

Rosefield Solar Farm

Explanatory Memorandum

(Clean)

EN010158/APP/3.2.7
Revision 07
Deadline 7
August 2026
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

APFP Regulation 5(2)(c)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This document has been updated during the pre-examination stage in response to the **Post-Acceptance Section 51 Advice to the Applicant** and the **Section 55 Checklist**, as issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 23 October 2025, and again in response to the **Examining Authority's First Written Questions [PD-010]** issued on 2 April 2026. This document includes updates made as part of the Change Application submitted to address an access request raised by Buckinghamshire Council in its **Local Impact Report [REP1-112]**, which the Examining Authority (ExA) accepted pursuant to its **Rule 9 Notification [CR1-032]**. This document has been further updated for Deadline 5 in response to the ExA's Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Applicant's draft Development Consent Order published on 15 July 2026 and to reflect other amendments made to the Applicant's **Draft Development Consent Order (Draft DCO) [EN010158/APP/3.1.8] [REP5-006]**. This document has been updated to accompany the final **Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.9]** submitted at Deadline 6. This document has been updated at Deadline 7 to respond to the Upper Ouse Water Management Board's submission **[REP6-089]**. References to other application documents have not been updated from the original submission. Please refer to the **Guide to the Application [EN010158/APP/1.2.13]** for the list of current versions of documents.
- 1.1.2. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared on behalf of Rosefield Energyfarm Limited ('the Applicant') and forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.
- 1.1.3. A summary of the description of the Proposed Development can be found in Section 3.1 of the **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. The terminology used in this document is defined in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 00: Glossary [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.
- 1.1.4. A DCO is required for the Proposed Development as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1) and 15 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). This is because it consists of a generating station with a gross electrical output capacity exceeding 50MW.
- 1.1.5. Amendments to the law which came into force on 31 December 2025 increased the output capacity threshold for generating stations which generate electricity directly from sunlight from 50MW to 100MW. However, it is noted that these amendments do not apply to this DCO Application because they do not apply to generating stations having a capacity (when constructed) of not more than 100MW, if the application for that generating station was accepted before, but not decided before, 31 December 2025.

1.1.6. The DCO, if made, would be known as The Rosefield Solar Farm Order 202[*]. **A Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1]** has been submitted with the Application.

1.1.7. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations). It should be read in conjunction with the suite of documents accompanying the Application, in particular the **Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1]**, the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**, the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]**, **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]**, **Statement of Reasons [EN010158/APP/4.1]**, **Consultation Report [EN010158/APP/5.1]** and **Statement of Need [EN010158/APP/5.6]**.

1.2. Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

1.2.1. The Applicant is a limited company registered at Companies House under company number 11618221 and whose registered office is at Alexander House 1 Mandarin Road, Rainton Bridge Business Park, Houghton Le Spring, Sunderland, England, DH4 5RA. More information on the Applicant's ownership and corporate structure is set out in the **Funding Statement [EN010158/APP/4.2]**.

1.3. The Site

1.3.1. For the purposes of the Application, the areas within the Site are divided into four parcels (Parcel 1, 1a, 2 and 3), the Interconnecting Cable Corridor, the Grid Connection Cable Corridor, the National Grid East Claydon Substation, and associated access. These areas are each proposed for solar modules and associated infrastructure and mitigation, with the main project substation (Rosefield Substation located in Parcel 3) and the Grid Connection Cable Corridor to connect into the National Grid East Claydon Substation.

1.3.2. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is pursuing works to deliver a replacement substation and have identified a preferred site for this substation to the west of the existing East Claydon Substation. The final location and timing of the works have not been confirmed by NGET at this stage and so the Proposed Development includes flexibility to account for a connection into either the existing substation or NGET's preferred location for the replacement substation.

1.3.3. The Order Limits is the area within which the Proposed Development may be carried out. The Order Limits are shown on the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]** and **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**. The Order Land is the term used for the land shaded pink, blue or green on the Land Plans, and over which powers of compulsory acquisition or temporary possession are sought. The Order Land is slightly smaller than the Order Limits, as some areas within the Order Limits are shown as white, meaning no land powers are sought over them.

- 1.3.4. Information about the Site, including about the current land use and any environmental constraints, is provided in greater detail in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

1.4. The Proposed Development

- 1.4.1. A detailed description of the Proposed Development can be found in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. It comprises a generating station of more than 50MW, being the NSIP, and is described in Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order. The Proposed Development also includes associated development, which comprises Work Nos. 2 to 10 in Schedule 1 to the Order. All elements of the NSIP are described in the sub-paragraphs below and the associated development is described in **Paragraphs 1.4.5 and 1.4.6**:
- **Work No. 1:** a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts, including —
 - solar PV modules fixed to mounting structures; and
 - balance of solar system (BoSS) plant, which means inverters, transformers, switch gear, combiner boxes and cabling and would be either:
 - a) centralised inverters, transformers and switch gear placed on adjustable legs or metal skids. Each component will either be located outside on concrete pads, concrete columns or foundation slab or compacted hardcore material for each of the inverters and transformers and switch gear or housed together within a container sitting on a concrete foundation slab or compacted hardcore material; or
 - b) string inverters and combiner boxes attached either to mounting structures or a ground mounted frame, wired to or connected to switchgear and transformers on a concrete foundation slab or compacted hardcore material.
- 1.4.2. The description of Work No. 1 refers to a gross electrical output capacity of over 50MW. This is consistent with sections 14 and 15 of the PA 2008 which stipulate that a generating station which exceeds an electrical capacity of 50MW will be a NSIP and therefore development consent will be required.
- 1.4.3. The description of the NSIP at Work No. 1 does not refer to an upper limit on the capacity of the generating station that development consent is being sought for. It is not considered that imposing an upper limit is desirable or necessary. The DCO includes reference to the means by which the parameters of the Authorised Development will be constrained and it is on this basis that the Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken, as set out in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and explained further in relation to the 'consent envelope'. There is no reason to limit the electrical output capacity of the Proposed Development provided those parameters of the consent envelope are

adequately captured in the Order. The Applicant is confident that those parameters are adequately secured in the DCO.

- 1.4.4. There are clear advantages in not imposing an upper limit on capacity. For example, the Applicant may take advantage of technological improvements and innovation that may emerge before construction, which would enable it to still construct the Proposed Development within the assessed Parameters but increase capacity beyond that which is currently anticipated. It is in the public interest and accords with national policy to facilitate efficient and maximum generation from renewable sources, which is explained further in the **Statement of Need [EN010158/APP/5.6]**. The approach taken has precedent in all the made Orders for solar NSIPs to date, including the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, the **Byers Gill Solar Order 2025**, the **Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025**, the **East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025** and **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**.
- 1.4.5. The associated development for the purposes of section 115 of the PA 2008 comprises Work Nos. 2 to 10 of the Proposed Development as provided for in Schedule 1 of the Order. This comprises the following elements:
- **Work No. 2:** works in connection with an onsite substation compound including the Rosefield Substation and works associated with the substation, including switch rooms buildings and ancillary equipment, control building and ancillary structures, and monitoring and control systems (Work No. 2A). The substation works include transformers and the associated barriers for fire and noise mitigation. Work No. 2B accounts for an abnormal indivisible load corridor required to facilitate abnormal indivisible load movements together with internal access track in connection with Work No. 2A and for crossings over watercourses via bridges.
 - **Work No. 3:** works in connection with satellite collector compounds, comprising switch gear and maintenance building(s) housing a control room, monitoring equipment, storage, security and welfare facilities (Work No. 3A) and transformers that form part of the satellite collector compounds for Work No 3A and associated barriers for fire safety and noise mitigation (Work No. 3B).
 - **Work No. 4:** an energy storage facility comprising a battery energy storage system compound including battery energy storage system (BESS) units, transformers and associated bunding, various ancillary electrical equipment, containers or enclosures housing some or all elements of the BESS compound either together or separately, monitoring and control systems heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, externally mounted noise reduction kits, fire safety infrastructure, emergency back-up diesel generator, similar structures to house spare parts, acoustic barriers, staging and parking areas and ancillary buildings.
 - **Work No. 5:** a main collector compound comprising works to connect underground cabling, equipment and buildings on shallow concrete pad

foundations or screw piles, electrical equipment including static compensation devices, auxiliary transformers, switch gear, harmonic filters and reactive power compensation equipment, fencing and acoustic barriers and ancillary buildings.

- **Work No. 6:** works to lay high voltage electrical cables and access for the electrical cables, including works to lay electrical cables including 400 kilovolt cables connecting Work No. 2A into the National Grid East Claydon Substation.
- **Work No. 7:** works to lay electrical cables up to 132 kilovolt connecting Work Nos 1, 2A, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and laying down of internal access tracks.
- **Work No. 8:** temporary construction and decommissioning compounds in connection with Work Nos. 1 to 7 and Work Nos. 9 and 10 including up to three primary temporary construction and decommissioning areas (Work No. 8A) and up to three secondary temporary construction and decommissioning areas (Work No. 8B).
- **Work No. 9:** works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 8 and 10, including the creation of accesses from the public highway and visibility splays, works to alter the layout of any street or highway and to widen and surface the streets and to make and maintain passing places.
- **Work No. 10:** works in relation to blue and green infrastructure, mitigation and access, including to create, enhance and maintain green and blue infrastructure and mitigation, including landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement areas, habitat creation and management, improvements to connectivity by laying down of new permissive paths, signage and information boards, improvements to connectivity by permanent diversions to public rights of way, signage and information boards, earth bund and screening (Work No. 10A) and works for the laying down of internal access tracks (Work No. 10B).

1.4.6. The associated development includes such other works or operations in connection with Work Nos. 1 to 10, including:

- fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure;
- bunds, embankments, trenching and swales;
- works to the existing irrigation system(s) and works to alter the position and extent of such irrigation system(s);
- surface water drainage systems, storm water attenuation systems including storage basins, oil water separators, including channelling and culverting and works to existing drainage networks;
- electrical, gas, water, foul water drainage and telecommunications infrastructure connections, diversions and works to, and works to alter the position of, such services and utilities connections;
- works to alter the course of, or otherwise interfere with, non-navigable rivers, streams or watercourses;

- works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV columns, security cabins, lighting columns and lighting and weather stations;
- improvement, maintenance, repair and use of existing streets, private tracks and access roads;
- laying down, maintenance and repair of new internal access tracks, ramps, means of access, permissive paths, and roads, crossings of drainage ditches and watercourses, including signage and information boards;
- temporary and permanent public right of way diversions and closures and new and/or improvements to infrastructure along temporarily or permanently diverted public rights of way or paths (including permissive paths);
- landscaping and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures including planting;
- tunnelling, boring and drilling works;
- earthworks, site establishments and preparation works including site clearance (including vegetation removal); earthworks (including soil stripping and storage and site levelling) and excavations; the alteration of the position of services and utilities; and works for the protection of buildings and land;
- other works to mitigate any adverse effects of the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the Authorised Development,

and further associated development comprising such other works or operations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Authorised Development but only within the Order Limits and insofar as they are unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

This wording is well precedented and consistent with wording appearing in other consented DCOs, including **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**. The wording is required on the basis that, as noted above, detailed design work has not yet been undertaken, and at that stage it may become apparent that additional or slightly different works of associated development are necessary to construct, operate or maintain the Proposed Development. Sections 1.6 and 5.1 below contains extensive explanation of the mechanisms that have been built into the Order to ensure that the built form of the Authorised Development does not exceed the basis of assessment within the ES. The Applicant is therefore confident that this wording is acceptable and appropriate.

1.5. Phasing

- 1.5.1. The construction phase is anticipated to occur over a 30-month period, and subject to being granted consent, the earliest construction is anticipated to start in 2029. The final construction programme will depend on the detailed layout design, and potential environmental constraints, and how these impact on the timing of construction activities.

- 1.5.2. The Proposed Development currently has a grid connection date of Q4 2031 although there is the potential that an earlier connection could be achieved subject to Connections Reform. It is currently anticipated that construction works would commence in mid to late 2029 and run to 2031. As such, there is a potential likelihood of overlapping construction works on different parts of the Site.
- 1.5.3. Requirement 2 in Schedule 2 to the Order requires a written scheme setting out the phasing of the construction of the Proposed Development (that is, the order and timing of which stages of the Proposed Development will be constructed and a timetable and plan identifying the phasing areas). The Requirements in Schedule 2 are drafted to allow phased discharge (or discharge for parts of the works) of the requirements and conditions.

1.6. Parameters of the Order and the "consent envelope"

- 1.6.1. The detailed design of the Proposed Development must be in accordance with the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** as secured in Requirement 4 of the Order. This approach is taken to ensure suitable flexibility in the design of the Proposed Development, such that new technology can be used, while ensuring that the impacts of the development will always comply with the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. The principle of using a design envelope is recognised as appropriate for a wide range of NSIPs and is described in PINS' Advice Note 9: Rochdale Envelope (March 2025).
- 1.6.2. Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) grants development consent for the "Authorised Development" (the description of the Proposed Development in Schedule 1). The consent for the Authorised Development is subject to two key controls, which together form the "consent envelope". These are:
- **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** – in Schedule 1 the Authorised Development is divided into a series of component parts, referred to as "numbered works". Article 3(2) of the Order requires that the numbered works authorised by the Order are situated in the corresponding areas shown on the Works Plans.
 - **Requirements** – Article 3(1) provides that consent for the Authorised Development is only given subject to compliance with the Requirements, set out in Schedule 2 to the Order.
- 1.6.3. The design of the Proposed Development is also controlled via Requirement 4 (detailed design approval) of Schedule 2 of the Order which requires approval of details of the Proposed Development's design. The details submitted must accord with the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**.
- 1.6.4. In addition to the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**, other DCO Requirements, certified documents and plans will operate to control and manage the detailed design of the Proposed Development, as well as its

construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning. The way in which those mechanisms work together as an envelope within which the Authorised Development is to be undertaken, is explained in more detail below.

- 1.6.5. With respect to detailed design specifically, Requirement 4 (Detailed design approval) expressly requires that approved details accord with any details approved under other requirements in relation to the approved battery safety management plan, landscape and ecological management plan, fencing and other means of enclosure, drainage, archaeology, operational noise and the approved rights of way and access strategy.
- 1.6.6. The **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** set out the maximum parameters of the Proposed Development and are the basis on which the assessment set out in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** has been undertaken. The **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** also include commitments aimed at ensuring the good design of the Proposed Development and the **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]** explains how these have been developed. The **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** capture the important parameters and controls that are necessary to ensure that the Proposed Development is constructed in such a way that the impacts and effects would not exceed the worst-case scenario assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.
- 1.6.7. In addition to these commitments and parameters, the design of the Proposed Development is also controlled by:
- approval and implementation of a battery safety management plan (Requirement 6);
 - approval and implementation of the landscape and ecological management plan (Requirement 7) which includes delivery of biodiversity net gain as well as detail of green infrastructure and vegetation removal;
 - approval and implementation of operational fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 8);
 - approval and implementation of a drainage strategy (Requirement 9);
 - approval and implementation of an archaeological management strategy and written scheme of investigation (Requirement 10);
 - in the case of Work Nos. 1 to 5, the requirement for the design of the Proposed Development to comply with noise rating levels in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** (Requirement 14);
 - approval of details of the public rights of way to be permanently substituted and provided following permanent stopping up, and of the permissive paths to be created, and approval and implementation of the rights of way and access strategy (Requirement 16);
 - approval and implementation of any mitigation plan addressing flood risk, if such a mitigation plan is required (Requirement 19);

- approval and implementation of a biosecurity management plan (Requirement 20); and
- the protective provisions (Schedule 15).

1.6.8. Where the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** do not include guidance or controls for an aspect of a numbered work, this is justified on the basis of the Environmental Impact Assessment and having regard to the other controls in place via the measures listed above.

1.6.9. The **construction phase of the Proposed Development** (as set out in Schedule 1 of the Order and which is required to be constructed within the areas on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**) is also controlled by:

- the implementation of a community liaison group (Requirement 5);
- approval and implementation of a battery safety management plan (Requirement 6);
- approval and implementation of the landscape and ecological management plan (Requirement 7);
- approval and implementation of fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 8);
- approval and implementation of a drainage strategy (Requirement 9);
- approval and implementation of the archaeological management strategy and written scheme of investigation (Requirement 10);
- approval and implementation of the construction environmental management plan (Requirement 11), which in turn secures a site waste management plan (see **Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.2]**), a cable and grid connection method statement, a horizontal directional drilling fluid breakout plan, a dust management plan, an emergency preparedness and response plan, a materials management plan, a health and safety plan, construction method statement(s), a flood management and evacuation plan, and an aboricultural method statement;
- approval and implementation of the construction traffic management plan (Requirement 13);
- the approval and implementation of the employment, skills and supply chain plan (Requirement 15);
- approval and implementation of the rights of way and access strategy (Requirement 16);
- approval and implementation of a soil management plan (Requirement 17);
- approval and implementation of any mitigation plan addressing flood risk, if such a mitigation plan is required (Requirement 19);
- approval and implementation of a biosecurity management plan (Requirement 20);

- the protective provisions (Schedule 15); and
- street works pursuant to relevant powers in Part 3 of the Order and the accompanying **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]**.

