



## Application by One Earth Solar Farm Limited for One Earth Solar Farm

### The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1)

Issued on 7 August 2025

The following table sets out the Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions and requests for information - ExQ1. If necessary, the examination timetable enables the ExA to issue a further round of written questions in due course. If this is done, the further round of questions will be referred to as ExQ2.

Questions are set out using an issues-based framework derived from the initial assessment of principal issues provided as **annex C** to the Rule 6 Letter dated 17 June 2025. Questions have been added to the framework of issues set out there as they have arisen from representations and to address the assessment of the application against relevant policies.

Column 2 of the table indicates which interested parties (IPs) and other persons each question is directed to. The ExA would be grateful if all persons named could answer all questions directed to them, providing a substantive response, or indicating that the question is not relevant to them for a reason. This does not prevent an answer being provided to a question by a person to whom it is not directed, should the question be relevant to their interests.

Each question has a unique reference number which starts with 1 (indicating that it is from ExQ1) and then has an issue number and a question number. For example, the first question on air quality and emissions issues is identified as Q1.1.1. When you are answering a question, please start your answer by quoting the unique reference number.

If you are responding to a small number of questions, answers in a letter will suffice. If you are answering a larger number of questions, it will assist the ExA if you use a table based on this one to set out your responses. An editable version of this table in Microsoft Word is available on request from the Case Team: please contact [oneearth solar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:oneearth solar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and include One Earth Solar Farm in the subject line of your email.

**Responses are due by deadline 2: 21 August 2025**



## Abbreviations used:

<b>PA2008</b>	Planning Act 2008	<b>LIR</b>	the Local Impact Report
<b>Art</b>	article	<b>LPA</b>	local planning authority
<b>ALA1981</b>	Acquisition of Land Act 1981	<b>MP</b>	model provision (in the MPO, see below)
<b>BoR</b>	the Book of Reference	<b>MPO</b>	The Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) Order 2009
<b>CA</b>	compulsory acquisition	<b>NPS</b>	National Policy Statement
<b>CPO</b>	compulsory purchase order	<b>NSIP</b>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
<b>dDCO</b>	the draft Development Consent Order	<b>R</b>	requirement
<b>EM</b>	the Explanatory Memorandum	<b>SI</b>	statutory instrument
<b>ES</b>	the Environmental Statement	<b>SoS</b>	secretary of state
<b>ExA</b>	Examining Authority	<b>TP</b>	temporary possession

## The Examination Library

References in these questions set out in square brackets (for example [APP-010]) are to documents catalogued in the Examination Library. The Examination Library can be obtained from the following link: [Examination Library web link](#)

It will be updated as the examination progresses.

## Citation of questions

Questions in this table should be cited as follows:

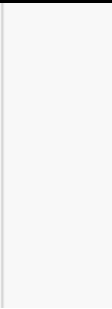
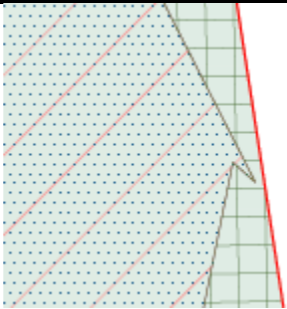
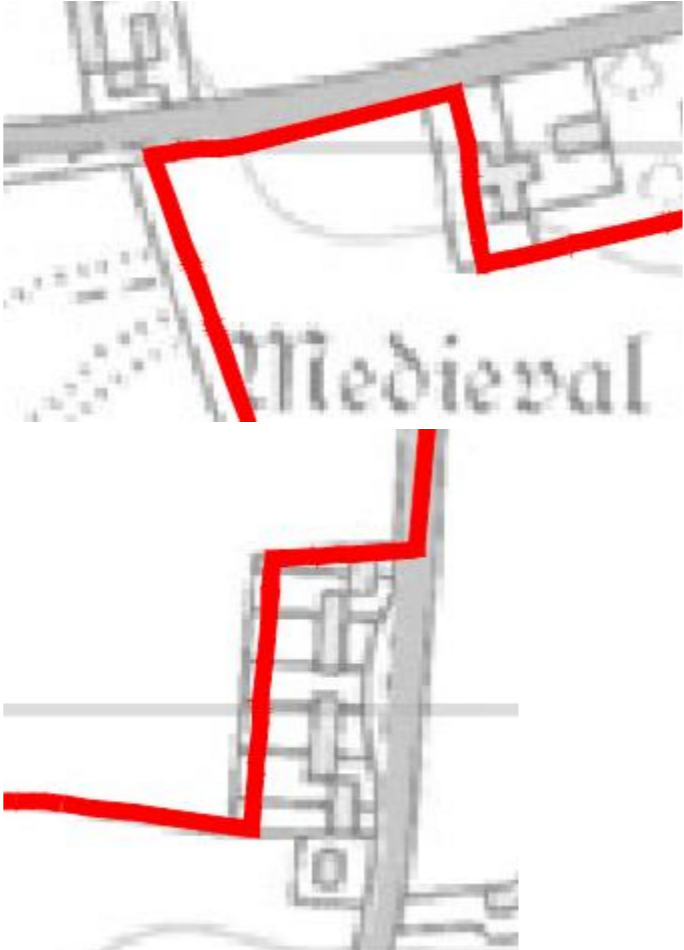
Question reference: issue reference: question number, for example ExQ1 1.0.1 – refers to question 1 in this table.



