.	The Proposed Development layout and design has been developed in consultation with the local fire and rescue service (FRS) and has taken account of guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Communication with the local FRS will continue through the detailed design stage and the construction phase of the Proposed Development including in the production of the detailed Framework BSMP [REP3-030] .	
4.14.12	Automatic sprinkler system	If it is not possible to provide access to the Proposed Development in accordance with the guidance details within Part B5 of Approved Document B, as compensation, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue may accept the provision, at the Applicant's expense, of an automatic sprinkler system. Fire Safety advisers must be provided with detailed plans of the proposed sprinkler installation. Any Proposed Development should not be of a lesser standard than any provision as may be required by the Building Regulations.	The Proposed Development layout and design has been developed in consultation with the local fire and rescue service (FRS) and has taken account of guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). Communication with the local FRS will continue through the detailed design stage and the construction phase of the Proposed Development including in the production of the detailed Framework BSMP [REP-030] .	Under discussion

A.3 Water Supply

Table A 2 - Water Supply

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.14.13	Fire hydrants	Where at the time, it is not possible to determine the number of fire hydrants required for firefighting purposes, the requirement should be determined at the water planning stage when site plans have been submitted by the water companies.	The Proposed Development layout and design has been developed in consultation with the local fire and rescue service (FRS) and has taken account of guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). Communication with the local FRS will continue through the detailed design stage and the construction phase of the Proposed Development including in the production of the detailed Framework Battery BSMP [REP3-030] .	Under discussion
4.14.14	Alternative sources of water supply	Where no piped water supply is available, or there is insufficient pressure and flow in the water main, or an alternative arrangement is proposed, the alternative source of supply should be provided in accordance with the following recommendations a. a charged static water tank of at least 45,000 litres capacity; or b. a spring, river, canal or pond capable of providing or storing at least 45,000 litres of water at all times of the year, to which	The Framework BSMP [REP3-030] outlines the water supply strategy for firefighting as follows: “The Solar Station Compounds will be designed to integrate pressure fed (pump driven) fire hydrants and/or static water tanks (tanks can be integrated above or below ground) for firefighting, depending on available water supply. Water provision will be designated for the cooling of adjacent BESS or ESS equipment. Water	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		<p>access, space and a hard standing are available for a pumping appliance; or c. any other means of providing a water supply for firefighting operations considered appropriate by the fire and rescue authority.</p>	<p>tanks will be located at least 10m from the nearest BESS enclosure. Water access points, whether hydrants or tank connections, would be located in consultation with LFR to provide redundancy and safe operating distances for firefighters with 30 – 50m, which is considered an optimal safe distance. Tanks and water outlets would be clearly labelled with appropriate signage and marked on site plans. Additionally, to avoid any mechanical damage, outlets and hard suction points would be safeguarded with bollards.</p> <p>The firefighting water requirement will be fully assessed at the detailed design stage based upon BESS fire and explosion test data by an independent Fire Protection Engineer and water storage volumes will be agreed with LFR during detailed design.</p> <p>Each indicative BESS area design will contain a minimum of two firefighting water storage units of no less than 230,000 litres in capacity, capable of delivering 1900</p>	

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<p>litres per minute for 4 hours (exceeding NFCC guidance).</p> <p>Water storage will either be in sectional steel panel tanks, or cylindrical steel tanks, above or below ground”.</p>	

A.4 BESS

Table A 3 - BESS

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.14.15	BESS Requirements	<p>LFR recognises the use of batteries (including lithium-ion) as Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is a new and emerging practice in the global renewable energy sector. As with all new and emerging practices within UK industry the Service would like to work with the Applicants to better understand any risks that may be posed and develop strategies and procedures to mitigate these risks. LFR works within the guidance of the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) who have been working with several government departments to ensure that fire and rescue services are made aware of any new proposals.</p> <p>The developer should produce a risk reduction strategy (Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations) as the responsible person for the scheme as stated in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We would also expect that safety measures and risk mitigation is developed</p>	<p>The Framework BSMP [REP3-030] addresses the safety measures proposed for the BESS, thereby acting as a risk reduction strategy.</p> <p>The detailed BSMP will be developed in accordance with Requirement 7 (Battery safety management plan) at Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3A-004], which requires that the chosen BESS work (i.e. Work No. 2 or Work No. 3) must not commence until a BSMP has been submitted to and approved by LCC, in consultation with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and the Environment Agency.</p>	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		in collaboration with LFR. The strategy should cover the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.		

A.5 Environmental Requirements

Table A 4 - Environmental Requirements

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
4.14.16	Bulk storage of highly flammable/explosive/water reactive/toxic substances	Bulk storage of highly flammable/explosive/water reactive/toxic substances and any site whereas large scale recycling activities are proposed will need to be specifically consulted with Fire Authority to ensure that the full operational impact, should a fire occur, is assessed and that an adequate provision is recommended.	<p>The Framework BSMP [REP3-030] requires that a site plan will be provided at the detailed design stage to LFR. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“any areas where hazardous and flammable materials are stored on site (location of gas cylinders, process areas, chemicals, piles of combustible wastes, oil and fuel tanks);</i> • <i>Any areas where hazardous and flammable materials are stored on site (location of gas cylinders, process areas, chemicals, piles of combustible wastes, oil and fuel tanks);</i> • <i>All separation distances;</i> • <i>Any areas where combustible liquid wastes are being stored; and</i> • <i>Storage areas with pile dimensions and fire walls (where applicable) – this includes wastes stored in a building, bunker, or enclosures –</i> 	Under discussion

Reference	Description of Matter	Lincolnshire County Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			<i>include indicative pile layouts and ensure it is geographically representative".</i>	
4.14.17	Fire water runoff	For fire water runoff, it is not for the fire service to stipulate which approach to take, simply to ensure that suitable measures are made a condition of planning approval through a firefighting water run-off strategy.	The Framework BSMP [REP3-030] requires that a site plan will be provided at the detailed design stage to LFR. This would continue to be developed in close liaison with LFR.	Under discussion

Appendix B

- Ref 1 Jordan, D, Silverman, T, Wohlgemuth, J, Kurtz, S, VanSant, K. (2017) Photovoltaic Failure and Degradation Modes. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1002/pip.2866>
- Ref 2 UKHab Ltd. (2025). The UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0. [online] Available at: <https://www.ukhab.org> [Accessed February 2025]