1.6.10. The **ongoing operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development** is controlled by:

- approval and implementation of a battery safety management plan (Requirement 6);
- approval and implementation of the landscape and ecological management plan (Requirement 7);
- approval and implementation of a drainage strategy (Requirement 9);
- approval and implementation of the operational environmental management plan (Requirement 12) which in turn secures a site waste management plan, an emergency preparedness and response plan (including flood risk) and a health and safety plan (including flood risk and climate change);
- approval and implementation of the employment, skills and supply chain plan (Requirement 15);
- approval and implementation of the rights of way and access strategy (Requirement 17);
- approval and implementation of a soil management plan (Requirement 17);
- approval and implementation of any mitigation plan addressing flood risk, if such a mitigation plan is required (Requirement 19);
- approval and implementation of a biosecurity management plan (Requirement 20); and
- the protective provisions (Schedule 15).

1.6.11. Article 4 of the Order authorises the operation of the generating station comprised in the Authorised Development, and Article 5 allows the undertaker to “maintain” the Authorised Development, and such maintenance must not include works that are likely to give rise to any materially new or different effects that have not been assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

1.6.12. The **decommissioning of the Proposed Development** is controlled by:

- Requirement 18 which requires that the date of decommissioning must be no later than 40 years following the date of final commissioning;
- implementation of a battery safety management plan (Requirement 6);
- approval and implementation of a decommissioning environmental management plan (Requirement 18), which in turn secures a dust management plan, an emergency preparedness and response plan, a traffic

management plan and travel plan, a flood management and evacuation plan and a health and safety plan;

- implementation of the rights of way and access strategy (Requirement 16);
- implementation of a biosecurity management plan (Requirement 20); and
- the protective provisions (Schedule 15).

- 1.6.13. The Application seeks flexibility to undertake the Proposed Development within the above envelope, in particular within the maximum areas and parameters secured via the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** and **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**. As set out in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and the individual technical chapters, the Environmental Impact Assessment has assessed the upper extent of the areas and sizes allowed by the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** and the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**. As a result, the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** has assessed a worst case and has considered and confirmed that any development built within the maximum areas and parameters would have effects no worse than those assessed.
- 1.6.14. Any **Illustrative Layout Plans & Sections [EN010158/APP/2.6]** have been submitted to provide illustrative examples of the different design layouts that have been considered for the Proposed Development that could be built out within the "consent envelope" (the design aspect of which is controlled primarily through the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** and **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**). These are provided for illustration only within the **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]**, the **Illustrative Layout Plans & Sections [EN010158/APP/2.6]** and the **ES, Volume 3: Figures [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and are not sought to be secured.

2. The Purpose and Structure of this Document

- 2.1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and the Schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of the APFP Regulations. This Explanatory Memorandum also explains why each article of, and Schedule to, the Order is required for the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.2. It also seeks to identify and explain departures from the Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) (England and Wales) Order 2009 (the "**model provisions**"). While the power for the Secretary of State to designate, and the requirement to have regard to, model provisions have both been removed by the Localism Act 2011, the Applicant considers that it is still relevant to note and explain variations made in the Order compared to the model provisions. The justifications provided in this document have regard both to the particular facts of the Proposed Development, and to the Secretary of State's current policy preferences, as reflected in various recently made DCOs (including in particular **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**, made by the Secretary of State on 8 April 2026).
- 2.1.3. The Order includes a number of provisions to enable the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This reflects the integrated consenting objective of the PA 2008 regime. The provisions have been drafted to accord with the wide-ranging powers at section 120 of the PA 2008, but also the limitations, requirements and exceptions imposed by section 120(8) and sections 122 to 152 so far as these are relevant to the Proposed Development. All powers provided for within the Order come within the scope of section 120 of, and Schedule 5 to, the PA 2008.
- 2.1.4. The provisions contained in the Order are briefly described below and then considered in more detail in the following Sections:-
- **Part 1 (Preliminary):** Article 1 sets out what the Order may be cited as and when it comes into force. Article 2 sets out the meaning of the defined terms used in the Order;
 - **Part 2 (Principal Powers):** Articles 3 to 5 provide development consent for the Proposed Development, and allow it to be constructed, operated and maintained by the undertaker. Articles 6 and 7 relate to the application and modification of certain legislative provisions and defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance respectively;
 - **Part 3 (Streets):** Articles 8 to 18 provide the undertaker with a suite of powers in relation to street works. The powers include the ability for the undertaker to be able to carry out works to and within streets; to alter the layout of streets; to construct and maintain new or altered means of access; to temporarily restrict the use of public rights of way; to permanently stop up and divert public rights of way; to enter into agreements with street authorities and provisions relating to traffic regulations;

- **Part 4 (Supplemental Powers):** Articles 19 to 21 set out four supplemental powers relating to the discharge of water; undertaking protective works to buildings and the authority to survey and investigate land.
- **Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition):** Articles 22 to 35 provide for the undertaker to be able to compulsorily acquire the Order Land and rights over and within it, and to be able to temporarily possess parts of the Order Land for the construction or maintenance of the Proposed Development. Article 23 sets out a time limit for the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers and Article 25 provides for the undertaker to suspend or extinguish certain private rights. The provisions provide for compensation to be payable to affected persons in respect of these powers, where that is not already secured elsewhere. Articles 31 and 32 provide for the temporary use of land for constructing and maintaining the Proposed Development. Article 33 provides for powers in relation to the land and apparatus of statutory undertakers;
- **Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General):** Articles 36 to 50 include various general provisions in relation to the Order:-
 - Article 36 sets out who has the benefit of the powers contained in the Order and Article 37 sets out how those powers can be transferred.
 - Articles 38 and 39 provide (respectively) for how landlord and tenant law applies in relation to the Order and that the Order Land will be "operational land";
 - Articles 40 and 41 provide (respectively) powers in relation to trees which need to be removed or lopped and for hedgerows to be removed in relation to the Proposed Development and in relation to trees subject to tree preservation orders;
 - Articles 42 to 49 include provisions relating to the certification of plans and documents relevant to the Order; arbitration; protection for statutory undertakers through the protective provisions (set out in Schedule 15); service of notices under the Order; procedure in relation to approvals required under the Order; guarantees in respect of the payment of compensation; the incorporation of the mineral code; and confirming no double recovery of compensation;
 - Article 50 provides for a limit of deviation of up to 50 metres to the east of the location of the permanent access on Granborough Road marked as 'AS-A1' on the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4.5] [REP4-005]** and to align any hedgerow removal with the permanent means of access as deviated.

2.1.5. There are then 16 Schedules to the Order, providing for:

- **Schedule 1** – the description of the Proposed Development;
- **Schedule 2** – the requirements that apply to the Proposed Development (i.e. the controls that apply to the Order, similar to planning conditions). Schedule 16 then contains details of the procedure for discharge of requirements required under the Order;

- **Schedule 3** – a list of the local legislation relating to drainage, infrastructure, land, planning, railways and water that the Order will disapply insofar as the provisions (in that local legislation) still in force are inconsistent with the powers contained in the Order;
- **Schedules 4 to 8** – matters in relation to street works and alterations, public rights of way, access to works and details of the streets subject to traffic regulation measures during construction of the Authorised Development;
- **Schedule 9** – details of land in which only new rights may be acquired;
- **Schedule 10** – amendments to legislation to ensure appropriate compensation is payable where new rights over land are acquired under the Order;
- **Schedule 11** – details of land over which temporary possession may be taken;
- **Schedule 12** – details of hedgerows to be removed;
- **Schedule 13** – the documents and plans to be certified by the Secretary of State;
- **Schedule 14** – arbitration rules that apply to most arbitrations in connection with the Order;
- **Schedule 15** – provisions for the protection of statutory undertakers and their apparatus;
- **Schedule 16** – procedure for the discharge of requirements.

3. Purpose of the Order

- 3.1.1. The Proposed Development involves an onshore generating station with a capacity of over 50MW, located in England, and is therefore a NSIP under sections 14(1)(a) and 15 of the PA 2008. The Applicant requires development consent under the PA 2008 in order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Development. Under section 37 of the PA 2008, development consent may only be granted by a DCO, following an Application to the Secretary of State.
- 3.1.2. The Applicant is therefore making an Application to the Secretary of State for a DCO for the Proposed Development. In the Order, the Proposed Development is referred to as the "Authorised Development". The Order refers to the person authorised to exercise the powers in the Order as the "undertaker" and defines the undertaker as Rosefield Energyfarm Limited.
- 3.1.3. The matters for which development consent is sought are summarised below and described more formally in Schedule 1 to the Order.
- 3.1.4. Section 115(1) of the PA 2008 provides that development consent may be granted for associated development, as well as for the NSIP. The Secretary of State must therefore be satisfied that all the elements included within the Authorised Development are either the NSIP or are associated development, in order to include them in the Order.
- 3.1.5. The solar photovoltaic generating station within Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order constitutes "development for which development consent is required", and as such is the NSIP.
- 3.1.6. The Order also includes the proposed development of BESS and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid, included at Work Nos. 2 to 10 of Schedule 1 of the Order. The Applicant has considered these works against the policy and criteria in DCLG 'Guidance on Associated Development applications for major infrastructure projects' (April 2013) (the "Guidance") - it is clear that all of these works come within the guidance and are clearly capable of being granted development consent by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 115 of the PA 2008.
- 3.1.7. The approach taken by the Applicant between those parts of the Authorised Development which form the NSIP and those parts that form associated development follows the approach taken by other DCOs to date, including the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2022**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, **The Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025**, **The Byers Gill Solar Order 2025**, **The Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026**, and **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**, each of which incorporate BESS as associated development.

3.1.8. In particular, Work Nos. 2 to 10 are:

- all directly associated with the NSIP, as they are all required to support the construction, maintenance or operation of the generating station, or to mitigate its impacts (paragraph 5(i) of the Guidance);
- all subordinate to the NSIP – none of them are an aim in themselves (paragraph 5(ii));
- not only necessary as a source of additional revenue for the Applicant, in order to cross-subsidise the cost of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iii));
- all proportionate to the nature and scale of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iv));
- all of a nature which is typically brought forward alongside a solar generating station (paragraph 6);
- all listed in or analogous to the types of associated development listed in Annexes A and B to the Guidance. Those annexes mention:
 - In Annex A, “Connections to national, regional or local networks”, including electricity networks and in Annex B, “substations”, “jointing pits”, “control buildings” and “underground lines” would include the electrical cabling, collector compounds, substation works and grid connection works (Work Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7);
 - In Annex A, “monitoring apparatus” (Work Nos. 2 and 4);
 - In Annex A, “Formation of new or improved vehicular or pedestrian access (to stations, work sites etc), whether temporary or permanent”; highway improvements, “Alteration or construction of roads, footpaths”, “Parking spaces for workers” and “lay down areas” (Work Nos. 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10);
 - In Annex A, hard and soft landscaping would include landscaping and other works to mitigate adverse impacts (Work No. 10); and
 - In Annex A, “Security measures” and “Working sites, site offices and laydown areas” (Work Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10).

3.1.9. As the Order seeks to apply and modify statutory provisions, including those relating to the compulsory acquisition of land, the Order has been drafted as a statutory instrument, in accordance with sections 117 and 120 of the PA 2008.

3.2. Compulsory Acquisition

3.2.1. In addition to providing for the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, the Order will, in accordance with section 122, section 120(3) and Schedule 5 of the PA 2008, authorise the acquisition of land and rights over land, and the extinguishment of, or interference with, interests in or rights over land.

3.2.2. The **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** sets out a description of, and interests included in, the Order Land, split by "plots", and these are shown on

the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]**. The **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** is divided into parts, dependent upon whether interests are Category 1, 2 or 3 interests, whether there are easements/private rights, Crown Land or land subject to special parliamentary procedure and these interests are identified in the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]**. The Order provides for land to be compulsorily acquired, rights to be compulsorily acquired and other rights and interests that will be affected as well as for the temporary possession of land. The Order and the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** should be read together with the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]** and the **Statement of Reasons [EN010158/APP/4.1]**, which sets out the justification for the inclusion of compulsory acquisition powers in the Order.

- 3.2.3. Further information on the compulsory acquisition powers sought is provided in **Section 4.5** of this document.

3.3. Statutory Undertakers' Land and Apparatus

- 3.3.1. The interests held by each statutory undertaker identified by the Applicant as owning land or having a right to keep or access apparatus within the Order Limits are identified in the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]**.
- 3.3.2. Section 127(2) and (3) of the PA 2008 states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of statutory undertakers' land to the extent that:
- the land can be purchased and not replaced without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
 - the land can be replaced by other land belonging to or available for acquisition by the undertakers without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking.
- 3.3.3. Section 127(5) and (6) of the PA 2008 states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of a right over statutory undertakers' land by the creation of a new right over land to the extent that:
- the land can be purchased without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
 - any detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking, in consequence of the acquisition of the right, can be made good by the undertakers by the use of other land belonging to or available for acquisition by them.
- 3.3.4. Section 127(2) – (6) of the PA 2008 in relation to the compulsory acquisition of statutory undertakers' land or the creation of new rights in such land will only apply where, pursuant to section 127(1)(b) a representation has been made before the completion of the Examination about the Application for the DCO and the representation has not been withdrawn; and pursuant to section 127(1)(c), as a result of the representation the Secretary of State is satisfied that either the

land is used for the purposes of carrying on the statutory undertaker's undertaking or that an interest in land is held for those purposes. The Applicant anticipates reaching agreement with all statutory undertakers falling within the scope of section 127 who have made a representation into the Examination, so that they are able to withdraw such representation before the end of the Examination, meaning section 127(2) – (6) would not be engaged. The Applicant will provide updates in this respect to the Examining Authority throughout the Examination.

- 3.3.5. Section 138 of the PA 2008 states that a DCO may include provision for the extinguishment of rights of way, or rights to lay down, erect, continue or maintain apparatus on, under or over the land belonging to statutory undertakers for the purposes of their undertakings only if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the extinguishment is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the development to which the DCO relates.
- 3.3.6. The Order includes protective provisions in respect of statutory undertakers (refer to Article 44 and Schedule 15). The Applicant is currently seeking to agree the form of protective provisions with the affected undertakers. Further details as to how the tests under sections 127 and 138 of the PA 2008 have been satisfied are set out in the **Statement of Reasons [EN010158/APP/4.1]**.

4. Provisions of the Order

- 4.1.1. The Order consists of 50 operative provisions, referred to as articles and 16 Schedules. The articles are considered below in numerical order (split between the different Parts of the Order), and Schedules are considered along with the article which introduces them or to which they relate. Given the Order refers to the Applicant as the "undertaker", for ease when reading this document with the Order we use the term "undertaker" when explaining the provision of the Order below. Equally, the Proposed Development is referred to as the "Authorised Development" in the Order and so for ease this document refers to the "Authorised Development" when explaining the provisions of the Order.

4.2. Part 1 (Preliminary) and Part 2 (Principal Powers)

- 4.2.1. Articles 1 (*Citation and commencement*) and 2 (*Interpretation*) are preliminary provisions. Article 1 provides for the way in which the Order should be cited and when it takes effect.
- 4.2.2. Article 2 (*Interpretation*) provides for the interpretation of the rest of the Order, including the Schedules. Where appropriate, some Schedules also contain provisions setting out what terms mean in that particular Schedule. Article 2 makes alterations to the model provisions to accommodate departures from model provisions elsewhere in the Order, and to add required definitions, including:
- definitions of documents submitted as part of the Application and which are referred to in the Order have been added. These documents are more fully identified in the table in Schedule 13 to the Order.
 - the definition of "apparatus" has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. However, for the purposes of the Order this has been expanded to include pipelines, aerial markers, cathodic protection test posts, field boundary markers, transformer rectifier kiosks, electricity cables, telecommunications equipment and electricity cabinets. This is required to ensure that the definition of apparatus is sufficiently broad to encompass the type of apparatus that the undertaker may encounter when constructing the Authorised Development. This definition has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**.
 - the definition of "Authorised Development" means the Authorised Development described in Schedule 1 to the Order which is development within the meaning of section 32 of the PA 2008. The definitions of "ancillary works" and "authorised project" from the model provisions have not been used in the Order, instead the concept of associated development is included in the definition of "Authorised Development" and is described in detail in Schedule 1, as it is considered that this drafting is neater. The definition of "Authorised Development" is consistent with other made Orders such as the **Longfield Solar Park Order 2023** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.