<b>Index</b>	
<b>1. General and cross-topic questions.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Design, parameters and other details of the proposed development .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. The Environmental Statement (general).....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Need.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Site selection and alternatives .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Air quality and emissions .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. Biodiversity, ecology and natural environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) ..</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9. Compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and other land or rights considerations .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10. The draft Development Consent Order (DCO) .....</b>	<b>13</b>
10.0 Articles.....	13
10.1 Schedule 1 – Authorised development .....	14
10.2 Schedule 2 - Requirements.....	14
10.3 Schedule 3 Legislation to be disapplied.....	14
<b>11. Historic environment.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>12. Hydrology and hydrogeology and the Water Environment.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>13. Land use and soils .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>14. Human health.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>15. Landscape and visual .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>16. Noise and vibration .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>17. Socio-economic effects .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>18. Transportation and traffic .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>19. Cumulative Effects .....</b>	<b>22</b>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
<b>1. General and cross-topic questions</b>		
Q1.0.1	The Applicant National Grid Electricity Transmission	<b>High Marnham Substation</b> (1) This substation would not yet appear to have consent. Please provide details of when it is anticipated an application will be made and provide as full explanation as possible how the timing of the application for the substation and the programme for this application is proposed to happen/coincide. (2) Are you aware of any potential impediments to the progress of the substation? (3) When is it anticipated the substation will be completed and the solar farm might have the ability to physically connect to the Grid?
Q1.0.2	The Applicant National Grid Electricity Transmission	<b>Connection to the National Grid</b> (1) In order to understand the offer made – can both National Grid and the Applicant provide details of the steps to be taken in advance of any construction works. (2) Where does this proposal fit within the Grid Prioritisation assessment/exercise that the ExA understands is underway (announced by the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero) on 15 April 2025? ( <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clean-energy-projects-prioritised-for-grid-connections">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clean-energy-projects-prioritised-for-grid-connections</a> ) (3) Are there further legislative steps required to facilitate the change in prioritization/ or to remove ‘zombie’ projects from the connection list? If this is the case please explain what these might be, and when it is anticipated that this legislation/change in regulation might occur? (4) Would any of these changes influence the proposed connection date?
Q1.0.3	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	<b>Grid Connection</b> The ExA understand that a connection agreement has been made with the applicant for 740MW with a connection date of 2029 and as reported in the SoCG at D1. (1) Please advise when in 2029 that it is anticipated to be connected, or if the end date to meet the obligation of the agreement in effect means by the end of 2029. (2) In light of this potential timeframe, is there any possibility the project could contribute towards achieving beneficial climate change contributions by 2030?
Q1.0.4	NGET	<b>High Marnham Capacity</b> The ExA understand that the offer made to the applicant is to connect to a 400kv substation, which is the subject of a future planning application yet to be submitted to the local authority. Please advise what the substation facilitates in terms of the capacity available at High Marnham at the present time and the capacity that it is anticipated would be available once the substation were to be constructed, assuming that this were to get permission.
Q1.0.5	NGET	<b>Humber to High Marnham Reinforcement</b> Please confirm whether the reinforcement work proposed to be undertaken from the Humber to High Marnham, which is understood to be part of a future NSIP application provides additional capacity at High Marnham, which might allow future grid connection capacity in this location.
Q1.0.6	NGET	<b>High Marnham</b> In the Bassetlaw District Council RR [AS-002] reference is made to a planning application and a further screening opinion which would appear to seek to facilitate additional battery storage. (1) In order to fully understand the possible cumulative effects of potential development in the vicinity, can you confirm if these proposals would utilise the full capacity currently available at High Marnham? (2) Would this change if the 400kv substation referred to in the connection agreement is provided, and/or the Humber to High Marnham DCO were to be implemented?
Q1.0.7	The Applicant	<b>Battery Storage</b> At ISH1 and in the subsequent written submission, the battery storage was described as associated development, and how it met the tests set out in the guidance for such development. (1) Please provide the details of the capacity of the battery storage.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>(2) As currently drafted the dDCO does not refer to a particular capacity for battery storage. Would it be appropriate for such a capacity to be included in the description of the Work No.?</p> <p>(The ExA Note this has occurred in other DCOs e.g. Little Crow, and Cleve Hill, although there are other examples where this would not appear to be the case)</p> <p>(3) In the event that it is not considered appropriate to reference the capacity of the battery storage, please clarify what ensures it would be proportionate to the NSIP, and not an aim in itself or a means of generating income to cross subsidise the cost of the principal development?</p>
Q1.0.8	The Applicant	<p><b>Application Form</b></p> <p>Is the address listed correct, there appears there may be a typographical error in the 'City or Town' box. If so please correct.</p>
Q1.0.9	The Applicant	<p><b>Dates of Photographs</b></p> <p>According to the Viewpoint Photographs included as Volume 3 Figures 11.1-11.14 Part 1-19 the photographs were taken on 6, 7 March 2024, 18 March 2024, 12 September 2024. Yet paragraph 11.3.12 of ES Chapter 11 does not include all of these dates. Please clarify the position.</p>
Q1.0.10	The Applicant	<p><b>Locations of Photographs</b></p> <p>In ES Vol 3 Figures 11.1-11.14 – Part 16 The Viewpoint locations appear to be slightly different locations from the versions provided elsewhere, please explain the discrepancy.</p>
Q1.0.11	The Applicant	<p><b>Residential Receptors</b></p> <p>(1) Table 11.10 on page 70 of ES Chapter 11 identifies a series of residential receptors, (Figure 13.2 identifies residential receptors R1-R10, for the Air Quality Chapter) please advise where a similar plan can be found identifying these receptors in respect of the landscape chapter?</p> <p>The ExA note there is additional detail provided in the D1 response with a series of sheets described as 'Residential assessment and design response'.</p> <p>We have not located a table or plan which identifies the residential receptors. If there is not one, please provide one, or advise us where it can be found.</p> <p>In the absence of a plan clearly identifying individual residential receptors, please set out how you have undertaken an individual assessment for each residential property in either landscape, amenity or health terms.</p>
Q1.0.12	The Applicant	<p><b>Works Plans</b></p> <p>Within the Landscape Chapter of the ES several references are made to distances of separation or offset being secured in the works plans, for example</p> <p>Paragraph 11.5.15 - 15m to Work No.1</p> <p>Paragraph 11.6.16 – 30m around bridleways</p> <p>(1) It is not clearly apparent how these offsets are secured, please explain how this is achieved by reference to the Works Plan?</p> <p>(2) Where would an offset be measured from? Please specify how the measurement is to be taken for each item where an offset is to be secured e.g. hedgerow, woodland, waterbody, watercourse, PROW, residential property etc.</p> <p>(3) Would it not be clearer to have a plan specifically referencing the separation distances to each of the bridleways, residential receptors, PROW etc or a Requirement to the effect of a defined minimum and how it is to be measured?</p> <p>In considering your response the ExA note that within the DAD there are a series of images referencing the final masterplan where offsets are set out, the ExA wonder if this could provide a useful starting point to show the whole if incorporated as a single document to be certified?</p>