- the definition of "commence" is defined so as to exclude "permitted preliminary works". This exclusion is required to enable the undertaker to carry out certain preparatory works prior to the submission of relevant details for approval under the requirements contained in Schedule 2 to the Order so that certain works can be carried out without "commencing" the Authorised Development, in order to build the required flexibility into how the Authorised Development can be constructed. The works identified in the "permitted preliminary works" include pre-commencement activities such as surveys and site investigations which are considered appropriate as the nature of these works (i.e. non-intrusive, above ground works or actions) means they are not expected to give rise to environmental effects requiring mitigation. However, the undertaker does recognise that prior to some of the works identified as "permitted preliminary works", there may be a requirement to submit details to the relevant planning authority in order to protect the environment (having regard to section 5.7.21 of PINS Advice Note 15 [Ref. 1-1]). Where this is the case, the requirement expressly prevents the relevant "permitted preliminary works" from being carried out until those details have been approved. **The Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026** and **The Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** (and many other made DCOs, including **The Tillbridge Solar Order 2025**), include very similar definitions of "permitted preliminary works" to that included within the Order. The key difference is that the Order also contains the following additional elements:

- Work No. 9 (works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 8 and 10);
- Diversion of existing public rights of way; and
- Early establishment of ecological mitigation including for badgers.

Work No. 9 constitutes the highway works (including highway improvements, creation of accesses) included in Work No. 9 in Schedule 1. Work No. 9 is proposed to be a permitted preliminary work as a response to the Applicant's experience from the implementation of another made solar DCO, where highway works have inadvertently triggered certain obligations that are not strictly necessary to be in place at the stage the highway works are being undertaken. It is also considered that, firstly, given Work No. 9 is also undertaken pursuant to the powers in Part 3 of the Order, and secondly, that the Applicant has carefully considered each requirement in Schedule 2 and specifically included Work No. 9 as part of "commence" where mitigation or management is needed with respect to Work No. 9 (which includes Requirement 7 (landscape and ecological management plan), Requirement 11 (construction environmental management plan (Requirement 11) and Requirement 13 (construction traffic management plan)), sufficient controls are in place with respect to this works package and it is appropriate that it is a permitted preliminary work. Similar wording also appears in **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** which was made by the Secretary of State on 8 April 2026.

The inclusion of the "diversion of existing public rights or way" is to allow the Applicant the flexibility to undertake the permanent diversions of public rights

of way early in the development if possible and feasible (Schedule 2 has been amended accordingly to ensure the rights of way and access strategy (Requirement 16) would still need to be approved before these diversions could occur). Such works will also be undertaken pursuant to the powers in Part 3 of the Order.

The “early establishment of ecological mitigation including for badgers” is listed as a permitted preliminary work to allow the Applicant the ability to create artificial badger setts to facilitate the relocation of badgers and any other mitigation where it is feasible and advantageous to do so at an early stage (Schedule 2 has been amended accordingly to ensure the landscape and ecological management plan (Requirement 7) and the rights of way and access strategy (Requirement 16) would still need to be approved before this mitigation could occur).

Requirements 8 (fencing and other means of enclosure) and 10 (archaeology) must also be discharged before any of these elements of work are commenced. It is the Applicant’s view that the specific Requirements set out above are sufficient to ensure that appropriate environmental controls are in place prior to the relevant permitted preliminary works commencing.

- The Applicant has also expanded the definition of “permitted preliminary works” to include “advanced planting” to provide for the early planting proposed in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Outline LEMP) [EN010158/APP/7.6.2] [REP1-086]**. As stated in the Outline LEMP, early planting will improve the foraging and commuting habitat for bats between woodland blocks, improve connectivity across the Site and to the wider landscape, and compensate for hedgerows lost and improve retained hedgerows. It will also improve foraging and nesting habitat for birds, provide habitat for species, reduce visual impacts for local residents and reduce the potential for glint and glare effects. Providing for advanced planting as a permitted preliminary work is precededented in **The Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026** and **The Tillbridge Solar Order 2025**. a definition of "maintain" has been added to make clear what activities are authorised under Article 5 (refer to **Paragraph 4.2.10** of this document) during the operation of the Authorised Development;
 - The definition has been drafted to directly reflect the nature and context of the Authorised Development, which will need to be properly maintained, managed and protected throughout its operational lifetime. The drafting, therefore, reflects this operational period and likely framework of maintenance that will be required while enabling technological and practice advancement and improvements within identified environmental performance standards. Therefore, some flexibility must be built-in to what maintenance of the Authorised Development will involve, particularly to keep up with changing standards and controls and advances in technology;
 - For the purposes of the Authorised Development, examples of the activities anticipated to be covered are listed below:

- **Maintenance and inspection:** Throughout the life of the Authorised Development there will be a planned maintenance regime and, on occasion, the need for unplanned maintenance due to plant failures. It is anticipated that there will be up to 24 permanent staff onsite during the operational phase, with additional staff attending when required for maintenance, replacement of solar equipment, vegetation management and cleaning;
 - **Repair/Refurbish/Replaced:** Through the planned maintenance regime and indeed through any unplanned maintenance required due to plant failures, it is likely that some plant and equipment, particularly those with moving parts, will need to be repaired or refurbished or indeed replaced. **Table 3.23 of the ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** sets out the expected service life of the various components of the Proposed Development and this has informed the environmental assessment;
 - **Adjust and alter:** Through the planned maintenance regime, and indeed outside the planned maintenance regime, there may be a need to adjust or alter elements comprising the Authorised Development to respond to changing conditions;
 - **Remove:** Adjustment and replacement activities will require plant, equipment and material to be removed;
 - **Reconstruct:** If, for example, a part has to be dismantled in order to be repaired or refurbished, then that part will need to be reconstructed;
 - **Improve:** Technology will improve over the life of the Authorised Development and therefore there may be opportunities to "improve" the workings of the plant and equipment by, for example, the removal of an old part and replacing it with a new, more efficient part.
- the definition of "Order land" means the land shown pink, blue or green on the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]** which is within the limits of land to be acquired and described in the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]**. This land is coloured pink (land to be permanently acquired), blue (land in which the undertaker can create and acquire new rights) and green (land in relation to which rights of temporary possession only can be exercised by the undertaker);
 - the definition of "Order Limits" means the limits shown on the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]** and **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** within which the Authorised Development may be carried out and land acquired or used;
 - the definition "grid connection works" (that part of the Authorised Development identified in work numbers 6, 8, 9 and 10 (to the extent work numbers 8, 9 and 10 are necessary in connection with work number 6)) has been used to differentiate the works required to connect into the National Grid East Claydon Substation for the purposes of giving the benefit of those works to both the undertaker and National Grid;

- the definition of "statutory undertaker" includes reference to a public communications provider defined by section 151(1) of the Communications Act 2003. This is on the basis that a "public communication provider" is providing a network or service to members of the public and, insofar as they may have assets or apparatus within the Order Limits, it is considered appropriate to ensure that this Order applies equally to those providers as statutory undertakers under section 127(8) of the Planning Act 2008. There is precedent for this approach, for instance the **Longfield Solar Park Order 2023**;
- the definition of "street works" has been amended to refer to the works listed in the street works Article (Article 8(1)) so as to ensure consistency between the powers in the Article and the definition itself; and
- the "undertaker" is defined as Rosefield Energyfarm Limited, who has the benefit of the provisions of the Order, subject to the provisions of Article 36 (refer to **Paragraph 4.6.1** of this document).

4.2.3. Paragraph (2) of Article 2 has been included to reflect that "rights over land" include references to do or restrain or to place and maintain anything in, on or under land or in the airspace above its surface and to any trusts and incidents, including restrictive covenants. Paragraph (2) also makes it clear that references to the imposition of restrictive covenants are references to the creation of rights over land which interfere with the interests or rights of another.

4.2.4. Paragraphs (3) to (7) of Article 2 have been added to provide clarity (respectively) that all distances, directions and lengths are approximate; that references to numbered works are to the works as described in Schedule 1 and shown on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**; as to how the word "includes" is to be construed; that any statutory body includes that body's successor in title; and that all areas described in the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** are approximate. Paragraph (8) confirms that references within the Order to materially new or materially different environmental effects (in the context of the Authorised Development or part of it not being authorised if it would result in such effects), are not intended to apply where the effects are different to those assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** by virtue of being an adverse effect that has been reduced or avoided, or a positive effect that has increased in significance, or the creation of a new positive effect. Without this clarification, the "materially new or materially different" provisions could have the inadvertent consequence of not encouraging a reduction in adverse effects or an increased benefit from a positive effect at detailed design. Article 2(8) has precedent in Article 2(10) of **The A122 (Lower Thames Crossing) Development Consent Order 2025** and Article 2(7) of **The A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order 2024**.

4.2.5. Article 3 (*Development consent etc. granted by this Order*) grants development consent for the Authorised Development. This article is adapted from the model provisions. Schedule 1 describes the Authorised Development in detail, split into 'work numbers', each of which represents different sections or parts of the Authorised Development. This split of the Authorised Development between

different work numbers enables the Order to refer to different parts of the Authorised Development by citing the relevant work number. The content of the works contained within each work number is described in greater detail in **Section 1.4** of this document.

- 4.2.6. Paragraph (2) of Article 3 requires that the works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas shown on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** (that is, the limits of deviation for each numbered work). This is in order to provide certainty as to what has been consented by the Order, in respect of which areas of land.
- 4.2.7. The purpose of Article 3(2) is to provide the undertaker with a necessary, but proportionate, degree of flexibility when constructing the Authorised Development, reducing the risk that the Authorised Development as approved cannot later be implemented for reasons which, at the time the Application was made and the development consent was granted, could not reasonably have been foreseen. It also gives a proportionate amount of flexibility for the detailed design of the Authorised Development within the set limits.
- 4.2.8. Limits of deviation and parameters are appropriate in the current Order as they serve to precisely define the Authorised Development by reference to the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, while preserving a sensible amount of flexibility in the implementation of the Authorised Development to allow for variances in ground conditions and choice of appropriate equipment and technology. The **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** accompanying the Application for development consent has assessed the Authorised Development within the full envelope provided by the limits of deviation, and so development within this envelope will not create effects that exceed the worst-case scenario assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. Further detail in this respect is provided in **Section 1.6** of this document.
- 4.2.9. Article 4 (*Operation of generating station*) permits the operation and use of the generating station comprised in the Authorised Development and is included pursuant to section 140 of the PA 2008. Article 4(2) specifically preserves the need for the undertaker to obtain any other operational consent that may be needed for the generating station, in addition to the Order. It is included so that the undertaker has powers to operate the generating station. “Generating station” in this Article would include the energy storage facility. The drafting of Article 4 adopted by the Applicant is in keeping with made energy DCOs such as the **Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022** and the **Longfield Solar Park Order 2023**.
- 4.2.10. Article 5 (*Power to maintain authorised development*) provides for the maintenance of the Authorised Development at any time and is required so that the undertaker has power to maintain the Authorised Development. Article 5 reflects the terms of the model provisions, but text has been added to make clear that maintenance must be in accordance with the provisions of the Order. Article 5(2) restricts maintenance to the Order Limits in order to provide a defined parameter within which this power can be exercised. A definition of

"maintain" has been included, as referred to above, so that it is clear what the term involves. The **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** has assessed maintenance as defined in the Order and therefore Article 5(3) does not permit the undertaker to undertake such maintenance activities if they will give rise to any materially new or different environmental effects to those identified in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

- 4.2.11. Article 6 (*Disapplication and modification of statutory provisions*) disapplies a number of statutory provisions. Section 120 of the PA 2008 makes comprehensive and wide-ranging provision about what may be included in a DCO, as part of the PA 2008's integrated approach to consenting. Section 120(5) provides that, subject to specified limitations and requirements, a DCO may apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the Order; and make amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application. It is common for DCOs to contain such provisions, although the scope and content inevitably differs according to the circumstances of different projects. Precedent for most of the provisions sought for this Order can be found in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024** and **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**.
- 4.2.12. Article 6 provides for the disapplication of the provisions listed in **Table 1** below, presented in this way to address each of the elements set out in Question 1.12.13 of the **Examining Authority's First Written Questions [PD-010]**:

Table 1: Disapplication of provisions in Article 6

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
s.23 (prohibition on obstructions etc. in watercourses), Land Drainage Act 1991	To control works that could obstruct or alter the flow of ordinary watercourses to protect effective land drainage and manage flood risk. s.23 prohibits unconsented works and requires prior written consent from the relevant authority (an internal drainage board (IDB) or, outside an internal drainage district, the lead local flood authority (LLFA)).	Upper Ouse Water Management Board , given the Proposed Development is within the Upper Ouse Water Management Board internal drainage district (and not Buckinghamshire Council as LLFA).	The Applicant is not required to obtain IDB consent to obstruct or carry out works in watercourses, which is appropriate in these circumstances where appropriate bespoke protections have been agreed.	Yes. Protective Provisions have been agreed with Upper Ouse Water Management Board and included as Part 4 of Schedule 15 of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.10] .	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(a) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may “apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the order”. The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that provision for the relevant matter (IDB consent) is made under the Protective Provisions. Further to s.120(3), Paragraph 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 PA 2008 confirms a DCO may provide for exclusion of obligations or liability with respect of acts of omissions.	Consent is required as provision is within Part 1 of Schedule 2 Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015 ('IPMPP Regulations'). In compliance with s.150 PA 2008, correspondence dated 19 August 2026 from Upper Ouse Water Management Board is provided as Appendix 1 to the Applicant's Deadline 7 Cover Letter which confirms that the original consent provided by Buckingham & River IDB (Appendix 2 to Applicant's Deadline 1 Cover Letter [REP1-001]) still applies following the

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
						amalgamation of the Board.
s. 32 (variation of awards), Land Drainage Act 1991	To provide a statutory mechanism for updating, varying or revoking historic drainage awards made under earlier public or local acts, where those awards continue to affect land drainage arrangements. S.32 provides for a process to be initiated where affected persons (landowners, persons subject to award obligations and IDBs) can initiate the process through the appropriate agency to the appropriate Minister to ensure that those affected by historic awards are not indefinitely bound by them.	The Environment Agency as the “appropriate agency” in England may submit a scheme (or be directed to submit a scheme) to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as the “appropriate Minister”.	Prevents DCO provisions relating to drainage from being revisited inappropriately, which is necessary to give legal continuity and certainty to the Proposed Development's drainage provisions.	Yes. Requirement 9 of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] secures that a Drainage Strategy, to be prepared substantially in accordance with the Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.11.2] [REP1-096] , must be approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the Environmental Agency and Anglian Water Services Limited (or its successor in function as the relevant water undertaker) before any part of the Proposed Development may commence.	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(a) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may “apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the order”. The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that provision for the relevant matter (land drainage arrangements) is made under Requirement 9. Further to s.120(3), Paragraph 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 PA 2008 confirms a DCO may provide for exclusion of obligations or liability with respect of acts of omissions.	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.
Byelaws made under s.66 (powers to make byelaws), Land Drainage Act 1991	Empowers IDBs, local authorities and local authorities which are LLFAs to make enforceable byelaws to support effective land drainage and	Upper Ouse Water Management Board as the IDB and Buckinghamshire Council as LLFA and the relevant local authority.	Avoids parallel regulation by IDB, local authorities and/or LLFA byelaws with the bespoke drainage provisions included in the Order.	Yes. Protective Provisions (which have been agreed with Upper Ouse Water Management Board (Part 4 of Schedule 15 of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.10]))	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(a) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may “apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
	flood risk management, subject to ministerial oversight. The section sets out four purposes pursuant to which byelaws can be made, being to: 1. Secure efficient working of a drainage system in the authority's district or area. 2. Regulate the effects on the environment in the authority's district or area of a drainage system. 3. Secure the effectiveness of flood risk management work within the meaning of s.14A. 4. Secure the effectiveness of works done in relation on ss.28 and 39 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.			and the detailed Drainage Strategy (to be approved by the relevant planning authority (Buckinghamshire Council who is also the LLFA) under Requirement 9 of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4]) serve as controls to mitigate adverse impacts.	made in the order". The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that provision for the relevant matter (land drainage arrangements and flood risk management) is made under the Protective Provisions and Requirement 9.	
s.118 (consent required for discharge of trade effluent into public sewer), Water Industry Act 1991	To establish a statutory regime for the control of discharge of trade effluent into public sewers, enabling sewerage undertakers to regulate such discharges to protect sewerage infrastructure, treatment processes, public health and	Thames Water Utilities Limited, being the relevant water or sewerage undertaker for the area.	Avoids duplication of the powers within Article 19 of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] which allow the Applicant to discharge water into any watercourse, public sewer or drain in	Yes. Negotiations to agree bespoke Protective Provisions with Thames Water Utilities Limited are progressing constructively. Given Anglian Water Services Limited also has	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(a) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may "apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the order". The	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
	the environment. Occupiers of a trade premises must obtain prior consent of the sewerage undertaker to lawfully discharge trade effluent unto public sewers.		connection with the construction and maintenance of the Authorised Development with the approval of the owner of the watercourse, public sewer or drain, and subject to certain other conditions, and its purpose is to establish a clear statutory authority for doing so. Article 19 is based on a model provision.	apparatus for the supply of water or sewerage within the Order Limits, the Applicant is negotiating bespoke Protective Provisions with this undertaker also.	disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that provision for the relevant matter (discharges into watercourses) is made under Article 19 and the Protective Provisions. Further to s.120(3), Paragraph 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 PA 2008 confirms a DCO may provide for exclusion of obligations or liability with respect of acts of omissions.	
Provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 insofar as they relate to the temporary possession of land under Articles 31 and 32	Part 2 Chapter 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 contains provisions relating to the temporary possession of land which are not yet in force. The legislative intent is to give all acquiring authorities the power to take temporary possession of land needed to deliver their scheme while ensuring that those whose land is taken are fairly compensated, and that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect their interests.	The power will be granted to an “acquiring authority” under the Act, being a person who (a) has a power conferred by an Act to acquire land compulsorily (with or without authorisation from another person), or (b) is or has been, at any time, otherwise authorised to acquire land compulsorily.	The provisions have not yet been come into effect and when this may happen is uncertain. It is therefore appropriate and necessary to disapply the reforms whilst taking account of their principles in the relevant articles of the Order, these being articles 31 and 32, in order to achieve certainty for the Proposed Development.	Article 31 (temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) and Article 32 (temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development) of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] reflect the principles of the reforms (which will introduce temporary possession provisions for the compulsory acquisition of land to give all acquiring authorities the same power to enter and/or use land temporarily).	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(a) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may “apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the order”. The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that provision for the relevant matter (temporary possession) is made under Articles 31 and 32.	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
Legislation in Schedule 3 of the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4]						
Bucks Water Act 1937	This legislation constituted a joint Board of Buckingham and rural District Councils of Aylesbury Buckingham Wing and Winslow, authorising the Board to (among other powers) execute works, supply water among and take land as shown on deposited plans in order to construct works authorised by the Act.	The then joint Board under the Act. Today powers would be held by Buckinghamshire Council (as the administrative county of Buckinghamshire was reformed into a unitary authority in 2020) and/or the relevant water undertaker under the current water regime.	In the absence of the deposited plans, the Applicant seeks to disapply this legislation insofar as the legislation relates to the construction of any numbered work, or the carrying out of any operation required for the purpose of, or in connection with, the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and so far as the provisions still in force are incompatible with the powers contained within the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] .	No on the basis that this legislation is considered to be largely obsolete. However, Buckinghamshire Council, as the relevant planning authority, has a role in the approval and consultation of management plans, as well as the detailed Drainage Strategy, and also in enforcement in relation to post-consent controls as secured in the DCO.	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(b) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may “make such amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient in consequence of a provision of the order or in connection with the order”. The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that it is necessary or expedient to avoid potential conflict with the provisions of the DCO.	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.
Buckinghamshire County Council Act 1957	This Act confers further powers on the Buckinghamshire County Council and local authorities of the county of Buckingham in relation to, relevantly, lands and highways, footpaths etc. More particularly, “Part II: Lands” sets out	Buckinghamshire Council	Disapplied insofar as the legislation relates to the construction of any numbered work, or the carrying out of any operation required for the purpose of, or in connection with, the	No on the basis that this legislation is considered to be largely obsolete. However, Buckinghamshire Council, as the relevant planning / highway authority, has a role in the approval and consultation of management	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(b) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may “make such amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application as appear to the Secretary of State to be	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
	acquisition of land powers of the Council, and "Part III: Highways" provides powers about depositing new streets, termination of new streets, improvements to sections of highways and protection of highways.		construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and so far as the provisions still in force are incompatible with the powers contained within the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] .	plans, and also in enforcement in relation to post-consent controls as secured in the DCO.	necessary or expedient in consequence of a provision of the order or in connection with the order". The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that it is necessary or expedient to avoid potential conflict with the provisions of the DCO.	
British Transport Commission Act 1958	This Act empowers the British Transport Commission to construct works and acquire lands. More particularly, "Work No. 4" in the Act relates to a railway passing through Steeple Claydon and the bridge carrying the road from Calvert to Steeple Claydon.	The then British Transport Commission. Today, responsibilities are held by several successor bodies including Network Rail and the Department for Transport.	The works comprising Work No. 4 may be in an area that overlaps with the Order limits (Parcel 1). This legislation is disapplied insofar as the legislation relates to the construction of any numbered work, or the carrying out of any operation required for the purpose of, or in connection with, the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and so far as the provisions still in force are incompatible with the powers contained within the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] .	No. No rail authorities have been identified with an interest or apparatus in the Order Limits of the Application. Similarly, no Crown land interests have been identified.	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(b) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may "make such amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient in consequence of a provision of the order or in connection with the order". The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that it is necessary or expedient to avoid potential conflict with the provisions of the DCO.	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.

Provision of legislation to be disapplied	Purpose of provision	Person/body holding power being disapplied	Effect of disapplication	PPs or requirements needed to prevent adverse impacts?	How dDCO may disapply provision in context of PA 2008	Evidence of regulator consent (if required)*
Buckinghamshire County Council Act 1971	This Act confers further powers on the then County Council and on local authorities in the administrative areas of Buckingham in relation to land, local governance and improvements. More particularly, "Part II: Land – Council's acquisition powers, compensation process" includes at section 8(5) that the local authority shall not exercise various powers in respect of any operational lands of any statutory undertakers except with the consent of the undertakers concerned.	Buckinghamshire Council	Disapplied insofar as the legislation relates to the construction of any numbered work, or the carrying out of any operation required for the purpose of, or in connection with, the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and so far as the provisions still in force are incompatible with the powers contained within the Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1.4] .	No on the basis that this legislation is considered to be largely obsolete. However, Buckinghamshire Council, as the relevant planning authority, has a role in the approval and consultation of management plans, and also in enforcement in relation to post-consent controls as secured in the DCO.	The Secretary of State has the power to disapply this provision because s.120(5)(b) PA 2008 provides that a DCO may "make such amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient in consequence of a provision of the order or in connection with the order". The disapplication sought operates to exclude this statutory provision on the basis that it is necessary or expedient to avoid potential conflict with the provisions of the DCO.	Consent not required as provision not within Part 1 of Schedule 2 IPMPP Regulations.

*Regulator consent is required where provision is within Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015 ('IPMPP Regulations').

- 4.2.13. These disapplications are sought on the basis that they address matters whose merits and acceptability can, and will, already have been sufficiently considered and resolved if the Order is made, notably in relation to the provisions under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Water Industry Act 1991 through protective provisions for the protection of the relevant drainage authorities (Part 3 of Schedule 14 to the Order). Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Authorised Development.
- 4.2.14. Section 150 of the PA 2008 only allows requirements for prescribed consents to be disappplied if the relevant body has consented to this. As noted in the table above, the relevant consent from Upper Ouse Water Management Board as the IDB has been obtained. A copy of correspondence dated 19 August 2026 is at Appendix 1 to the Applicant's Deadline 7 Cover Letter, which confirms that the original consent provided by Buckingham & River IDB (see Appendix 2 to Applicant's Deadline 1 Cover Letter [\[REP1-001\]](#)) still applies following the amalgamation of the Board. For completeness, the Applicant confirms that it has engaged with the Environment Agency to confirm that there is no need for Flood Risk Activity Permits for the Authorised Development (see Appendix 2 to Applicant's Deadline 1 Cover Letter [\[REP1-001\]](#)), and amended Article 6 of the Draft DCO accordingly at Deadline 1 to remove the references to the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.
- 4.2.15. Negotiation of appropriate protective provisions, which will ensure that the disapplications will not prejudice the statutory objectives and responsibilities of the relevant regulators, continues to be progressed as set out in the **Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers [EN010158/APP/8.9.2]**. The Applicant's approach to obtaining the other consents required for the Authorised Development is set out in greater detail in the **Schedule of Other Consents and Licences [EN010158/APP/5.5]**.
- 4.2.16. As set out in the table above, the Applicant has conducted a review of any local legislation that might conflict with the powers and rights sought in the Order. The Applicant has included a list of the historic legislation that it seeks to disapply in Schedule 3, which relates to matters including roads, railways and water within, and in the vicinity of, the Order Limits. This list has been prepared taking a precautionary approach, because in some cases it was difficult to conclusively determine whether or not the provisions of the legislation were relevant to the Order, given that plans were not available in respect of the majority of the Acts considered to make clear their precise geographic scope. Article 6(1)(e) disapplies the legislation listed in Schedule 3 in so far as the provisions still in force are inconsistent with how the powers in the Order can be exercised.
- 4.2.17. Paragraph 2 of Article 6 also applies section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967 to any felling required as a result of the Authorised Development. Section 9(1) of the

1967 Act provides that a Forestry Commission licence is required for felling growing trees. Section 9(4)(d) disapplies the requirement from felling required to implement development authorised by a planning permission – but not to development authorised by a DCO. Paragraph (2) of Article 6 extends the exception to any trees felled as a result of the Authorised Development.

- 4.2.18. Paragraph 3 of Article 6 provides for the modification of Regulation 6(1) of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 to provide that removal of any hedgerow to which the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 relates is permitted for the carrying out of any development or the exercise of any functions which have been authorised by the Order. The justification for this is to prevent the duplicative regulation of matters which have already been adequately considered as part of the grant of the Order. It also serves to bring the Authorised Development in line with any other development for which planning permission has been granted (which would benefit from the provisions of Regulation 6(1)(e) of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997). This has precedent in other DCOs including **The Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022, The Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025, The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** and **The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm Order 2026**.
- 4.2.19. Paragraph 4 of Article 6 provides for the modification of Regulation 3(2) of The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006. This modification addresses a lacuna in the existing legislative regime whereby restoration of land taken temporarily out of agricultural use under a planning permission for EIA development is exempt from the application of the Regulations, but no equivalent provision is made for development consent under the Planning Act 2008. The DCO Application for the Proposed Development has included an EIA which assesses the impacts of decommissioning and restoration. This obviates the requirement for these Regulations to apply to the restoration of the land for agricultural use as part of the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This modification is being included in DCO solar projects currently progressing through examination, such as Lime Down Solar Park.
- 4.2.20. Article 6(5) in effect disapplies the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, by making clear that any building comprised in the Authorised Development is to be deemed to be of a type that does not trigger liability for payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 4.2.21. Article 6(6) permits certain development authorised by a planning permission granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“1990 Act”) that is within the Order Limits to be carried out pursuant to the terms of the planning permission without breaching the Order. This provision ensures that the undertaker does not breach section 161 of the PA 2008 in carrying out certain development pursuant to a grant of planning permission. These provisions have precedent in the **M20 Junction 10a Development Consent Order 2017**, the **A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross Development Consent Order 2020** and **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**. For clarity, it is noted that nothing in

paragraph (5) operates to override the provisions of sections 33 and 115 of the PA 2008.

- 4.2.22. Article 6(7) and 6(8) addresses the Supreme Court's ruling in *Hillside Parks Ltd v Snowdonia National Park Authority 2022 UKSC [30]*. That judgment relates to planning permissions granted under the 1990 Act. It holds that, unless there is an express provision otherwise, where development has taken place under one permission, whether another planning permission may lawfully be implemented depends upon whether it remains physically possible to carry out the development authorised by the second permission in light of what has already been done under the first permission.
- 4.2.23. In recent decisions including **The Buyers Gill Solar Order 2025** and **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**, the Secretary of State removed provisions in draft DCOs which sought to address the *Hillside* risks on the basis that it considered the draft provisions created ambiguity. In response to the Secretary of State's concern, the Applicant has drafted Article 6(6) and Article 6(7) on clear and certain terms by specifically defining the "existing or approved developments" which are known to overlap with the Order Limits, being the:
- (a) East Claydon BESS (reference 23/03875/APP) approved 11 September 2025; and
 - (b) East Claydon Greener Grid Park (reference 25/01297/APP) pending decision.
- 4.2.24. Article 6(6) confirms that, as from the date on which the permitted preliminary works are carried out or the Proposed Development commences (whichever is earlier) any conditions of existing or approved development permissions cease to have effect to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 4.2.25. Article 6(7) then follows to ensure that any inconsistency be disregarded for the purposes of establishing whether the existing or approved developments can proceed if they are capable of physical implementation, and without the risk of enforcement action being taken (notwithstanding any incompatibility between the Proposed Development and the development authorised by the existing or approved developments). This provision adopts the terminology used by the Supreme Court in *Hillside* and reflects the approach taken in the Non-Material Change Application for **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** which was amended to address specific overlaps.
- 4.2.26. Without paragraphs (6) and (7) there is a significant risk of the Proposed Development or other known, existing or approved permissions and consents being undeliverable or subject to enforcement action. This is a particular issue for the Proposed Development given there are existing planning permissions that overlap the Order Limits.
- 4.2.27. Article 6(8) defines "enforcement action" to make clear what this term means under the 1990 Act and PA 2008, to aid clarity for all Interested Parties.

- 4.2.28. Article 7 (*Defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance*) provides that no person is able to bring statutory nuisance proceedings under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of noise, if the noise is created in the course of carrying out construction, maintenance or decommissioning of the Authorised Development and for which notice has been given under section 60 or consent obtained under section 61(9) of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 or which cannot be reasonably avoided as a consequence of the Authorised Development. Following consideration of relevant matters which may be engaged under section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as a consequence of the Proposed Development, the **Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010158/APP/7.5]** confirms that there is no statutory nuisance expected as a result of the Proposed Development. With respect to noise and vibration specifically, the **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.3]** and **Outline DEMP [EN010158/APP/7.4]** incorporate Best Practicable Means and will control noise and vibration emanating from the Authorised Development's construction and decommissioning. Operational noise is controlled through embedded mitigation measures (including the maximisation of the separation distance between infrastructure and sensitive noise receptors, used of equipment with low noise emissions, and orientation of noise emitting equipment to reduce noise limits), acoustic barriers secured through the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**, and Requirement 14 of the DCO. Regardless, the Applicant has continued to include Article 7 in the DCO because it is a model provision, in recognition that should such noise arise, that provision will provide sufficient definition of its consequences in an appropriate and balanced manner. It should be noted that Requirement 15 relates to operational noise.
- 4.2.29. Article 7 is preceded in all made solar DCOs, including the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Sunnica Energy Farm Order 2024**, the **East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025** and the **Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**.
- 4.3. **Part 3 (Streets)**
- 4.3.1. Article 8 (*Street works*) allows the undertaker to carry out certain works to a street for the purposes of the Authorised Development. It is necessary because implementation of the Authorised Development will require works to be undertaken to streets. Schedule 4 sets out the streets that are subject to street works, and the nature of those works, thereby clarifying the extent of the powers. Article 8 is a model provision; however, it has been modified to bring in sections 54 to 106 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 to apply to any street work carried out pursuant to paragraph (1). This provides protection for the street authority for the street in question. In addition, the model provision has been extended in paragraph (1)(e) to provide for works which may be required to any culvert under a street. This article has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.

- 4.3.2. Article 9 (*Application of the permit scheme*) This article deals with the relationship between the Order powers and the traffic management permit scheme operated by Buckinghamshire Council. Article 9(1) confirms that the permit scheme applies with the modifications set out in Article 9 to street works carried out under Article 8. Paragraphs (2) and (3) deal with refusal of a permit or the imposition of conditions and paragraph (4) deals with the right to appeal using the mechanism set out in Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements). This article has been included based on drafting in **The Viking CCS Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Order 2025**. Similar wording is included in the **Southampton to London Pipeline Development Consent Order 2020** and the **National Grid (Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement) Order 2024**. The Applicant will liaise with Buckinghamshire Council as to the need for this article as well as any additional controls associated with the street works articles in Part 3 of the **Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1]**. The **Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1]** and any associated control documents will be updated throughout the course of the Examination, to reflect any agreement in this respect.
- 4.3.3. Article 10 (*Power to alter layout, etc., of streets*) allows the undertaker to alter the layout of or carry out any works in a street. Schedule 5 then sets out the permanent alterations to streets. This Article is necessary because, in order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Authorised Development, the undertaker will need to alter street layouts and establish suitable accesses to ensure that the Authorised Development can be accessed effectively while ensuring there is minimal disruption to the local highway network. The wording of paragraph (1) is adapted from and very similar to wording which appears in various made DCOs, including **the Helios Renewable Energy Project Order 2025** (article 10(1)), **the Tillbridge Solar Order 2025** (article 10(1)) and **the Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026** (article 10(1)). The difference in the present case is that paragraph (1) relates solely to permanent works (whereas the other DCOs cited provide for both temporary and permanent works on certain streets specified in the DCO). Article 10(1) of the Order provides that the streets specified in column 2 of the table in Schedule 5 may be altered permanently in the manner specified in column 3 of that table (noting that temporary alterations to streets are dealt with under article 12). Precedent for this article is found in the **Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** (article 10(1)). The powers conferred by paragraph (2) (which is a general power enabling the undertaker to alter the layout of any street and alter remove, replace and relocate any street furniture) require the consent of the street authority before they can be exercised. It is again very commonly used drafting which appears in all of the made DCOs referred to above. This provision is required on the basis that detailed design work has not yet been undertaken, and at that stage it may become apparent that additional or slightly different highway works are necessary to construct, operate or maintain the Proposed Development. The crucial additional control here is that such powers cannot be exercised without the consent of the street authority, allowing the street authority control over any additional works required. The inclusion of this provision within the Order, and numerous made DCOs before it, reflects the legislative and policy intention underlying the

development consent order process that DCOs should be a “one stop shop” for consenting of nationally significant infrastructure projects, both to ensure that the Secretary of State has overarching visibility of the controls applying to such projects and to prevent the need for developers to grapple with multiple separate consenting regimes for projects of this scale. Article 10 also appears in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.