Q1.0.13	The Applicant	<p><b>Works Plan</b></p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<div></div> <p>Sheet 1 appears to have an error as indicated in the snip – please clarify or correct as necessary</p>
Q1.0.14	The Applicant	<p><b>Plans</b></p> <p>The Location Plan and the Land and Works Plans do not appear to have the same boundaries. For example, at Roberts Close the location plan appears to include parts of the gardens to these properties, in addition the boundary around Whimpton Moor Medieval village does not appear to correspond, nor does the boundary to the residential property to the east of this.</p> <div></div> <p>It is important that these documents align, please prepare a location plan, that aligns with the land plans and works plans.</p>
Q1.0.15	The Applicant	<p><b>Mitigation</b></p> <p>(1) Is there a flow chart showing the interrelationship between the dDCO, the Requirements and the various outline mitigation plans? If not can one be provided</p> <p>(2) Within a number of documents (DAD, ) etc. measurements are identified to be limited by way of ‘above ground level’ (for Power Conversion Stations 6m ) how is this to be verified?</p> <p>(3) Is the topographical survey within the FRA (Appendix A1) the basis of what should be relied upon as showing the detailed baseline which should then be included in the Certified documents and specifically referenced as such?</p>
Q1.0.16	The Applicant	<p><b>Mitigation</b></p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
	Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire CCs (3)	<p>The outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) Revision 2 (submitted at D1) indicates at paragraph 2.6.2 that “<i>In the event of large-scale replacements of components being required, it is anticipated that the procedure will be done gradually over a period of time to minimise the number of HGVs movements to the site.</i>”</p> <p>(1) How is this to be managed?</p> <p>(2) The TA appears to indicate that during operation traffic movements would be limited to upto 10 LGVs and 12 HGVs, in the event that panels will need replacing during the operational period, what mechanism is in place to ensure transport matters are controlled to within the numbers this suggests?</p> <p>(3) Can the Councils confirm whether the management of operational traffic as currently proposed is consider suitable?</p>
Q1.0.17	The Applicant	<p><b>Other Consents</b></p> <p>(1) In light of the RR from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) please advise whether any Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances set out in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended are proposed to be stored or used on the site.</p> <p>(2) If there are any of these substances, what quantities would there be, and does this exceed the threshold set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended such that consent would be required?</p>
Q1.0.18	The Applicant	<p><b>HSE</b></p> <p>(1) Has a risk assessment been carried out as per the advice in Advice Note 11 “working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process” Annex G on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects -The Health and Safety Executive - GOV.UK?</a></p> <p>(2) Please advise where this can be found if it has been submitted, alternatively set out your response to the HSE RR when this might be undertaken and submitted to the Examination.</p>
Q1.0.19	District Councils Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Services UK Health Security Agency Environment Agency	<p><b>Fire Safety</b></p> <p>(1) Can the EA, the Councils Environmental Health Teams, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Services, and UK Health Security Agency advise from your different areas of responsibility whether you are satisfied with the proposed approach to fire safety?</p>
Q1.0.20	The Applicant	<p><b>Community Fund</b></p> <p>(1) Reference to this fund is made in the ES Chapter on Human Health (paragraphs, 16.5.11, 16.6.17, 16.6.55), and it was referenced during the hearings of the week of 7 July 2025 please explain further what this fund is, if it is secured by way of the DCO how this is secured, and what mitigation it offers.</p> <p>(2) If it does not offer mitigation what is its purpose?</p>
Q1.0.21	The Applicant and all parties	<p><b>Consultation on National Policy Statements</b></p> <p>The Government published on 24 April further consultation on each of the National Policy Statements, NPS – EN1, EN-3 and EN-5. The consultation period closed on 29 May 2025.</p> <p>Please advise if there are any areas of these documents that you consider the ExA should regard as important or relevant to the consideration of the Proposed Development.</p>
Q1.0.22	The Applicant	<p><b>Recent Legal Cases</b></p> <p>Could the Applicant provide comment in light of the recent cases of R (on the application of Finch on behalf of the Weald Action Group) v Surrey County Council [2024] UKSC 20 and Friends of the Earth Ltd and South Lakeland Action on Climate Change v SSLUHC [2024] EWHC 2349 (Admin), and whether these cases have any implications for the assessments of greenhouse gas emissions?"</p>
Q1.0.23	The Applicant	<p><b>Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP)</b></p> <p>(1) Please clarify why the oSWMP is not included within the dDCO in a similar way to the other mitigation plans?</p> <p>(2) The outline Operational Environmental Management Plan refers to the Site Waste Management Plan at paragraph 2.9.1 should this be the oSWMP?</p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
Q1.0.24	The Applicant, Environment Agency, Councils	<b>Waste</b> Can each party provide commentary on their views in respect to compliance with the Regulations: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) 2013
Q1.0.25	LCC and NCC (1) The Applicant (2) and (3)	<b>Waste Planning</b> (1) In light of the number of solar schemes already approved, and the number in the pipeline, what plans are being prepared as waste authorities to manage this over the coming years? (2) What proposals are you committing to ensure that the panels can be recycled, as you indicate a commitment to a 100% recycling rate? (3) Please provide further detail on how components from the BESS have been planned to be recycled?
<b>2. Design, parameters and other details of the proposed development</b>		
Q2.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Design Approach Document (DAD)</b> Within Figure 12 a diagonal brown line runs across the site, this does not obviously appear in the key. Please explain what this represents, and if necessary, update the key or the Figure.
Q2.0.2	The Applicant	<b>DAD</b> (1) Is there a timeline setting out the relationship between the public consultation events referenced on page 37 and the workshops referred to on page 33? If not could this please be provided (2) Page 40 the final sentence appears incomplete –“ <i>Table 4 records how the statutory consultation masterplan changed compared to the non-statutory consultation version in</i> ” please clarify
Q2.0.3	The Applicant	<b>Design Parameters</b> The EM at paragraph 1.6.8 explains that “ <i>Where the Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9] and the Height Parameter Plan [EN010159/APP/2.5] 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.</i> ” Please provide an example of such a work and explain how in these circumstances the ES has assessed the worst-case scenario.
Q2.0.4	The Applicant, (1) The Councils (2)	<b>Design Principles</b> (1) To clearly understand the design parameters relied on for the assessment, would it not be beneficial for all parties for these to be set out in a single document to be certified? (2) Do the Councils agree that sufficient information has been provided in respect of design matters to meet the tests set out in NPS EN-1 para 5.10.29 and this is suitably secured to ensure that future consenting would meet landscape, visual and good design objectives?
<b>3. The Environmental Statement (general)</b>		
Q3.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Environmental Statement</b> (1) The ES has assessed effects on the basis that the proposed development is temporary, all be it having a 60 year lifespan. Please provide a justification for this approach. (2) If the DCO were to be granted as currently drafted, in legal terms is it correct to say that the DCO is in effect permanent, but it is the requirement to decommission that provides the limitation in time? (3) In these circumstances, what would you regard the planning status of the land to be after the 60 year period?
Q3.0.2	The Applicant, the Councils, Environment Agency, Natural England	<b>Environmental Statement</b> (1) With a 60 year lifespan please explain the frequency with which you would expect to have to replace components, for example BESS, Inverters, Panels. (2) It would appear that there is no specific assessment of replacements as it has been assumed it would be no worse than the initial construction period, is this a correct interpretation?