- 4.3.4. Article 11 (*Construction and maintenance of new and altered streets*) provides that each of the streets constructed, improved or altered pursuant to the powers in Articles 10 and 13 (this includes the new public rights of way provided as a result of permanent stopping up) must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the highway authority and, unless otherwise agreed, be maintained at the undertaker's expense for a period of 12 months from their completion. Thereafter, maintenance will be the responsibility of the highway authority. The purpose of this Article is to define who will be responsible for the maintenance of new and altered streets following their construction or carrying out of works and it is required to provide certainty as to who will be responsible for such maintenance.
- 4.3.5. Paragraphs (2) and (3) mirror the defence in section 58 of the Highways Act 1980 where the undertaker is subject to an action for damages and has taken such care as was reasonably required in the circumstances to secure that the street was not dangerous to traffic. This Article (and the incorporation of the defences in particular) is similar to Article 10 in the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Sunnica Energy Farm Order 2024** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**.
- 4.3.6. Article 12 (*Temporary prohibition or restriction on use of streets and public rights of way*) provides for the temporary closure, prohibition of the use, restriction of use, authorisation of use, alteration or diversion, of streets or public rights of way for the purposes of constructing or maintaining the Authorised Development. It is required because, in particular, the undertaker may need to temporarily restrict the use of certain public rights of way and streets in order to construct the Authorised Development. The undertaker is aware of particular public rights of way to be managed during construction, as listed in Part 2 (temporary management of public rights of way) of Schedule 6 (streets and public rights of way). Article 12(4) establishes that the undertaker must not temporarily close, prohibit the use of, authorise the use or restrict the use of any public rights of way without first consulting the street authority. Article 12(9) has been included to mirror the requirement under Article 10(3) and requires the undertaker to restore any public right of way that has been temporarily altered to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority.
- 4.3.7. The authorisation under Article 12 of the use of motor vehicles over public rights of way where there is no public right to use motor vehicles is necessary to enable the undertaker to access parts of the Authorised Development with construction and maintenance plant, equipment and personnel which would

otherwise be severed by public rights of way. The Article broadly follows the approach in the model provisions (save that it applies to public rights of way as well as streets generally) in that it contains provisions of general application and then also in relation to the specific public rights of way that are set out in Schedule 6 to the Order and as shown on the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]**. Article 12 mirrors Article 11 of the model provisions in providing that where the public right of way is specified in a Schedule to the Order that there is a requirement to consult the street authority, but there would be no need to obtain its consent. In respect of other public rights of way not specified in a schedule to the Order there would be a requirement to obtain the consent of the street authority. Article 17 (see below) deals with traffic regulation more widely.

- 4.3.8. Article 12(5) provides that compensation is payable in respect of loss suffered by the suspension of any private rights of way. This provision is required so that persons who temporarily lose private rights of way because of the suspension of public rights of way can be appropriately compensated. Paragraph (6) provides an additional power to the undertaker which allows it to use any public right of way temporarily stopped up as a temporary working site (which is not in the model provision). The effect of this provision is that a public right of way which is otherwise going to be closed as a result of article 12 may, in that intervening period when it is closed, be used as a temporary working site. The Applicant considers this to be appropriate and proportionate on the basis that it enables efficient use of a public right of way, and land, that is not otherwise able to remain in use by the public for safety reasons during construction or maintenance of the Authorised Development. Exercise of this power would not result in any additional impacts on pedestrians beyond those already experienced as a result of temporary closure of the public right of way, because it only applies to public rights of way the closure of which is already authorised under the preceding provisions of article 12. It should also be noted that any exercise of these powers would be subject to the controls set out in, for example, the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Construction Traffic Management Plan. In this context, a “temporary working site” could refer to, for example use during temporary installation of cable routes. Similar wording to this Article has been used in other made Orders including Article 11 of the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Sunnica Energy Farm Order 2024** and Article 12 of the **Drax Power Station Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Extension Order 2024**.
- 4.3.9. Article 12(8) provides that *“nothing in this article prevents the undertaker from temporarily closing, prohibiting the use of, authorising the use of, restricting the use of, altering or diverting a public right of way under this article more than once”*. It should be noted that this does nothing to disapply the requirements of article 12(4). As such, any instance of a public right of way being temporarily closed etc. under Article 12 would be subject to the requirements of article 12(4) and be subject to consultation with or the consent of (as appropriate) the street authority. The **Outline Rights of Way and Access Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.8.2] [REP1-090]** also provides at paragraph 4.5.5 that a

programme of PRow closures / diversions is to be provided to Buckinghamshire Council prior to construction works commencing.

- 4.3.10. Article 13 (*Permanent stopping up and diverting of public rights of way*) allows the undertaker to permanently stop up and divert the public rights of way specified in Part 1 (public rights of way to be permanently stopped up and diverted) of Schedule 6 (streets and public rights of way) to the extent specified in that part. Article 13(2) provides that this stopping up cannot occur unless the substitute public right of way (specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6) has been completed in accordance with the details approved pursuant to Requirement 16 (rights of way and access strategy), or a temporary alternative route is first provided, and maintained to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority, until the permanent substitute public right of way is provided. This aligns with similar phrasing in articles 10 (power to alter layout, etc., of streets) and 15 (access to works) which both require temporary works to be restored to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority. The provision is considered necessary to ensure that the street authority retains control over the condition of PRow in accordance with its statutory duties. This wording is updated from the model provisions, with similar wording employed on several made Orders in respect of public right of way closures, including **The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order 2024**, and the **Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2022**. In respect of satisfying section 136 of the PA 2008 and the rationalising and enhancement of the network of public rights of way, the undertaker considers that the Secretary of State can be satisfied that the extinguishment of rights of way will be adequately reprovioned through the creation of substitute rights of way as set out in column 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 to the Order and the **Outline Rights of Way and Access Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.8]**, which is to be approved by the relevant planning authority as secured by Requirement 16 (rights of way and access strategy).
- 4.3.11. Paragraphs (4) and (5) make provision that would require the undertaker, following the opening for public use of new or altered public rights of way to notify the surveying authority of that public right of way as permanently diverted, together with a statement of modifications to the definitive map. This notification is deemed to be a legal event order modifying the definitive map accordingly. The purpose of this provision is to facilitate the prompt updating of the definitive map by avoiding imposing a requirement on the surveying authorities to make legal event orders to modify the definitive map as a consequence of the Authorised Development. This approach reflects the position where local highway authorities making Highways Act 1980 orders may combine those with a legal event order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (see the Public Rights of Way (Combined Orders) (England) Regulations 2008). These paragraphs have precedent in several made DCOs, including most highway orders (see for a recent example, the **A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order 2024** and the **Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2022**).

- 4.3.12. Article 14 (*Use of private roads*) authorises the temporary passage by the undertaker, in common with other permitted users, over private roads within the Order limits by persons or vehicles for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Authorised Development. The article creates a power to 'use' a private road for a temporary period that is proportionate to the limited nature of the use, rather than extinguishing, suspending or permanently interfering with the private rights of a landowner. This article is necessary so that the undertaker can use private roads inside the Order limits.
- 4.3.13. Article 15 (*Access to works*) is a model provision which gives the undertaker powers to form new or to improve existing means of access for the purposes of the Authorised Development, as set out in Schedule 7 (access to works) to the Order. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to create or improve existing means of access for the purposes of the Authorised Development. The Article also provides that other means of access or works can also be provided in other locations reasonably required for the Authorised Development with the approval of the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the highway authority. In addition, the Article also requires the undertaker to restore any access that has been temporarily created under the Order to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority.
- 4.3.14. Article 16 (*Agreements with street authorities*) is a model provision which authorises street authorities and the undertaker to enter into agreements relating to strengthening, improvement, repair or reconstruction of any streets, prohibition, restriction, alteration or diversion of any street, works authorised under Articles 8 (street works) and 11 (construction and maintenance of new and altered streets) of the Order and the adoption of works. The Applicant has removed reference to the ability to enter into an agreement with a street authority to allow the construction of any new street and the maintenance of any bridge or tunnel carrying a street over or under the Authorised Development as those powers are not required for the Authorised Development. This provision has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and is required so that the undertaker may enter into agreements with the relevant street authorities.
- 4.3.15. Article 17 (*Traffic regulation measures*) provides the undertaker with powers to temporarily change speed limits and place temporary traffic signs and signals in the extents of the roads specified in Schedule 8 (traffic regulation measures) for the duration of the construction of the road improvement works. This Schedule identifies the relevant roads and specifies the extents of the roads that will be subject to the various controls, and is divided into two parts, reflecting the different traffic regulation measures sought: temporary speed limits and temporary traffic signals. The specific measures are required to safely regulate traffic during the construction of the Authorised Development. These measures are shown on the **Traffic Regulations Plans [EN010158/APP/2.5]**. Paragraphs (2) and (3) include general powers that would authorise other temporary traffic regulation measures, for the purposes of the construction or decommissioning of the Authorised Development. The inclusion of these powers is justified as

they allow a degree of flexibility to respond to changing conditions on the road network over the lifetime of the Authorised Development. The general powers are appropriately regulated as the power in paragraph (2) may only be exercised with the consent of the traffic authority concerned, and power in paragraph (3) is directly related to the power in paragraph (2). Any provision made by the undertaker under Articles 17(1) – (3) has effect as if duly made by the traffic authority in whose area the road is situated as a traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and is deemed to be a traffic order for the purposes of Schedule 7 to the Traffic Management Act 2004 and (in the case of traffic signs and signals) the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. To align with, for example, **the Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**, Article 17(6) provides that the undertaker must give notice of its intention to do so to the chief officer of police and to the traffic authority, publish a newspaper notice and display a site notice. The Article is not in the general model provisions but is common in orders granting permission for infrastructure projects where it is necessary in the interests of public safety during construction of the Authorised Development for the undertaker to put in place some temporary restrictions on road usage. The powers under this Article are provided for in section 120(5)(a) of the PA 2008. For example, similar provisions are contained within the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020**, the **Sunnica Energy Farm Order 2024** and the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**. The drafting in relation to the permanent speed limit change is based on drafting from **Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2022**.

4.3.16. Article 18 (*Temporary enjoyment of footpath QUA/41/1 as though it were a bridleway*) is not in the general model provisions but is required to facilitate a link between the existing dead-end bridleway ECL/10/5 to the north of Field D27 to bridleway QUA/40/2 and bridleway QUA/40/3 that run along the southern edge of Fields D28 and D29 ('the bridleway link'). The bridleway link addresses an access request raised by Buckinghamshire Council in its **Local Impact Report [REP1-112]** and comprises of two components:

- a permissive path (as identified by the dark blue line between PP-A8 and PP-A9 on the on the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN01058/APP/2.4.4]**) secured by Requirement 16; and footpath QUA/41/1 (as identified on the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN01058/APP/2.4.4]**) with Article 18 authorising temporary use of that footpath as a bridleway subject to certain conditions.

4.3.17. Paragraph (1) provides that any person may enjoy the use of footpath QUA/41/1 as though it was a bridleway. Paragraph (2) states that the rights conferred by paragraph (1) commence and terminate (as the case may be) on dates to be notified by the undertaker which, in accordance with paragraph (4), must be no later than the date of final commissioning in the case of the commencement of the rights and no earlier than the date of decommissioning in the case of termination of the rights. Paragraph (5) requires that the undertaker must give no less than 28 days' notice of when the rights conferred by

paragraph (1) will commence or terminate (as the case may be) and paragraphs (3) and (5) provide details of how that notice must be given.

- 4.3.18. Paragraph (6) confirms that, for the duration of time that the rights conferred by paragraph (1) remain in effect, footpath QUA/41/1 is to be treated as a bridleway and that these rights override any presumptions in law arising from footpath QUA/41/1 being shown and described as a footpath in the definitive map and statement (though there is no need to update the definitive map and statement as a consequence). Finally, paragraph (6) also provides that, for this period, footpath QUA/41/1 remains subject to the statutory functions of relevant authorities including the highway authority, the traffic authority, and the street authority and any other person entitled to exercise functions in respect of it.

4.4. Part 4 (Supplemental Powers)

- 4.4.1. Article 19 (*Discharge of water*) is a model provision that allows the undertaker to discharge water into any watercourse, public sewer or drain in connection with the construction and maintenance of the Authorised Development with the approval of the owner of the watercourse, public sewer or drain and subject to certain other conditions, and its purpose is to establish a clear statutory authority for doing so. The reference from the model provisions to section 85 of the Water Resources Act 1991 has been deleted as this section has now been repealed. This has been replaced with a reference to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The reference from the model provisions to the Homes and Communities Agency has been changed to Homes England, as this body replaced the Homes and Communities Agency in January 2018. References to the harbour authority have also been removed as they are not relevant to the Order. In relation to a drainage authority, these provisions are disapplied as sufficiently detailed provision will be made by the relevant protective provisions (see Part 3 of Schedule 15 (protective provisions)). These amendments align with the drafting of the equivalent article in the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024** and the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**.
- 4.4.2. Article 20 (*Protective work to buildings*) is a model provision which is included in most made DCOs to date. Its purpose is to provide powers to the undertaker to enter any building and land within its curtilage to survey to determine whether protective works are needed and to carry out protective works to buildings within the Order Land, subject to a number of conditions including the service of not less than 14 days' notice (except in cases of emergency) and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. Where the undertaker serves a notice stating the intention to carry out protective works or to enter a building or land within its curtilage there is ability for a counter notice to be served by the land owner/occupier within a period of 10 days from the day on which the notice was served.
- 4.4.3. Protective works can also be undertaken after the carrying out of the works forming part of the Authorised Development for a period of 5 years from the

date of completion of the part of the Authorised Development carried out in vicinity of the building. This wording is a minor update from the model provision wording, as the undertaker considered that the phrase 'open for use' which is used in the model provision is not appropriate. This Article is required because there are buildings within, and in close proximity to, the Order Land that might feasibly require surveys and protective works as a result of the Authorised Development.

- 4.4.4. The Article includes compensation provisions in relation to the consequences of the protective works being undertaken, but also where the protective works are undertaken but they are inadequate to protect the building or land from damage (within a period of 5 years from the date of final commissioning).
- 4.4.5. Article 21 (*Authority to survey and investigate the land*) is a model provision that enables the undertaker to enter onto any land within the Order Land or which may be affected by the Authorised Development for the purpose of carrying out monitoring or surveys, including bringing equipment onto the land and making trial holes and boreholes. The Applicant has included specific reference to “pull out tests”, which are tests undertaken in connection with solar farms as part of ground investigation tests, to prove the driveability of the piles and required depth of foundation posts. The power is subject to a number of conditions, including a requirement of at least 14 days' notice on every owner and occupier of the land and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. This power is essential to implementation of the Authorised Development, for example in verifying ground conditions or the presence of statutory undertakers' apparatus.
- 4.4.6. The model provision has been modified so that no trial holes are to be made:
- in land located within the highway boundary without the consent of the highway authority; or
 - in a private street without the consent of the street authority.
- 4.4.7. The Article applies section 13 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (refusal to give possession to acquiring authority) thereby providing an enforcement mechanism (by way of a warrant) where entry onto land under the Article is refused. This is considered necessary so that there is no delay in the implementation of the Authorised Development and has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024** and the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**.

4.5. **Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition)**

- 4.5.1. Article 22 (*Compulsory acquisition of land*) is a model provision that provides for the compulsory acquisition of such land as is required for the Authorised Development, or to facilitate, or is incidental to, the Authorised Development. The Article is necessary to secure the delivery of the Authorised Development as set out in more detail in the **Statement of Reasons [EN010158/APP/4.1]**

accompanying the Application. The Article broadly follows the model provision, although reference to compensation for the extinguishment or suspension of a private right of way has been deleted as this is dealt with in Article 25 (Private rights). Similarly, Article 24 (Compulsory acquisition of rights) makes the consequential provision for the extinguishment of rights over the land to ensure that they cannot impact on implementation or use of the Authorised Development. This approach has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024** and the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**.

- 4.5.2. Article 22(2) makes clear that the powers in this Article are subject to the powers and restrictions in Article 23 (time limit for exercise of authority to acquire land compulsorily), Article 24 (Compulsory acquisition of rights), Article 25 (Private rights), Article 27 (Acquisition of subsoil only), Article 28 (Power to override easements and other rights), Article 30 (Rights under or over streets), Article 31 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) and Article 44 and Schedule 15 (Protective provisions) to ensure that, where relevant, the undertaker can only acquire new rights or take temporary possession of land and cannot acquire the freehold interest in that land. Article 22 is also subject to a time limit as set out in Article 23 (Time limit for exercise of authority to possess land temporarily or to acquire land compulsorily).
- 4.5.3. Article 23 (*Time limit for exercise of authority to possess land temporarily or to acquire land compulsorily*) is a provision which imposes a time limit of 5 years for the exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition from the date on which the Order is made, via issuing notices to treat or executing general vesting declarations. Paragraphs (3) and (4) allow for the undertaker to use the land for a longer period for the authority conferred under Article 31 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) in the case that the DCO is granted and there is then an application made under section 118 of the Planning Act 2008 (Legal challenges relating to applications for orders granting development consent). The undertaker considers that 5 years is an appropriate time limit as it is consistent with the time limit for commencing the Authorised Development set out in Requirement 2 of Schedule 2 to the Order and has precedent in the majority of made DCOs to date.
- 4.5.4. Article 24 (*Compulsory acquisition of rights*) enables the undertaker to acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over the Order Land as may be required for any purpose for which the land may be acquired under Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of land). The Article also provides that rights may be created as well as enabling the undertaker to acquire those already in existence. It should be noted that this provision is subject to Article 31 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) which provides that the undertaker must not acquire, acquire new rights over or impose restrictive covenants over land listed in Schedule 11 to the Order (i.e. Land of which temporary possession may be taken).

- 4.5.5. The Article provides that, in respect of the Order Land set out in Schedule 9 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired) the undertaker's powers of acquisition of new rights and imposition of restrictive covenants are limited to the purposes set out in that Schedule. The ability to acquire new rights and impose restrictive covenants is required in order that the undertaker can construct and maintain the Authorised Development, and it ensures that the undertaker is able to seek a lesser interference with land, as compared to outright freehold acquisition, where this is appropriate (whether in the context of new or existing rights) during the implementation of the Authorised Development (and is therefore a less onerous power). Providing the undertaker with powers to acquire rights only and impose restrictive covenants only over the Order Land set out in Schedule 9 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired) allows the undertaker to reduce the area of land that is required to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the Authorised Development, and therefore allows for a more proportionate exercise of compulsory acquisition powers. As such, the availability of this power allows the undertaker to reduce its interference with private land rights to the minimum required for the purposes of construction, operation and maintenance of the Authorised Development. Were this power not available, the only route to securing the necessary land rights (other than temporary use, which would not be sufficient where rights are required on a permanent basis) would be freehold acquisition, when this may go beyond the rights required at the point of detailed design
- 4.5.6. Paragraphs (5) and (6) provide that where the undertaker proposes the acquisition of new rights or the imposition of restrictive covenants for the purpose of diverting, replacing or protecting the apparatus of a statutory undertaker, the undertaker may, with the consent of the Secretary of State transfer the powers to the relevant statutory undertaker.
- 4.5.7. This form of drafting originates from Article 19 of the model provisions, which grants broad powers of acquisition which are then subject to subsequent articles to limit that broad power. It is standard and well preceded drafting including in the **Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.8. Article 25 (*Private rights*) is a model provision that (i) extinguishes private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers contained in Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of land); (ii) provides that private rights and restrictions over land cease to have effect in so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of compulsory acquisition of rights or the imposition of restrictive covenants under Article 24 (Compulsory acquisition of rights); and (iii) suspends private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of temporary possession powers under the Order. This is required because it enables the undertaker to take land with a clear, unencumbered title, thereby minimising impediments to the delivery of the Authorised Development.

- 4.5.9. The Applicant has adopted the text as included by the Secretary of State in respect of the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.10. Paragraph (4) provides that compensation is payable to any person who suffers loss as a result of the exercise of the powers in this Article and that such compensation would be payable under section 152 of the PA 2008 rather than the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. Paragraph (8) also clarifies that references to private land include references to any trusts or incidents to which the land is subject.
- 4.5.11. Article 26 (*Application of the 1981 Act*) is a model provision which applies the general vesting procedures in the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 to the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers pursuant to the Order. This provides the undertaker with the option to acquire the land via the vesting process set out in the 1981 Act rather than the notice to treat procedure. Vesting declarations allow title in the land concerned to pass to the acquiring authority more quickly than using the notice to treat method. They also enable several parcels of land to be acquired under the same legal instrument and therefore more efficiently than under the notice to treat procedure.
- 4.5.12. This Article has been amended from the model provision to incorporate and reflect the changes brought about by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which has precedent in numerous DCOs including the **Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.13. Article 27 (*Acquisition of subsoil only*) is a model provision that permits the undertaker to acquire only the subsoil of land which is to be compulsorily acquired (pursuant to Article 22 – Compulsory acquisition of land), thereby giving the undertaker the ability to minimise the extent of interests acquired from landowners. This Article is appropriate in the context of the cables or pipes to be laid underground as part of the Authorised Development, where acquisition of the 'entire' freehold may not be required. It therefore enables the undertaker to minimise as far as possible to extent of interests to be acquired, thereby reducing the impact on landowners.
- 4.5.14. Article 28 (*Power to override easements and other rights*) provides that in carrying out or using the development authorised by the Order and doing anything else authorised by the Order, the undertaker may interfere with any easement, liberty, privilege, right or advantage annexed to land and affecting other land, including any natural right to support, or breach any restriction as to use of land arising by virtue of contract. It also provides that compensation may be payable under section 7 or 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 for any such interference or breach. This is not a model provision, but is added to clarify the position with regard to rights burdening land required for the Authorised Development. It has precedent, for example, in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.

- 4.5.15. Article 29 (*Modification of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965*) modifies the provisions of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 as applied to the Order by section 125 of the PA 2008. This provision reflects changes introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and is required to ensure that Part 1 of the 1965 Act is applied correctly to compulsory acquisition authorised under the Order. Paragraphs (2) to (4) amend the provisions of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 so they are consistent with the terms of the Order. These modifications have precedent in numerous made DCOs and other legislation including the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Sunnica Energy Farm Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.16. Article 30 (*Rights under or over streets*) is a model provision which has been included in the majority of made DCOs to date to enable the undertaker to enter on and appropriate interests within streets where required for the purpose of the Authorised Development without being required to acquire that land. It is therefore required in order to reduce the amount of land that needs to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the Authorised Development.
- 4.5.17. The purpose of this Article is to allow the undertaker to appropriate and use land above or below streets within the Order Land, without having to acquire the street or any right or easement in it. The exercise of this power without acquisition is prohibited in the circumstances set out in paragraph (3). Paragraphs (4) and (5) provide for the payment of compensation in certain circumstances.
- 4.5.18. Article 31 (*Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development*) allows the land specified in Schedule 11 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken) to be temporarily used for the carrying out of the Authorised Development (under paragraph (1)(a)(i)). There is a clear limit on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, which in the case of land that may only be used temporarily is the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of final commissioning of that part of the Authorised Development for which temporary possession of the land was taken. The Article also requires the undertaker to give 28 days' notice before taking possession, and to restore the land following the temporary works (subject to the exceptions discussed below). The 28-day notice period is standard (being reflected in model article 29 of the Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) (England and Wales) Order 2009), and justified on the basis that the Proposed Development, being of critical national priority, must be able to proceed without undue delay. This again has precedent in **the Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**. The power allows flexibility for construction works to be undertaken under temporary possession powers before permanent rights / acquisition are sought over a reduced area of land when the location of permanent infrastructure is known. It is also noted that the duration of the construction period may be variable / unpredictable due to circumstances outside of the undertaker's control, for example due to weather conditions.

- 4.5.19. Wording has been added to paragraph (1)(a)(ii) in order to allow Article 31 to apply to the rest of the land within the Order Limits, i.e. land which may later be the subject of compulsory acquisition. This reflects a common approach to designing and building infrastructure projects, whereby possession is taken of a wider area required for the purposes of construction (an expressly time-limited period), and once the location of new apparatus is known definitively (after it has been built), then the final area of land required permanently is defined and acquired. This allows a more proportionate approach to the extent of land acquisition, and reduces the extent to which permanent acquisition is sought to the minimum area required for operation and maintenance of the Authorised Development. Similar to other powers sought, this is considered necessary and appropriate on the basis that (as is an inherent feature of nationally significant infrastructure projects), detailed design work has not yet been undertaken, meaning the final location of infrastructure (and therefore the extent to which permanent acquisition is sought) is not yet known, and flexibility is therefore required in respect of the temporary construction period. When the Authorised Development is constructed and ready for operation, this will allow a proportionate approach to permanent acquisition to be taken. This has precedent in, for example, **the Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**.
- 4.5.20. Wording has also been added to paragraphs (4) and (5) to take into account that the undertaker may, pursuant to Article 31(1)(a)(ii), temporarily use land that it may compulsorily acquire. This is also subject to a general requirement for the undertaker to not remain in possession of land for longer than a one year, beginning with the date of final commissioning of the Authorised Development. Paragraph 31(5) provides that the undertaker must, before giving up temporary possession, remove any temporary works and restore the land to the owner's reasonable satisfaction. This is subject to certain exceptions, which are included to allow for certain works to remain in situ for the purposes of the Authorised Development, without requiring permanent acquisition of land for such purposes. This includes replacement and/or improvement works undertaken on the land (limbs (b), (c) and (d)), which the landowner may wish to retain, as well as works undertaken to deliver mitigation or protective works expressly required by the DCO (limbs (e), (f) and (g)), which are therefore unable to be removed. This has precedent in various made DCOs, including **the Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**.
- 4.5.21. Paragraph (10) makes clear that the undertaker cannot compulsorily acquire, nor permanently acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over, the land specified in Article 31(1)(a)(i) (which is land of which temporary possession only is required).
- 4.5.22. Wording has been added at paragraph (11) to make clear that the Article does not preclude the creation or acquisition of new rights, imposition of restrictions or acquisition of rights in land specified in Schedule 9 (land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired), and nor are the powers under Article 27 (Acquisition of subsoil only) or Article 30 (Rights under or over streets) precluded.

- 4.5.23. The additional wording added above to the Article has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.24. Article 32 (*Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development*) provides for the temporary use of land for maintenance of the Authorised Development. There are clear limits on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, provisions requiring not less than 28 days' notice to be given and restoration of the land following the temporary possession. This Article is broadly based on the model provision and provides for the payment of compensation for that temporary use of the land.
- 4.5.25. The maintenance period has been adapted from the model provision to apply to the period 5 years beginning with the date of final commissioning as opposed to the date on which the project is opened for use as this is more appropriate for this type of development. Similar wording has been used in other made Orders in connection with solar generating stations such as the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**. However, in order to be able to carry out the landscaping commitments set out in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.9]**, the maintenance period has been extended to the period in the landscape and ecological management plan approved pursuant to Requirement 8. A similar provision was included in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.26. Article 33 (*Statutory undertakers*) provides for the acquisition of land belonging to statutory undertakers within the Order Land. This includes a power to move the apparatus of those statutory undertakers and to extinguish their rights. This article is subject to the protective provisions (refer to Article 44 in **Paragraph 4.6.20** of this document) included at Schedule 15 of the Order. Further details on statutory undertakers' land and apparatus are included in the **Statement of Reasons [EN010158/APP/4.1]**. This power is required over the whole of the Order Land and similar wording has been used in other made Orders including the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.5.27. Article 34 (*Apparatus and rights of statutory undertakers in closed or restricted streets*) governs what happens to statutory utilities' apparatus (pipes, cables, etc.) under streets that are closed by the Order. This Article is required because, without it, the statutory undertaker would not have access to the apparatus, since there would no longer be a right of way along the street. The Article is a model provision but has been amended in that paragraphs (2) onwards have been deleted from the model provision to avoid duplication with the protective provisions contained in Schedule 15.
- 4.5.28. Article 35 (*Recovery of costs of new connections*) provides that persons who have to create a new connection following the exercise of powers under Article

33 (Statutory undertakers) may recover the costs of new connections from the undertaker. It is a model provision, with the part of the model provision that referred to the permanent stopping up of streets deleted as this is not relevant in the context of the Authorised Development.

4.6. Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General)

- 4.6.1. Article 36 (*Benefit of the Order*) overrides section 156(1) of the PA 2008 (which is permitted by section 156(2)) and provides that the benefit of the Order is for the undertaker, rather than anyone with an interest in the land. Given the nature of the Authorised Development and the fact that powers of compulsory acquisition are sought, it would be impracticable and inappropriate for the Order to be 'open' as to who may implement it, as might occur without this provision. Overriding section 156(1) is common in DCOs that have been made, including the **Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.6.2. Article 36 makes specific provision in respect of which the provisions of the Order are for the benefit of the undertaker and National Grid for the grid connection works. This is to allow the flexibility for either the undertaker and/or National Grid to undertake works relating to the connection into the National Grid East Claydon Substation.
- 4.6.3. Article 37 (*Consent to transfer the benefit of the Order*) is a standard article included in numerous made DCOs that makes provision for the transfer of any or all of the benefit of the provision of the Order. This Article is required in order that the undertaker has commercial flexibility to transfer the benefit of the Order to a third party, subject to the provisions of the Article. Under paragraph (3), the consent of the Secretary of State is needed before the undertaker can transfer or lease the Order except where:
- the transferee or lessee is National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc;
 - the transferee or lessee is the holder of an electricity generating licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989; or
 - the compensation provisions for the acquisition of rights or interests in land or for effects on land have been discharged or are no longer relevant.
- 4.6.4. Article 37(2) has been amended from the model provisions so that it refers to 'transfer or grant', which is considered to be more accurate than 'agreement'.
- 4.6.5. The justification for these provisions is that in such cases, the transferee or lessee will either be of a similar regulatory standing to the undertaker so as to protect the provision for compensation for rights or interests in land that are compulsorily acquired pursuant to the Order, or there are no outstanding actual or potential compulsory purchase claims. Article 37(4) provides that where the consent of the Secretary of State is not needed, the undertaker must still notify the Secretary of State, the Relevant Planning Authorities, in writing prior to the transfer or grant of the benefit of the provisions of the Order. Article 37(5) to (7)

provide further detail on the notification that is to be given. This is based on the notification procedure contained in Article 7 of the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017** and similar provisions can be found in the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**.

- 4.6.6. Article 37(8) provides that where the undertaker has transferred the benefit of the Order or granted the benefit of the Order then:
- the transferred benefit will include any rights that are conferred and any obligations that are imposed;
 - the transferred benefit will reside exclusively with the transferee or the lessee and shall not be enforceable against the undertaker;
 - the benefits or rights conferred under paragraph (1) of the article are subject to the same restrictions, liabilities and obligations as applies to the undertaker.
- 4.6.7. This approach has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, as well as the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.6.8. Article 38 (*Application of landlord and tenant law*) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs which would override landlord and tenant law so far as it would prejudice the operation of any agreement for leasing the whole of the Authorised Development or the right to operate the same or any agreement entered into by the undertaker for the construction, maintenance, use or operation of the Authorised Development. This provision is required to ensure that landlord and tenant law does not impede the construction, use or maintenance of the Authorised Development. Although there is no immediate anticipation that such an agreement would be made, it could become appropriate at a future time during the lifetime of the Authorised Development.
- 4.6.9. Article 39 (*Operational land for purposes of the 1990 Act*) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs and has the effect of ensuring that the land on which the Authorised Development is constructed will be “operational land” under section 264(3)(a) of the 1990 Act. The effect is to ensure that planning rights attaching to the undertaker in relation to operational land have effect as they would do if planning permission had been granted for the Authorised Development.
- 4.6.10. Article 40 (*Felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows*) is based on a model provision included in numerous made DCOs which provides that the undertaker may fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree or shrub within or overhanging land within the Order limits to prevent it obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the Authorised Development; constituting a danger for persons using the Authorised Development or obstructing or interfering with the passage of construction vehicles.

- 4.6.11. The Article also allows the undertaker to remove those hedgerows specified in Schedule 12 (Hedgerows to be removed) to the maximum extents shown on the **Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010158/APP/7.6]** (which is Appendix 3 of the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.6]**). Schedule 12 is divided into Part 1 (Removal of hedgerows) and Part 2 (Removal of important hedgerows). Article 40(4) clarifies that the power is to remove hedgerows specified in Schedule 12, to the extent set out in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan approved pursuant to Requirement 7 in Schedule 2.
- 4.6.12. The Article provides that the undertaker may not fell or lop a tree or remove hedgerows under this Article within the extent of the publicly maintainable highway without the prior consent of the highway authority. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The provision is required for safety reasons and its applicability is appropriately limited.
- 4.6.13. Article 40 does not address the statutory protection afforded to trees by virtue of being subject to a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO").
- 4.6.14. Article 41 (*Trees subject to tree preservation orders*) provides that the undertaker may fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree which is subject to a TPO to prevent it obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the Authorised Development. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The effect of the Article is that the works it permits, where carried out to a tree protected by a TPO, are deemed to have consent, and its inclusion is therefore consistent with the purpose of DCOs being to wrap up all of the required consents for a project. The Article is a model provision included in numerous made DCOs and has been amended, to reflect that no TPOs exist at the present time, but to apply to a TPO made after the submission of the Application and either within or overhanging the Order Limits, as there are trees within the Order Limits with the potential to attract a TPO in the future. This approach is based on similar drafting in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024** and the **Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** (the latter also provides precedent for this power applying to the decommissioning phase of the Authorised Development). It is further noted that **ES Volume 4, Appendix 7 :13 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4.2]** includes a full tree survey, together with an assessment of the likely impacts to trees arising as a result of the Authorised Development, allowing the Examining Authority to give full consideration to the characteristics of any affected trees.
- 4.6.15. Article 42 (*Certification of plans and documents, etc.*) is a model provision which provides for the undertaker to submit various documents referred to in the Order (such as the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]**, plans and **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**) to the Secretary of State so that they can be certified as being true copies. The Article refers to Schedule 13 (Documents and plans to be certified), where all such documents and plans are listed, along with the appropriate document and revision numbers. The Article and Schedule 13

provide certainty as to which documents will be certified by the Secretary of State in relation to the Order.