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		(3) Assuming this is correct, the controls in place during construction to mitigate any consequential effects, would appear to need to be in place during operation, unless there is a control mechanism in place that would prevent a large-scale replacement of components. What would be a reasonable threshold that would ensure adverse environmental effects do not occur?
<b>4. Need</b>		
Q4.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Generating Capacity</b> (1) Within the Explanatory Memorandum and other documents reference is made to (paragraph 1.4.3) the description of Work No.1, but does not refer to an upper limit on the capacity of the generating station. The ExA understand this aligns with SoS decisions on other Solar DCOs, however is it not still necessary to understand the likely generating capacity to be able to understand the benefit of the likely energy generation? (2) Please explain the mechanisms within the Order that constrain the parameters of the development to those within the ES and the 'consent envelope'.
Q4.0.2	The Applicant	<b>Generating Capacity</b> (1) What ensures that the 740 megawatts capacity will be installed? (2) Should there be a requirement that ensures this is delivered?
Q4.0.3	The Applicant	<b>Statement of Need</b> (1) Paragraph 7.4.24 would appear to be incomplete, please correct or clarify if this is a typographical error. (2) At paragraph 8.5.7 an image appears which appears to be a repeat of Figure 7-3 from page 121 please correct or clarify.
<b>5. Site selection and alternatives</b>		
Q5.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Site selection</b> We note additional information is due to be provided at Deadline 2, please ensure it includes answers to the following questions (1) What proportion of the site in percentage and area terms is within Flood Zone 3? (2) What proportion of the solar panels in approximate number and percentage are within Flood Zone 3? (3) What is the estimate of the power generation from those panels?
Q5.0.2	The Applicant	<b>Search Area</b> <b>It is understood this will be responded to at D2</b> At ISH1 it was indicated that there is no set distance that is prescribed in identifying a search area, and reference was given to other DCO solar schemes where the area of search was both greater than and less than the 10km chosen here. (1) Can the Applicant explain what limits the distance from the proposed connection point at High Marnham in technical terms and therefore what distance from High Marnham a solar scheme of this scale could be located? (2) Assuming that a greater distance than 10km is possible, what justification is there for the limitation of a 10km search area?
<b>6. Air quality and emissions</b>		
Q6.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Air Quality – Planning Guidance</b> In undertaking the assessment on Air Quality reference has been made to interim guidance produced by DEFRA (paragraph 13.3.15 of Chapter 13). Paragraph 13.3.17 of the same document states “pending publication of new guidance”. Can the Applicant advise whether this remains interim guidance? If it has been updated please advise what changes have occurred and if this leads to any change to the AQ Chapter or the conclusions reached.
Q6.0.2	The Applicant	<b>UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)</b> The UKHSA did not provide a RR can the Applicant confirm that they were consulted, and provide details of the responses received.
Q6.0.3	The Applicant	<b>Dust Management Plan</b>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		The OCEMP contains reference to the development and implementation of a Dust Management Plan (DMP) during the construction phase. Please provide an oDMP to enable the ExA to understand the mitigation measures that are likely to be in place during construction. Please explain why the oDMP should not be part of the overall mitigation package now, in light of the requirements in NPS EN-1 5.2.13.
<b>7. Biodiversity, ecology and natural environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))</b>		
Q7.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Connectivity across the site</b> (1) Explain how animals would be able to traverse the site once security and perimeter fencing is erected. (2) Is there a plan showing the potential 'corridors' for animal movement across the site? (3) The Commitments register item C9 for badgers – every 150m -more frequent where they are known to be present – so what does that mean? Are regular trails used? Are they protected? Please explain what is actually to be provided and how this will ensure the animals are appropriately catered for, and how this is secured and subsequently maintained.
Q7.0.2	NE The Councils	<b>Bat Research</b> It is the ExA's understanding that there is the intention to monitor bat activity in advance and then post construction to assist in developing an understanding of the effect on bats from solar array sites? (C33 in commitments register) (1) How is this information to be collated and shared and over what time frame is this intended to take place? (2) Do NE agree that this would give robust data which would assist in developing understanding? (3) Do NE or the Councils regard this as a benefit that could weigh in favour of the scheme?
Q7.0.3	The Applicant	<b>Quality of Surveys</b> (1) Can the Applicant respond to Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) concerns on the field surveys and sampling approach in their relevant representation [RR-154] and clarify what scope further surveys will have in 2025 and how the results will be taken into account as part of the DCO process? (In responding please cover each relevant species – e.g. reptile, bat, bird, otter, water vole.) (2) Can the Applicant clarify how the surveying has captured potential rare/scarce bird species including ground nesting birds such as Skylarks and what assessment they have made of any impact the development may have on Skylark nesting territories following any mitigation.
Q7.0.4		<b>Surveys</b> <b>Reptile Surveys</b> (1) Can the Applicant clarify why no further reptile surveys were undertaken in areas beyond the chosen sampling locations. <b>Bats</b> (2) Can the Applicant clarify the surveying methods and proposed mitigation, and further explain why no further bat transect surveys were undertaken in other areas within the Order Limits beyond the sampling locations that were chosen. <b>Otters</b> (3) Can the Applicant provide information on the size of any buffers, and the location of artificial holts which may be impacted during the decommissioning of the proposed development. <b>Water voles</b> (4) Can the Applicant provide more details on the control of mink, including length of time and location as mitigation for water voles.
Q7.0.5	The Applicant	<b>Ecology</b> Section 6.6.15 of the ES states that 92.5 percent (1,304 ha) of the Order Limits has been subject to detailed habitat survey. Paragraph 6.3.4 of the ES states that 105 ha of the Order Limits has not been subject to the survey because of restricted access focused on the High Marnham substation and surrounding areas. Can the Applicant clarify how information on the habitats for species surveyed with respect to the Extended Habitat Surveys for the Biodiversity chapter of the ES was established.
Q7.0.6	The Applicant	<b>Ecology</b>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>Paragraph 6.9.2 of the ES states that no habitat losses have been accounted for within the area of ‘land for potential cable route’ shown on the Illustrative Landscape Masterplan around the High Marnham Substation, on the basis that any habitats of interest such as hedgerows or scrub would be crossed using trenchless techniques.</p> <p>Assuming that access to these habitats would still be required during construction even with using trenchless techniques, can the Applicant clarify how any loss of sections of hedgerows and other habitat will be mitigated for so that how there will be no potential habitat losses in the area around High Marnham Substation.</p>
<b>8. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)</b>		
Q8.0.1	The Applicant	<p><b>Shadow HRA (sHRA)</b></p> <p>In providing the sHRA the detailed information expected in line with the advice on the National Infrastructure website would appear not to have been provided in full.</p> <p>Please identify where the following can be found, or provide them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a summary table of all European sites and qualifying features and each pathway of effect considered at each HRA Stage for each phase of the proposed development (construction, operation, and decommissioning, as relevant);</li> <li>• a copy of the citation/Natura 2000 data sheet for each European site;</li> <li>• a copy of the conservation objectives for all European sites for which LSEs have not been excluded and have been carried forward to HRA Stage 2;</li> <li>• a plan of the European site or sites potentially affected in relation to the proposed development (regulation 5(2)(l)(i) of the APFP Regulations); and</li> <li>• evidence (such as Evidence Plans, copies of correspondence, agreement logs, PADSS or SoCG) of agreement between the applicant and relevant ANCBs (including those in devolved administrations and/or relevant bodies in EEA States, where applicable) on the scope, methodologies, interpretation, and conclusions of the screening assessment.</li> </ul>
Q8.0.2	The Applicant	<p><b>sHRA</b></p> <p>The conservation objectives and qualifying features for the designated sites and their conservation status have been provided in the SHRA in paragraphs 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 but have not obviously been supported by the Natura 2000 citations or a summary table of the sites and qualifying features and each pathway of effect considered at each HRA Stage for each phase of the proposed development (construction, operation, and decommissioning, as relevant).</p> <p>Please identify where they can be found or provide them.</p>
Q8.0.3	The Applicant	<p><b>sHRA</b></p> <p>The sHRA states that depth of burial of transmission cables is likely to be effective in ensuring that neither EMF or heat alter the behaviour of adult or juvenile lamprey. It is not made clear what depth of cable burial is considered effective as mitigation or how this is to be secured. The oCEMP specifies that this would be 5m, what evidence is there that the depth specified would achieve the necessary mitigation?</p>
Q8.0.4	The Applicant	<p><b>sHRA</b></p> <p>The potential for in-combination effects with other nearby proposed developments and other plans and projects to result in adverse effects on river and sea lamprey is considered ‘very low’ (paragraphs 4.1.8-4.1.12, Doc 5.2).</p> <p>Please clarify which other projects or plans have been included in the sHRA assessment of in-combination effects.</p>
Q8.0.5	The Applicant	<p><b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)</b></p> <p>(1) Please provide clarification of the mitigation measures set out in the oCEMP (Doc 7.4) that would be relied on to avoid potential harm to the river and sea lamprey associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar site and SAC.</p> <p>(2) The oCEMP recognises there is a “<i>small risk of drilling fluid breakout to the watercourse</i>”. Can the Applicant and NE provide more detail on how this has been assessed in respect of the potential for any harm to the river or any species</p>
Q8.0.6	The Applicant	<p><b>sHRA</b></p> <p>Please provide evidence of the consultation undertaken with Natural England</p>
Q8.0.7	The Applicant	<b>Humber Estuary SAC/ Ramsar</b>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		Can the Applicant respond to NCC's concerns and clarify why a minimum buffer of 16m from the River Trent is considered sufficient to avoid direct impacts from construction and decommissioning runoff and drilling breakout fluid?
Q8.0.8	The Applicant	<b>Lamprey</b> Can the Applicant respond to NCC's concerns and clarify why a 5-year monitoring program is considered sufficient to monitor any barrier impacts from EMF to the lamprey population within the River Trent?
Q8.0.9	Natural England and the Applicant	<b>Humber Estuary SAC/Ramsar and Lamprey</b> (1) We note that NE appear to have agreed with the approach of the Applicant in considering both the previous questions. Could NE/Applicant please provide an explanation why 16m would be considered a suitable set off distance and why in respect of lamprey and their life cycle 5 years would be regarded as suitable timeframe to understand any effects. (2) Within the D1 submission of the Outline Design parameters Document (page 12) it now states "Installation of the 400kV cables beneath the River Trent will be at least 5m below the lowest surveyed point of the bed of the river and set back at least 10m from the water edge" This distance is repeated for Work No. 5. Can the Applicant explain how the distance of 10m complies with the 16m set off distance? (3) The water edge on a tidal river would not appear to be a set point – so clarity and consistency is required in respect of both the Outline Design Parameter and the ES.
<b>9. Compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and other land or rights considerations</b>		
Q9.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Funding Statement</b> (1) Paragraph 1.1.2 has no text is this just a typographical error/formatting issue? (2) Paragraph 2.1.1 states One Earth Solar Farm Limited is registered in England and Wales, as is the majority shareholder One Earth 740 SPV Limited. This according to paragraph 2.1.3 is a special purpose vehicle. From the flow chart (Appendix A) there appears to be only 2 shareholders, each with a 50% ownership, does this remain correct? (3) While the financial statement has been provided for Orsted, none has been provided for Padero Solar limited. Please explain why this is the case. (4) The flow chart lists the parent company as Padero Solar Limited, however paragraph 2.1.2 and 2.3.1 says it is Padero Solaer Limited, please clarify which is correct (5) According to Companies House Padero Solar Limited was liquidated on 14 April this year. Please provide an update on the funding statement. (6) In light of the above please provide further detail how the scheme is proposed to be funded, and deliver on financial commitments to meet the legal tests for CA .
Q9.0.2	The Applicant	<b>Funding</b> Paragraph 18 of the CA Guidance states that Applicants should be able to demonstrate that adequate funding is likely to be available to enable the compulsory acquisition within the statutory period following the order being made, and that the resource implications of a possible acquisition resulting from a blight notice have been taken account of. The Funding Statement [APP-009] only identifies the total cost of the project but does not differentiate costs of land acquisition (including compensation payable in respect of any compulsory purchase). It nevertheless, states that should any claims for blight arise because of the Application, the Applicant has access to sufficient funds to meet the cost of acquiring these interests at whatever stage they are served. (1) Does the estimate include an allowance for contingent costs and inflation? (2) What allowance has been made for potential blight claims? (3) What reassurance can be provided of funding being available should the costs be exceeded? (4) What reassurance can be provided that the extent of the Proposed Development would not be reduced in response to any future changes in costs or available funding?
Q9.0.3	The Applicant	<b>Book of Reference (BoR)</b> The BoR has a number of entries both within Category 1 and Category 2 where the owner of land and rights is recorded as unknown.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		Please could the Applicant set out what further steps will be undertaken up to the end of the Examination to identify unknown ownership, occupation, or interests in land?
Q9.0.4	The Applicant	<b>Land Rights and Interests</b> Please could the Applicant provide updates to the following matters: (1) Schedule of progress regarding any outstanding matters, objections, and agreements in relation to land rights; and (2) Schedule of progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers. Please can the Applicant ensure that any changes to the BoR are, where necessary, carried through to the Statement of Reasons (SoR)
Q9.0.5	Affected Persons Interested Parties	<b>Any Other Inaccuracies</b> Are any parties aware of any inaccuracies in the BoR, SoR or Land Plans?
Q9.0.6	Affected Persons	<b>Powers Sought</b> Does any Affected Person have any concerns that they have not yet raised about the legitimacy, proportionality or necessity of the land rights powers sought by the Applicant that would affect their land or their rights in land?
Q9.0.7	Statutory Undertakers	<b>Sections 127 and 138 of the PA2008</b> Do the Statutory Undertakers have any concerns about whether the tests set out in s127(3), s127(6), and s138(4) of the PA2008 have been met?
Q9.0.8	National Highways	<b>National Highways Land Interests</b> (1) Do you agree with the Applicant that your statutory undertaking will not be affected by the proposed development? (2) Is there agreement over the approach to the NH land interests and Protective Provisions included in the draft DCO? (3) In light of the comments NH make at Deadline 1 dated 25 July is it now confirmed that PPs would not be required for NH?.
Q9.0.9	The Applicant (1) and (2), Exolum Pipeline Systems Limited (3)	<b>Exolum Pipeline Systems Limited</b> (1) Please explain the asterisks included in the list of land plots within the Land Rights Tracker. (2) In light of the WR at D1 from Fisher German on behalf of Exolum please advise on the latest position in respect of any Protective Provisions (3) Please provide a draft of your preferred Protective Provisions and explain any distinction between what the Applicant has proposed and provide a justification as appropriate for the preferred wording proposed.
Q9.0.10	The Applicant All Statutory Undertakers	<b>Protective Provisions</b> The ExA understand that conversations are being undertaken between the Applicant and various parties
Q9.0.11		Can all statutory undertakers who do not have agreement on the wording of protective provisions, please provide their preferred wording and the justification for such wording where it differs from that proposed by the Applicant.
Q9.0.12	The Applicant	<b>Equalities Act 2010</b> (1) Please could the Applicant summarise how it has had regard to the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to the powers sought? (2) Have any Affected Persons or Interested Parties been identified as having protected characteristics and, if so, what regard has been given to them?
<b>10. The draft Development Consent Order (DCO)</b>		
<b>10.0 Articles</b>		
Q10.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Article 13</b> (1) This article provides powers to allow any private road within the Order Limits to be used temporarily during the construction and maintenance of the proposed development. Please explain why this is necessary and why all private roads in the Order Limits are subject to this power.
Q10.0.2	Nottinghamshire County Councils	<b>Street Works</b> Can NCC confirm whether they are content with the provisions in the dDCO relating to Street Works?