- 4.6.16. Article 43 (*Arbitration*) is an arbitration provision and it is a departure from the model provision. This drafting, and that in the associated Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules), has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024** amongst others. It is considered that this approach will provide greater certainty to all parties involved in the process and is preferential to the approach adopted in the model provisions.
- 4.6.17. The Article provides that differences under the Order should be settled by arbitration unless another means of resolving a dispute is provided for in the Order. The arbitrator will be appointed by the parties within 14 days of receipt of a notice of arbitration or failing agreement within this period then by the Secretary of State following application by one of the parties.
- 4.6.18. It applies Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules) to the Order, which sets out further detail of the arbitration process. The detail of Schedule 14 is set out at **Section 5.14** of this document.
- 4.6.19. In addition, Article 43(2) provides that any matter for which the consent or approval of the Secretary of State is required under the Order is not subject to arbitration.
- 4.6.20. Article 44 (*Protective Provisions*) provides for Schedule 15 (Protective provisions), which protects the interests of certain statutory undertakers, to have effect. This is set out in detail at **Section 5.15** of this document. This is a model provision.
- 4.6.21. Article 45 (*Service of notices*) governs how any notices that may be served under the provisions of the Order are deemed to have been served properly. In particular it allows service by email with the consent of the recipient, and deals with the situation of service on an unknown landowner. The provision is necessary because the service of notice provisions under sections 229 and 230 of the PA 2008 only apply to notices served under the PA 2008 itself and do not apply to notices served under the Order. These provisions are based on those appearing in the **Transport and Works (Model Provisions for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006**, and numerous made DCOs.
- 4.6.22. Article 46 (*Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.*) provides procedures in relation to consents and approvals required pursuant to the Order (other than Requirements). Applications for consent submitted by the undertaker will be deemed to be granted if notice is not given of their refusal by the consenting authority within eight weeks of the submission of the application (unless a longer period has been agreed between the parties). Where these provisions apply to an application, the undertaker is required to notify the consenting authority of the effect of the provisions when it submits the relevant application. The consenting authority must not unreasonably withhold or delay consent

where an application has been submitted by the undertaker pursuant to this Article.

- 4.6.23. For any consent, agreement, or refusal pursuant to the Requirements a detailed procedure is provided for in Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements) (refer to **Paragraph 5.16** of this document).
- 4.6.24. This Article has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024** and is considered appropriate and justified in order to ensure that the Authorised Development can proceed in a reasonable timescale, and so that there is a consistent approach to consents that must be sought by the undertaker pursuant to the Order.
- 4.6.25. Article 47 (*Guarantees in respect of payment of compensation*) restricts the undertaker from exercising the powers conferred under Articles 22, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32 and 33 until it has either put in place a guarantee or other form of security approved by the Secretary of State in respect of the liabilities of the undertaker to pay compensation under the Order. This provision is included in order to protect the recipients of any compensation under the Order by providing certainty that the undertaker can make good any compensation owed. The guarantee or alternative form of security is not required to be in place for more than 15 years from the date on which the relevant power is exercised. The wording appears in a number of made DCOs, for example the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**.
- 4.6.26. Article 48 (*Compulsory acquisition of land - incorporation of the mineral code*) is a model provision which incorporates Parts 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (minerals). The mineral code is incorporated as a precautionary measure given the identification of interests in mines and minerals within the Order Limits, and that the Order Limits is located within Mineral Consultation and Safeguarding Areas. The incorporation of the mineral code means that when the undertaker compulsorily acquires land under the Order, it does not also acquire the rights to mine minerals.
- 4.6.27. Article 49 (*No double recovery*) is not a model provision and is based on Article 44 of the model clauses for railway contained in schedule 1 to the **Transport and Works (Model Clauses for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006**. This article has precedent in numerous Transport and Works Act Orders. It provides that compensation is not payable both under the Order and any other enactment, contract or other rule of law. It follows that well established principle of equivalence that a claimant is compensated for no more and no less than their loss.
- 4.6.28. Article 50 (*Limits of deviation*) provides for flexibility in the location of the permanent access point on Granborough Road (depicted as an orange box and marked 'AS-A1' between points AC-A1 and AC-A2 on the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4.5] [REP4-005]**) to be moved by up to 50 metres to the east of its current position. Subparagraph (2) confirms

that the associated removal of hedgerow (being part of approximately 51.5m within the area identified as reference R53 on Appendix 3D of the vegetation removal parameters appended to the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.6.6]**) will align with the permanent means of access as deviated. The corresponding entry for R53 in Part 2 of Schedule 12 (Hedgerow to be removed) is subject to this Article 50. The extent of the deviation provides for sufficient visibility splays, whilst ensuring that the junction is not located in areas of ecological constraint. The access track can be located anywhere within the field to the north of Granborough Road, and confirms that this will be subject to detailed design approval by the relevant planning authority pursuant to Requirement 4.

5. Schedules

5.1. Schedule 1 (Authorised Development)

- 5.1.1. This Schedule describes the Authorised Development in detail and split into different work numbers. Each of these work numbers represents a different part of the Authorised Development. This split of the Authorised Development between different work numbers is designed to enable the Order to refer to different parts of the Authorised Development by citing the relevant work number. Paragraph 1 of the Schedule sets out a number of definitions that are used only within the Schedule and are not in other places in the Order.
- 5.1.2. The works set out in Schedule 1 to the Order are explained in detail in this document in **Section 1.4**.
- 5.1.3. The mechanics of the drafting in Schedules 1 and 2 (and Schedule 16) ensure that the undertaker does not exceed the basis of the assessment in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. This is achieved through the following mechanisms in the Order.
- 5.1.4. Article 3 and Schedule 1 provide the power to carry out the Authorised Development. Pursuant to Article 3(2) each numbered work must be situated within the area delineated on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** – thus the infrastructure can only be built within these areas. Given these overarching constraints, there is certainty as to where each element identified in Schedule 1 can be built, and that has been factored into the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.1.5. Schedule 1 provides that development which does not form part of a specific work number can only be brought forward if it does not lead to materially new or materially different effects from those assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.1.6. In respect of the detailed design, Requirement 4 of Schedule 2 (refer to **Paragraph 5.2.11** of this document) prevents the undertaker from commencing any part of Work Nos. 1 to 7 and 10 until it has obtained the approval of the relevant planning authority to the layout, scale, proposed finished ground levels, external appearance, vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and circulation areas, refuse or other storage units, signs and lighting.
- 5.1.7. Requirement 4 requires that the details submitted must accord with the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** as well as any details approved under other relevant requirements. The **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** are a certified document pursuant to Article 42 (Certification of plans and documents) and Schedule 13 (Documents and plans to be certified etc.). The **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** contain the maximum parameters for the Authorised Development and are the same as those used for the assessment of effects in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. These parameters are based on the application of the Rochdale Envelope principle, such that maximum dimensions have been presented and assessed in the **ES**

[EN010158/APP/6.1], recognising that the final features may differ from (but will never be larger than) these maxima.

- 5.1.8. The combined effect of, and relationship between, these provisions means that the final built form of the Authorised Development will not give rise to environmental effects beyond those which have been assessed. This approach, and what we have called the "consent envelope" is explained further in **section 1.6** of this document.
- 5.1.9. Finally, there is an additional "lock" in Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements), where, pursuant to paragraph 2(1)(b), when seeking to discharge a requirement, the undertaker must provide a statement to confirm whether it is likely that the subject matter of the application will give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects compared to those in the ES, and if the Applicant did identify new or different effects, the relevant planning authority could refuse the application to discharge the requirement.

5.2. Schedule 2 (Requirements)

- 5.2.1. This Schedule sets out the requirements that apply to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Authorised Development under the Order. The requirements generally follow the model provisions where these are relevant, and where they have been amended this has been informed by the outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment and any discussions with the relevant planning authority or other relevant statutory consultee.
- 5.2.2. The requirements closely relate to the mitigation set out in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and a number of them specifically refer to the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and other Application documents (in particular, 'outline' strategies or plans) in order to ensure that the mitigation or other measures outlined in those documents are secured.
- 5.2.3. Many of the requirements require submission of details for approval by the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State (as relevant to Requirement 20). In some instances, the relevant planning authority is under a duty to consult with a third party or parties in relation to the document submitted to them. This is a departure from the model provisions. Where consultation is required under the Order it is, in each case, the relevant planning authority's duty to carry it out before approving a document submitted to it (rather than, as in some of the model provisions, the undertaker's duty to carry it out before submitting the document for approval). Where it is considered that it would be particularly relevant for the relevant planning authority to consult a third party, that third party has been named within the relevant requirement. It is common for the relevant planning authority to be required to consult with specific stakeholders as part of discharge of Requirements. Requirement 6 (battery safety management) states that the planning authority "must consult with" Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service on approval of the Battery Safety Management Plan. Equivalent wording appears in Requirement 7 (battery safety management) of **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** and

Requirement 6 (battery safety management) of **The Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026**. Similarly, Requirements 11 (construction environmental management plan) and 18 (decommissioning and restoration) of the Order require the relevant planning authority's approval to be given "in consultation with" specified stakeholders. This form of wording has precedent across a range of made DCOs in respect of a range of Requirements. Notwithstanding this position, it would remain open to the undertaker to consult with relevant stakeholders ahead of submission to obtain their views on the detailed plan, prior to formal application for discharge under the Requirement.

- 5.2.4. In the undertaker's opinion the requirements in Schedule 2 are all necessary and relevant to planning and the development to be permitted as they are outputs from the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**; enforceable and precise in their language; and reasonable in all other respects.
- 5.2.5. Many of the requirements require a detailed plan to be submitted "substantially in accordance with" the outline plan. This drafting is well precedented (appearing in for example the **Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** and the **Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026**) and there are robust reasons for including this rather than simply "in accordance with". Without the term "substantially", "in accordance with" can be construed as meaning "exactly the same as". This is not appropriate for most of the Requirements in Schedule 2. The certified document is an 'outline' management plan that sets the outline for the final plan to be developed based on the detailed design of the Proposed Development, any updated legislation or guidance, and reflecting any improvements or changes to industry practices or approach. It is therefore important that the term "substantially" remains as part of these Requirements in order to build in the flexibility needed for the plan to be developed in accordance with the greater level of detail that will be known at a later stage. The outline battery safety management plan is a good example of where a plan needs to be able to respond to the most up to date legislation and guidance, and it is in no one's best interests for such a plan to secure now the specific legislation and guidance that must be adhered to, when that is likely to evolve before detailed design. It is advantageous in order that any adverse effects are managed and the Proposed Development's impacts properly mitigated, that the plans can be responsive, so for example, the proposed planting can reflect the condition of habitats on the ground at the time of detailed design. The Applicant does not consider the use of this wording to pose any risk of changes to approved documents leading to environmental effects not assessed in the ES: in fact, it is the Applicant's view that a detailed management plan which would lead to environmental effects not previously assessed would not be in "substantial" accordance with the relevant outline management plan. Further (and as set out in section 5.16 below), paragraph 2 of Schedule 16 of the Order sets out the procedure for discharge of Requirements, and provides that any application for discharge must be accompanied by a statement confirming whether it is likely that the application's subject matter will give rise to any materially new or different environmental effects, and if so, what those effects are. In addition, requirement 3(2) of Schedule 2 provides that approval for any amendment to

any approved document must not be given except where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State or other person (as relevant) that the subject matter of the approval sought is unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the environmental statement.

- 5.2.6. In all cases where a scheme or strategy or plan is to be submitted for approval there is a requirement for the undertaker to implement the approved scheme or strategy or plan as approved and maintain the plan through the operation of the relevant part of the Authorised Development. This wording to ensure ongoing maintenance has been incorporated from the made **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**. This is subject to Requirement 4, as explained in **Paragraph 5.2.11** of this document.
- 5.2.7. Where relevant and appropriate, certain requirements can be discharged in part, which is facilitated by the wording restricting “part” of the Authorised Development from proceeding until the relevant details have been submitted and approved in respect of that part. The “parts” are not pre-defined and this approach is designed to ensure necessary flexibility for different aspects of the Authorised Development to proceed as and when appropriate in the overall development schedule following detailed design. The approach and drafting is precededented in recently-made DCOs such as the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 5.2.8. **Requirement 1 – Commencement of the Authorised Development.** This requirement provides that the Authorised Development must not commence later than 5 years from the date of the Order coming into force. Sub-paragraph (2) of this requirement has been drafted to confirm that “commence” includes any of the “permitted preliminary works”.
- 5.2.9. **Requirement 2 – Phasing of the Authorised Development and date of final commissioning.** This requirement requires the undertaker to submit a written scheme setting out the phases of construction of the Authorised Development to the relevant local planning authority (Buckinghamshire Council) prior to commencement of the Authorised Development. The drafting of Requirement 2(2) is adopted from **The Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025** to mandate that the written scheme must include a timetable for the construction of the phases and a plan identifying the phasing areas. Requirement 2(4) enables the undertaker and the planning authority to amend the written scheme when they are in agreement and Requirement 2(5) confirms that the agreed scheme may contain flexibility and optioneering for different proposed phases of construction provided that the undertaker notifies the planning authority of the final intended phasing prior to construction. This approach was adopted recently in **The Byers Gill Solar Order 2025**. The scheme must be implemented as approved. Notice of the date of final commissioning with respect to each phase of Work No. 1 to

must be given the relevant planning authority within 15 working days of the date of final commissioning for that phase.

- 5.2.10. **Requirement 3 – Requirement for written approval.** This requirement provides that where any documents have been certified under Article 42 (Certification of plans and documents, etc.) and where any plans, details or schemes have been approved by the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State or other person (as relevant), the undertaker may submit for approval any amendments to those documents, plans, details or schemes and, if approved by the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State or other person (as relevant), those documents, plans, details or schemes are to be taken to include the amendments approved by the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State or other person (as relevant). Any amendments should not be approved unless it has been demonstrated that the subject matter of the approval sought is unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.2.11. **Requirement 4 – Detailed design approval.** This requirement stipulates that no part of Work Nos. 1 to 7 and 10 may commence until details relating to that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The details submitted must be in accordance with the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** and any details approved under Requirements 6 (battery safety management), 7 (landscape and ecological management plan), 8 (fencing and other means of enclosure), 9 (drainage), 10 (archaeology), 14 (operational noise) and 16 (rights of way and access strategy). The Authorised Development must be carried out in accordance with the approved details. As explained above at section 4.2.2, Work No. 9 will also be undertaken pursuant to the powers in Part 3 (Streets) of the Order, meaning that it is not necessary for Requirement 4 to also apply to these works. It is the Applicant's view that sufficient controls are in place with respect to this works package. Part 3 of the Order contains various relevant controls, for example the requirement under article 11(1)(a) for highway works to be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the highway authority, and the ability under article 16 for agreements to be entered into with the street authority in respect of highway works carried out under powers conferred by the Order. Requirement 4(1)(f) refers to vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and circulation areas "*relating to that part of*" Works Nos. 1 to 7 and 10 and as such is distinct from any works undertaken as part of Work No. 9 which, as set out in this response, is subject to separate controls. This approach has precedent in the **Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**. In respect of the "further associated development" authorised in Schedule 1, these works are to be undertaken "in connection with" Works Nos. 1 to 10 – as such the Applicant considers that Requirement 4 would apply to these works to the extent that they are undertaken in connection with a Work No. which is within the scope of Requirement 4.
- 5.2.12. **Requirement 5 – Community liaison group.** This requirement provides that the undertaker must establish a community liaison group prior to

commencement of the Authorised Development, in order to facilitate liaison between representatives of people living in the vicinity of the Order Limits, and other relevant organisations in relation to the construction of the Authorised Development.