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
<b>10.1 Schedule 1 – Authorised development</b>		
Q10.1.1	The Councils	<p><b>Work No. 4</b></p> <p>By including (b) ‘the laying down of construction areas’ this would appear to allow the whole of the area defined for Work No.4 on the Work Plans to be used as construction areas?</p> <p>(1) If the ExA’s understanding is correct that the construction areas can be over a significant proportion of the site, are the Councils content that the construction activities would be controlled to an acceptable degree by the proposed mitigation and management plans?.</p>
<b>10.2 Schedule 2 - Requirements</b>		
Q10.2.1	The Councils	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <p>Noting the Applicant response to ISH1 (page 16 of post ISH1 written submission) and the current explanation given by the Applicant that it is not only preferable to retain the phrase ‘substantially in accordance with’ but this allows for the management plans to be evolved as more detail comes forward.</p> <p>(1) Do the Councils have any concerns with the retention of this phrase in each of the Requirements.</p> <p>(2) Do the Councils agree that the Management Plans as drafted give the certainty and clarity required at this stage of the process, noting that they have been revised at D1</p>
Q10.2.2	The Applicant	<p><b>Requirement 6</b></p> <p>Please explain how this requirement meets each of the tests to satisfy the legal criterion for a requirement.</p>
Q10.2.3	The Councils	<p><b>Requirement 8</b></p> <p>(1) Noting the Applicant response to ISH1 (page 16 of post ISH1 written submission) Do the Councils have any concerns in respect of the wording of the Requirement, or that the certainty for maintenance would be delivered through the LEMP?</p>
<b>10.3 Schedule 3 Legislation to be disapplied</b>		
Q10.3.1	The Applicant Trent Valley IDB	<p><b>Internal Drainage Board</b></p> <p>The Trent Valley IDB make reference in their D1 submission to bylaws operative within the area, and the potential for Protective Provisions for the IDB.</p> <p>(1) Can both parties advise of their current position in respect to whether the dDCO adequately addresses the issues the bylaws are intended to protect, and</p> <p>(2) Whether Protective Provisions are considered necessary to safeguard the IDBs interests.</p> <p>(3) Subject to the answer to (2) the progress or otherwise on any negotiations in respect of protective provisions</p>
<b>11. Historic environment</b>		
Q11.0.1	The Applicant, Historic England, LCC, NCC	<p><b>Extent of investigation</b></p> <p>NPS EN-3 at paragraph 2.10.113 states “<i>the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. These should be carried out using expertise where necessary and in consultation with the local planning authority, and should identify archaeological study areas and propose appropriate schemes of investigation, and design measures, to ensure the protection of relevant heritage assets.</i>”</p> <p>(1) Can each party provide evidence to support their position in respect of the suitability of the investigations that have been undertaken, and why either further trial trenching or other form of investigation should or should not be carried out.</p>
Q11.0.2	The Applicant 1,2 and 4 The Councils and Historic England 3 and 4	<p><b>Design Proposals/ Alternative Foundation Designs</b></p> <p>(1) The application appears to indicate that piles will be used for the foundations for the supporting frames for the solar panels. Have alternative solutions been explored such as shoes as referenced in paragraph 2.10.110 of NPS EN-3 and Historic England 2021 Commercial renewable energy development and the historic environment. Historic England Advice Note 15. Swindon. Historic England.?</p> <p>(2) If the use of ‘shoes’ has not been investigated, please provide an explanation of their suitability or otherwise in the context of this proposal.</p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>(3) Can HE and the Councils advise whether the use of 'shoes' (if confirmed as an appropriate method of securing the panels) would overcome the concerns identified in respect of the extent of investigations?</p> <p>(4) Is there an agreed position on what is regarded as low level piling? And whether the 3m depth specified by the Applicant would be regarded as low level piling?</p>
Q11.0.3	The Applicant NCC LCC	<p><b>Archaeology</b></p> <p>Paragraph 2.10.137 of NPS EN-1 states that the ability of the Applicant to microsite specific elements during the construction phase should be an important consideration by the SoS when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology.</p> <p>(1) Please could the Applicant provide its consideration of the potential for micrositing, including the practical feasibility in relation to the foundations of the solar panels?</p> <p>(2) Please could the Applicant ensure that any micrositing mitigation is explicitly secured in the Outline CEMP?</p> <p>(3) Could the County Archaeologists comment please?</p>
Q11.0.4	The Councils, the Applicant	<p><b>Non Designated Heritage Assets</b></p> <p>(1) Can the Councils confirm they are content all non designated heritage assets have been properly identified and considered as part of the heritage assessment?.</p> <p>(2) The WR at D1 from The Station makes reference to North Clifton Station and the Station Masters House, indicating both properties form a group, the ES Chapter 10 in section 10.6 appears to only reference the Station, is further assessment required?.</p>
<b>12. Hydrology and hydrogeology and the Water Environment</b>		
Q12.0.1	The Applicant	<p><b>FRA</b></p> <p>Following Acceptance of the application, s51 advice was issued, which stated "A figure in the FRA distinguishing which areas of the proposed development's order limits are within Flood Zone 3a and Flood Zone 3b is required." Please provide this plan and states the area of land within the Order Limits which is in flood zones 3 and 3b.</p>
Q12.0.2	The Applicant	<p><b>Flooding of properties</b></p> <p>[RR-038] refers to flooding of gardens in properties at Roberts Close when the field has not been maintained.</p> <p>(1) Please explain how this issue been considered? And</p> <p>(2) How the dDCO ensures appropriate maintenance of field drainage is accounted for?</p>
Q12.0.3	The Applicant	<p><b>Flooding of adjacent land</b></p> <p>[RR-044] states the landowner has a drainage dyke on their land which takes water from within the red line boundary. Please explain how this has been considered and any future maintenance secured?</p>
Q12.0.4	Councils Trent Valley IDB Environment Agency	<p><b>Ongoing Maintenance</b></p> <p>Are IPs satisfied that the details within the OEMP are satisfactory to ensure that the drainage infrastructure will be maintained to a suitable level for the duration of the Proposed Development.</p>
Q12.0.5	Anglian Water, The Environment Agency, Local Planning Authorities	<p><b>Compliance with the Water Framework Directive</b></p> <p>A number of IPs [including RR-007, RR-095] have expressed concern of the potential adverse effect on soil health, the environment and drinking water.</p> <p>(1) Please advise if there are any concerns that arise from the proposed development in respect of any effects that may arise on drinking water, either during construction, operation or subsequent decommissioning.</p> <p>(2) Please advise on whether you consider the Water Framework Directive would be complied with, and if you are content that mitigation offered through the DCO would meet with any concerns identified</p>
Q12.0.6	The Applicant, Environment Agency, the Councils.	<p><b>Water Framework Directive</b></p> <p>NPS EN-1 states at paragraph 5.16.14 "<i>The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to current River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The Secretary of State <b>must refuse development consent</b> where a project is likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to</i></p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p><i>achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public Interest test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not cause deterioration or compromise the achievement of good status or good potential.” (our highlighting)</i></p> <p>(1) Can each party advise on its position in respect of the Proposed Development, it’s relationship to any relevant River Basin Management Plan and the requirements of the WFD.</p> <p>(2) Can each party confirm their position in respect of whether there is likely to be any deterioration of a water body, or that any water body would not achieve a ‘good status’ or ‘good potential’ as a consequence of the Proposed Development, and</p> <p>(3) The relevant position in respect of whether Regulation 19 is /would be met?</p> <p>(4) In light of the current position of the Stage 1 WFD screening assessment recently submitted to the EA, whether it is likely the outcome of the screening assessment will be known prior to the end of the examination.</p>
Q12.0.7	The Applicant Anglian Water	<p><b>Water Resources</b></p> <p>We note the content of page 37 of the oCEMP, stating that if demand for potable water exceeds 20m3/day, then a Water Resource Assessment will be produced.</p> <p>(1) What are the implications for the delivery of the project in the event that the scheme were to require in excess of 20m3/day?</p> <p>(2) In the absence of the WRA at this stage can the SoS be satisfied that the project could be delivered within the time frames currently proposed – i.e to be operational by 2029?</p> <p>(3) Please explain in the absence of this information at this stage how the scheme complies with the tests in EN-1.</p>
Q12.0.8	The Applicant	<p><b>Water Resources</b></p> <p>Page 392 of the Applicant’s Responses to Relevant Representations states “If at detailed design, it is confirmed that potable water demand is in excess of 20m3/day then a Water Resource Assessment will be produced prior to detailed design and suggest this is secured through requirement.” Please provide an appropriately worded requirement for this matter.</p>
Q12.0.9	The Applicant	<p><b>Water Run-off</b></p> <p>Paragraph 7.5.15 of Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology states “<i>Solar farms (i.e. the modules themselves) are not considered to result in significant increases in runoff when compared to the existing greenfield situation. This is on the basis that runoff from the modules themselves will simply drop directly to the ground where the natural regime will be maintained.</i>”</p> <p>(1) What is the evidence that supports this statement being applied to solar farms on the scale of the Proposed Development?</p> <p>(2) What evidence is there that demonstrates water run-off would not change as a result of the solar panels covering the area that is proposed, and this would continue through the lifetime of the project taking into account climate change?</p> <p>(3) Would there be increased run-off from solar panels at the edges of the lowest side of the panels?</p> <p>(4) Should monitoring of water run-off take place once the construction phase is completed, with the potential for mitigation to be provided in the event that it was required?</p>
Q12.0.10	The Applicant	<p><b>Sequential Test</b></p> <p>It is noted that details relating to the Sequential Test will be submitted at D2.</p> <p>Table 4.1 within the Site Selection Report – Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement – states that one of the reasons sites were discounted from the site selection process was due to “<i>the landowners were not willing to put their land forward for the Proposed Development and the Applicant’s aim is to secure the land parcels by voluntary agreement where possible</i>”</p> <p>Within the Applicant’s Deadline 1 response to ISH1, is states “<i>The discussions with landowners within this area didn’t prove fruitful, and there weren’t any landowners within this part of the Area of Search that wanted to promote a solar farm on their land.</i>”</p> <p>NPS-EN1 paragraph 5.8.10 states “<i>The Exception Test is only appropriate for use where the Sequential Test alone cannot deliver an acceptable site. It would only be appropriate to move onto the Exception Test when the Sequential Test has identified reasonably available, lower risk sites appropriate for the proposed development where, accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, application of</i></p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p><i>relevant policies would provide a clear reason for refusing development in any alternative locations identified. Examples could include alternative site(s) that are subject to national designations such as landscape, heritage and nature conservation designations, for example Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), SSSIs and World Heritage Sites (WHS) which would not usually be considered appropriate.”</i></p> <p>PPG paragraph 028 states “‘Reasonably available sites’ are those in a suitable location for the type of development with a reasonable prospect that the site is available to be developed at the point in time envisaged for the development. These could include a series of smaller sites and/or part of a larger site if these would be capable of accommodating the proposed development. Such lower-risk sites do not need to be owned by the applicant to be considered ‘reasonably available’.”</p> <p>Can the Applicant please explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) why the approach used has been taken;</li> <li>(2) how the approach taken complies with the requirements of NPS-EN1 and the PPG; and</li> <li>(3) why sites have been discounted due to landowners not voluntarily agreeing to their land being included in the scheme.</li> <li>(4) What is the policy basis for deselecting potential sites from the selection process due to the landowners not voluntarily agreeing to their land being included in the scheme.</li> </ol>
Q12.0.11	The Environment Agency	<p><b>Construction phase and oCEMP</b></p> <p>In your WR [REP1-103], the EA state they expect to see commitments to the use of standard construction good practice methods to manage surface water, siltation, spills and leaks and other issues for all elements of the Scheme within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and its supporting documents, to ensure sufficient mitigation is provided for the protection of controlled waters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Are you content all the measures listed are secured in a robust way within the oCEMP and dDCO?</li> <li>(2) If not what further measures are required to be added?</li> </ol>
Q12.0.12	The Applicant	<p><b>Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board byelaws and assets</b></p> <p>In their submission at Deadline 1, the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB) provide details of byelaws that prohibit work on or near assets without their approval. The submission goes on to state that all watercourse crossings are required to use HDD or similar, at a minimum 2m depth plus the cable safety distance. Any culverting or other works also requires consent from TVIDB.</p> <p>Can the Applicant please confirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Please explain where within the dDCO these requirements are secured?</li> <li>(2) If changes are required, provide full details of the alterations, explaining the impacts on the FRA and outline Drainage Strategy.</li> <li>(3) If changes are required, what impact does it have on other related assessments e.g. location of HDD crossings in the noise assessment.</li> </ol>
Q12.0.13	The Applicant and MMO	<p><b>MMO</b></p> <p>AS-005 contains an email trail from 20 June 2024 between the Applicant and the MMO regarding licensing for the cable crossing the River Trent. Within their Deadline 1 submission [REP1-105], the MMO state they were not formally made aware of the One Earth Solar Farm scheme until 17 July 2025, and invite the Applicant to enter into discussions regarding the scheme.</p> <p>Due to the conflicting information that has been received to date, it is unclear to the ExA what the status of discussions between the Applicant and the MMO are.</p> <p>Can both parties please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Details on the latest position on the discussions with the MMO, including whether meaningful discussions have begun, and what progress has been made.</li> <li>(2) Please explain the implications for the Proposed Development and whether a Deemed Marine Licence is required?</li> <li>(3) Evidence on the likelihood that this issue will be resolved by the end of the Examination.</li> </ol>
<b>13. Land use and soils</b>		