- 5.2.13. **Requirement 6 – Battery safety management.** This requirement stipulates that Work No. 4 must not commence until a battery safety management plan has been approved by the relevant planning authority (substantially in accordance with the **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.9]**). The relevant planning authority must consult with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Environment Agency before approving the battery safety management plan. The battery safety management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.
- 5.2.14. **Requirement 7 – Landscape and ecological management plan.** This requirement stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development may commence until a written landscape and ecological management plan (substantially in accordance with the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.9]**) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England. The landscape and ecological management plan must include details of how the plan proposals will contribute to the achievement of a minimum 40% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitat units, 17% biodiversity net gain for hedgerow units and 10% biodiversity net gain for watercourse units for all of the Authorised Development during the operation of the Authorised Development. This approach to drafting, whereby the Applicant has secured the net gain units on the face of the requirement as informed by its **ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.17 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, accords with the approach taken in recent solar farm decisions including **The East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025** and **The Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025**. The undertaker must use the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' statutory biodiversity metric to calculate those percentages (or such other biodiversity metric approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body). The percentages secured are not the exact figures included in the BNG Assessment, as there is some need for flexibility given the BNG is subject to detailed design and the condition of habitats on the ground at the time; the Applicant has taken a precautionary approach to the drafting of the requirement to ensure it can deliver on its commitment. The landscape and ecological management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the Authorised Development.
- 5.2.15. **Requirement 8 – Fencing and other means of enclosure.** The undertaker is required to obtain approval from the relevant planning authority for any proposed temporary or permanent fences, walls or other means of enclosure, for the construction and operation of each part of the Authorised Development.

Any temporary fencing must be removed on completion of construction of the part of the Authorised Development for which it was used. Any permanent fencing required for operation must be completed before the date of final commissioning in respect of the relevant part and maintained for the operational lifetime of the part of the Authorised Development. The details of the operational fencing must accord with the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**.

- 5.2.16. **Requirement 9 – Drainage.** This requirement stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development may commence until written details of the drainage strategy (substantially in accordance with the **Flood Risk Assessment, Appendix: Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.16]**) have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services Limited. The Applicant would note that the **Outline Drainage Strategy** covers both surface water drainage and foul water drainage, and that this wording has precedent in the recently made **Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**. The approved strategy must be implemented and maintained throughout the construction and operation of the Authorised Development.
- 5.2.17. **Requirement 10 – Archaeology.** This requirement stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development may commence until for that part a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, such approval to be in consultation with Historic England, and the written scheme of investigation must substantially accord with the **Draft Archaeological Management Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.10]**.
- 5.2.18. Where any additional archaeological evaluation (such as trial trenching) is required pursuant to the approved written scheme of investigation to inform the approach to mitigation, updates to the **Draft Archaeological Management Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.10]** are made to account for the results of the additional archaeological evaluation. Where this is required the updated archaeological management strategy must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with Historic England.
- 5.2.19. Any approved written scheme of investigation or archaeological management strategy must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the construction of the authorised development and any archaeological works or watching brief must be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme.
- 5.2.20. **Requirement 11 – Construction environmental management plan.** Under this requirement, no part of the Authorised Development may commence until a construction environmental management plan (which must substantially accord with the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.7]**) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, such approval to be in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England. All construction works associated with the Authorised Development must be carried out in accordance with the approved construction environmental management plan, which must be implemented as approved.

- 5.2.21. **Requirement 12 – Operational environmental management plan.** Before the date of final commissioning of the Authorised Development, an operational environmental management plan (which must substantially accord with the **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.10]**) must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England. The plan must be implemented and maintained as approved.
- 5.2.22. **Requirement 13 – Construction traffic management plan.** Under this requirement, no part of the Authorised Development may commence until a construction traffic management plan (which must substantially accord with the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.8]**) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the local highway authority. All construction works associated with the Authorised Development must be carried out in accordance with the approved construction traffic management plan.
- 5.2.23. **Requirement 14 – Operational noise.** This requirement stipulates that Work Nos. 1 to 5 may not commence until an operational noise assessment (containing details of how the design has incorporated mitigation to ensure the operational noise rating levels as set out in the **ES [EN010158/APP/6.1]**) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. Paragraph 13.9.19 of Chapter 13 of the ES sets out the noise limits of 40 decibels (dB) L_{Ar} in the daytime and 35 dB L_{Ar} in the night-time at high sensitivity receptors, which would align with guidance in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). These limits would be applicable to all noise sensitive receptors. The design in the operational noise assessment must be implemented and maintained as approved.
- 5.2.24. **Requirement 15 – Employment, skills and supply chain.** This requirement stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development may commence until an employment, skills and supply chain plan (which must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan [EN010158/APP/7.20]**) in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The employment, skills and supply chain plan must identify opportunities for individuals and businesses to access employment and supply chain opportunities associated with that part of the Authorised Development to which the plan relates and the means for publicising such opportunities. The employment, skills and supply chain plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.
- 5.2.25. **Requirement 16 – Rights of way and access strategy.** This requirement provides that the Authorised Development may not commence until details of the layout, alignment and specification of the public rights of way to be permanently substituted and provided and permissive paths to be created as part of the Authorised Development have been submitted to and approved by

the relevant planning authority. The details of the public rights of way and permissive paths must accord with the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]** and the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**. The public rights of way and permissive paths must be provided in accordance with the approved details.

- 5.2.26. Requirement 16 also stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development may commence until a rights of way and access strategy (substantially in accordance with the **Outline Rights of Way and Access Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.12]**) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The rights of way and access strategy must be implemented and maintained as approved. The requirement makes clear that nothing in the requirement prevents the undertaker from withdrawing the use of the permissive paths after the date of decommissioning in accordance with Requirement 18 (decommissioning and restoration).
- 5.2.27. **Requirement 17 – Soil management plan.** This requirement stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development may commence until a soil management plan (substantially in accordance with the **Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.7]**) for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with Natural England. The soil management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.
- 5.2.28. **Requirement 18 – Decommissioning and restoration.** This requirement provides that decommissioning must commence no later than 40 years following the date of final commissioning (although the drafting does allow for associated development, for example the Rosefield Substation, to not be decommissioned until the final phase of Work No. 1 to which it relates is decommissioned. This is because some parts of the associated development are required for more than one phase of the generating station, i.e. Work No. 1). No later than 12 months before the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the Authorised Development, the undertaker must notify the relevant planning authority of the intended decommissioning date. No later than ten weeks prior to the intended date of decommissioning the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for its approval a decommissioning environmental management plan (substantially in accordance with the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.4]**). No decommissioning works can be carried out until the relevant planning authority has approved the decommissioning environmental management plan, in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England. The decommissioning environmental management plan must be implemented as approved.
- 5.2.29. **Requirement 19 – Design flood extent.** This requirement states that no part of the Authorised Development may commence within the design flood extent until it has demonstrated that the Authorised Development will not worsen flooding,

and if any floodplain is lost, it must provide equivalent flood storage through a floodplain compensation scheme. More specifically, per paragraph (1) the undertaker must submit a detailed volumetric calculation (or hydraulic modelling if appropriate) and a mitigation plan (if required) for approval by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the Environment Agency before it is able to commence any part of development within the design flood extent. Paragraph (2) clarifies the circumstances in which a mitigation plan is required, being where the volumetric calculation/hydraulic modelling shows increased flood risk as a result of the Authorised Development. Under paragraph (3), any mitigation plan must include a floodplain compensation scheme which provides for the implementation of compensatory storage before the associated floodplain loss, a mechanism to achieve no net loss of flood plain during a flood event and no net increase of flood risk elsewhere and compensation on a volume-for-volume and level-for-level basis, where appropriate.

- 5.2.30. **Requirement 20 – Biosecurity management plan.** This requirement stipulates that no part of the Authorised Development located within the biosecurity area may commence until a Biosecurity Management Plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State. “Biosecurity Area” is defined in Article 2 by reference to **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.4: Field Numbering System [EN010158/APP/6.3.2] [AS-020]** to include all of the fields that Preston Farms Limited (PFL) currently holds a leasehold interest in within the Order Limits, together with all fields adjacent to those fields within the Order Limits, and is shown as the area shaded orange on the **Biosecurity Area Plan [EN010158/APP/2.7]**. The **Biosecurity Area Plan [EN010158/APP/2.7]** appropriately limits the spatial extent of the application of this requirement and has been included as a plan to be certified by the Secretary of State in Schedule 13. The Biosecurity Management Plan must be prepared substantially in accordance with the **Outline Biosecurity Management Plan [EN010158/APP/8.39]**. The Biosecurity Management Plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates. To undertake early planting within the Biosecurity Area (being Permitted Preliminary Work (I)), an Advanced Planting Biosecurity Statement must be approved by the Secretary of State and implemented as approved.
- 5.2.31. Notably, Requirement 20 provides that the Secretary of State (not the relevant planning authority) is to be the discharging authority. The Secretary of State is the most appropriate discharging authority for this requirement given the significance, sensitivity and complexity of the biosecurity matters and the nature of the tenant farmer’s operations in supplying the National Health Service, a publicly funding healthcare system. There is precedent for including the Secretary of State as the discharging authority in offshore wind farm projects, including in the **Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023** and the **Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Order 2025** specifically in relation to aviation related requirements.

5.3. Schedule 3 (Legislation to be disapplied)

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

5.4. Schedule 4 (Streets subject to street works)

- 5.4.1. This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be subject to street works by reference to the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]**. The Schedule relates to Article 8 (Street works).

5.5. Schedule 5 (Alteration of streets)

- 5.5.1. This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be permanently altered and then maintained by the highway authority or the street authority by reference to the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]**. This Schedule relates to Articles 10 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) and 11 (Construction and maintenance of new and altered streets).

5.6. Schedule 6 (Streets and public rights of way)

- 5.6.1. This Schedule sets out the locations of the public rights of way to be permanently stopped up and diverted, or temporarily managed during construction by the Order in two parts: the public rights of way to be permanently stopped up and diverted (Part 1) and the public rights of way to be managed temporarily (Part 2). It references the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]**. This Schedule relates to Articles 11 (Construction and maintenance of new and altered streets), 12 (Temporary prohibition or restriction on use of streets and public rights of way) and 13 (Permanent stopping up and diverting of public rights of way).

5.7. Schedule 7 (Access to works)

- 5.7.1. This Schedule sets out the permanent means of access to works to the Authorised Development. It references the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010158/APP/2.4]**. The Schedule relates to Article 15 (Access to works).

5.8. Schedule 8 (Traffic regulation measures)

- 5.8.1. This Schedule contains details of the streets that are subject to traffic regulation measures, which are temporary speed limits (Part 1) and temporary traffic signals (Part 2). This Schedule relates to Article 17 (Traffic regulation measures).

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

- 5.9.1. This Schedule sets out the areas of land over which only new rights may be acquired by the undertaker and the nature of the rights that may be acquired. The plot numbers in column 1 of that table correlate with the relevant plot numbers shaded blue on the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]** and the nature of the rights in column 2 explains the purposes for which rights over land may be acquired and restrictive covenants imposed. The Schedule relates to Article 24 (Compulsory acquisition of rights).
- 5.10. **Schedule 10 (Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for the creation of new rights and imposition of new restrictive covenants)**
- 5.10.1. This Schedule modifies existing compensation legislation including the Land Compensation Act 1973 and the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. It is commonly included in made DCOs, including the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**. This has been updated to reflect any necessary changes arising as a result of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Schedule relates to Article 24 (Compulsory acquisition of rights).
- 5.11. **Schedule 11 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken)**
- 5.11.1. This Schedule sets out the land of which only temporary possession may be taken, pursuant to Article 31 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development). This land is shown green on the **Land Plans [EN010158/APP/2.2]**, and the purpose for the temporary possession is described by reference to the relevant powers and work numbers and corresponding **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**.
- 5.12. **Schedule 12 (Hedgerows to be removed)**
- 5.12.1. This Schedule sets out the specific hedgerows to be removed pursuant to Article 40 (Felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows) and lists in Column 2 the number of the hedgerow and extent of the removal. Schedule 12 is divided into Part 1 (Removal of hedgerows) and Part 2 (Removal of important hedgerows).
- 5.13. **Schedule 13 (Documents and plans to be certified)**
- 5.13.1. This Schedule lists the Application documents referred to in the Order that the undertaker must have certified as true copies by the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 42 (Certification of plans and documents, etc.).
- 5.14. **Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules)**
- 5.14.1. This Schedule relates to Article 43 (Arbitration). The intention is to achieve a fair, impartial and binding award on substantive differences between the parties. Timeframes are imposed in relation to the arbitration process, in the context of the pressing need for new power generation, particularly by renewable means,

identified in the National Policy Statements, and it is considered desirable that any disputes are resolved promptly to enable delivery of the Authorised Development in as timely a way as possible.

- 5.14.2. Schedule 14 refers to the person who commenced the arbitration as the Claimant and the other party as the Respondent.
- 5.14.3. Taking precedent from **The Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026**, the Schedule provides that any proceedings and associated documents will be open and accessible to the public, subject to a direction from the arbitrator requiring confidentiality where this is required to protect commercially sensitive information.

5.15. Schedule 15 (Protective provisions)

- 5.15.1. This Schedule sets out protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose equipment may be affected by the Authorised Development. This schedule relates to Article 44 (Protective provisions) and currently contains protective provisions for the benefit of defined classes of service undertakers (electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers at Part 1, electronic communications code operators at Part 2, and drainage authorities at Part 3) as well as bespoke protective provisions as agreed with the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board (Part 4).
- 5.15.2. This Schedule will be further updated with additional parts with bespoke protective provisions for the benefit of particular bodies in the Examination period. Negotiation with the relevant parties for these additional provisions is at various stages.
- 5.15.3. The protective provisions in Part 1 – for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers, have been amended slightly to include other mains, pipelines or cables not ordinarily falling within the definition of "apparatus" and the owner of such mains, pipelines and cables as a "utility undertaker". This is to capture and protect the water supply to any tenants that is privately provided within the Order Limits.

5.16. Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements)

- 5.16.1. This Schedule provides a bespoke procedure for dealing with an application made to the discharging authority (defined to mean the body responsible for giving any consent, agreement or approval – therefore able to include the relevant planning authority as well as the Secretary of State) for any consent, agreement or approval required by the Requirements in Schedule 2 of the Order, informed by the Applicant's experience with discharging commitments in practice on other projects. Clarification and certainty as to what constitutes a 'valid' application for the purposes of discharge of a requirement has been introduced at paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 16, where the undertaker must provide the information listed in sub-paragraphs (a) – (e) via email (unless otherwise agreed between the parties in writing) to the discharging authority.

The required information includes a statement to confirm whether it is likely that the subject matter of the discharge application will give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those in the environmental statement, confirmation that notice of such application, and a copy of the application, has been given to any requirement consultee if it is required (which goes beyond Appendix 1 of Advice Note 15 [Ref. 1-1]), a detailed management plan and confirmation of payment of the discharge of requirement application fee.

- 5.16.2. The requirement for a statement regarding environmental effects has precedent in, for example, **the Springwell Solar Farm Order 2026** and **the Fenwick Solar Farm Order 2026**. The intention is to alert the discharging authority to the potential for materially new or different environmental effects to arise, to ensure that the discharging authority has due regard to this when determining the application. Pursuant to paragraph 2(4), the deemed discharge process in paragraph 2(3) is also expressly disapplied in the case of applications identifying materially new or different environmental effects under paragraph 2(1)(b). The Applicant's expectation is that any discharge application identifying materially new or different environmental effects is unlikely to be approved by the discharging authority in the absence of further information enabling the discharging authority to be satisfied that any such environmental effects are acceptable and/or capable of being appropriately mitigated.
- 5.16.3. Paragraph 2(2) sets out time periods within which decisions must be made. Appendix 1 of Advice Note 15 from the Planning Inspectorate [Ref. 1-1] provides that this decision period from the discharging authority is 42 days but the Applicant has deemed it appropriate to extend this to ten weeks. The Schedule also provides for deemed approval of the applications in certain circumstances. The Schedule makes provision for if the relevant planning authority requires reasonable further information in relation to the application, where it must notify the undertaker within 15 working days of receipt of the application specifying the reasonable further information required. If the discharging authority reasonably considers the further information inadequate and requests further information, the undertaker must be notified within five working days of the day in which the undertaker provided information under the original request.
- 5.16.4. The Schedule also sets out an appeals process in the event of a refusal of an application, including detail around the appeals process to ensure it is conducted objectively and to reduce the scope for disagreement should there be a need to engage the appeals procedure in the future. The Schedule also includes the applicable fees payable for the application as prescribed by the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) Regulations 2012 (an approach preceded by **The Byers Gill Solar Order 2025**). Schedules similar to Schedule 16 have been used in various orders and can be seen in a similar form in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023**, **Gate**

Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and The East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 2025. The bespoke process is required in order to ensure that applications under requirements are dealt with efficiently so that the Authorised Development is not held up. Deemed approval of applications is required for the same reason and ensures that the nationally-needed Authorised Development will not be held up by the discharge of requirements. The Schedule relates to Article 46 (Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.).

6. References

- **Ref. 1-1:** Planning Inspectorate (2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Fifteen: drafting Development Consent Orders. Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-fifteen-drafting-development-consent-orders/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-fifteen-drafting-development-consent-orders#appendix-1>



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