Q13.0.1	The Applicant	<p><b>BMV</b></p> <p>The Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) dated 15 May 2024 entitled ‘Solar and Protecting our Food Security and Best and Most Versatile Land’ on the use of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land (BMV).</p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>(1) Could the Applicant provide an explanation as to how the WMS has been used to guide and minimise the use of BMV in line with National Policy.</p> <p>(2) In light of the WMS can the Applicant provide a table showing a breakdown of the quantity and type of BMV within the Order Limits.</p>
Q13.0.2	The Applicant (1) The Councils (2)	<p><b>BMV</b></p> <p>NPS EN-1 at paragraph 5.11.34 states that <i>“The Secretary of State should ensure that applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. Where schemes are to be sited on best and most versatile agricultural land the Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of that land.”</i></p> <p>(1) Please explain how the economic and other benefits of the BMV has been assessed.</p> <p>(2) Do the Councils agree that there is sufficient justification provided?</p>
Q13.0.3	The Applicant	<p><b>Environmental Stewardship schemes?</b></p> <p>(1) Is any land within the Order Limits included within an Environmental Stewardship scheme?</p> <p>(2) if so how much is there, and</p> <p>(3) at what stage of the ESS is it and how has the assessment of BNG taken this into consideration?</p>
Q13.0.4	The Applicant, the Councils, Natural England	<p><b>Soil Health</b></p> <p>The depth of cables was discussed during the Hearings of the week commencing 7 July 2025, and there appeared to be some disagreement as to what a suitable depth should be to ensure ploughing could take place post development in the event cables were left in situ.</p> <p>(1) Please provide evidence of the depth of ploughing that has occurred across the land within the Order Limits.</p> <p>(2) In order to ensure ploughing would be possible post development in the event cables were to remain – what would the minimum depth require to be to facilitate this, (Is there a recognised best standard or advice note for the soil type across the Order Limits?)</p> <p>(3) How Is this secured?</p>
Q13.0.5	The Applicant	<p><b>Soil Health and decommissioning</b></p> <p>It is understood that the DCO is intended to be time limited to 60 years.</p> <p>(1) What design approach has been undertaken in order to assist in ensuring that if it were regarded as the most suitable approach to remove cables and below ground works at the end of the period, that the effective removal had been planned for to minimise harm to soil health?</p> <p>(2) It is understood that there is proposed to be a decommissioning plan, would it be appropriate that this include a method of design considered at the outset that ensured removal was facilitated?</p> <p>(3) Please set out how mitigation is secured if appropriate to deal with any potential harms to soils from the construction, operation and decommissioning periods, but also in dealing with the eventuality that cables are left in situ.</p>
Q13.0.6	Mr David White (1)	<p><b>Potential adverse effects on soil health</b></p> <p>In your RR you indicate that the site could be contaminated, and soil health harmed should cables be left in situ resulting in degradation of soil quality from micro plastics and other potential contaminants during construction, operations and subsequent decommissioning?</p> <p>(1) Are there any reports, or long term studies which have been undertaken to verify the points made, if so please cite the reference material to support your case.</p>
<b>14. Human health</b>		
Q14.0.1	The Applicant	<p><b>Mitigation of adverse human health effects</b></p> <p>Paragraph 16.5.5 of ES Chapter 16 states <i>"These measures affect all phases of the Proposed Development. As a consequence, the participatory approach has resulted in various embedded mitigation and enhancement areas being proposed and contributing towards mitigation of adverse mental health effects. These are set out in the Design Approach Document [EN010159/APP/5.8] (DAD) and the Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9] and will be secured via DCO requirement."</i></p> <p>(1) Can the Applicant please confirm where in the Design Approach Document and in the Outline Design Parameters it is stated that the changes to the scheme that were made following feedback received, were done so to mitigate adverse effects on mental health?</p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		(2) Can the Applicant also provide the evidence that demonstrate the changes made will mitigate adverse effects on mental health?
Q14.0.2	The Applicant	<b>Impact on human health</b> Several RRs refer to the scheme having a detrimental impact on the mental health and wellbeing of local residents. (1) How has this impact been considered and if appropriate mitigated against? (2) Whilst mental health is mentioned in Chapter 16, it is omitted from Table 16.11., please clarify the situation
Q14.0.3	The Applicant	<b>Impact on human health</b> [RR -132] refers to a study, which states " <i>Studies have shown the psychological benefits, especially on mental health, of being surrounded by the sights and sounds of plants and nature - this will all change if the proposed site goes ahead.</i> " (1) How has the assessment of the proposed development addressed the changes that would arise to access to the sites and sounds of nature been considered as part of the assessment of effects on the health of residents?
Q14.0.4	Lincolnshire County Council	<b>Human Health</b> In the RR [RR-077] reference is made to " <i>the fields used for solar arrays are still close to North Carlton and still appear to encircle some small hamlets and individual properties</i> " (1) Please clarify if this should be North Clifton?
Q14.0.5	UK Health Security Agency	<b>Human Health</b> Can the UKHSA advise if there are any concerns with regard to human health from the proposed development, considering both the development itself, and the harms that might arise in the event of either a flood, fire or other accident.
Q14.0.6	The Applicant	<b>Human Health</b> With reference to paragraph 4.4.6 of NPS EN-1, please could the Applicant summarise the consideration given to promoting local improvements to encourage health and wellbeing, including potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society and impacts on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, i.e., those groups which may be differentially impacted by a development compared to wider society as a whole?
<b>15. Landscape and visual</b>		
Q15.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Horlock Rules</b> (1) The DAD refers to these rules informing the design and siting of substations. Please ensure a copy of the Rules is submitted into the Examination. (2) Please check Table 5 of the DAD – Response to Horlock Rules – there appears to be some typographical errors. E.g. box 3 of design response the word 'including' is repeated, box 4 – should this be new planting rather than planning?
Q15.0.2	The Applicant Natural England The Councils	<b>National Landscapes</b> Do the Councils and NE agree there is no effect on the setting of national landscapes and that the duty under s245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) do not apply?
Q15.0.3	The Applicant, The Councils	<b>Veteran Trees</b> At ISH1 the Applicant indicated that there were no veteran trees within the Order Limits. This has now been confirmed not to be correct in the D1 submissions. (1) In light of the fact 13 veteran trees are present within the Order Limits, should the DCO and or supporting mitigation document be worded to afford additional protection for such trees, by way for example of requiring no construction activity within root protection zones and/or for consultation to be undertaken with the LPAs prior to undertaking any work when this might be deemed necessary.
Q15.0.4	The Applicant	<b>BESS Locations</b> (1) Having undertaken two USI, it is apparent that both BESS locations are in positions that will allow them to be easily seen from both the local highway and PROW network. Please explain in further detail, the justification for these locations, and the proposed mitigation that it is intended would ensure that adverse effects are reduced to an acceptable level. (2) The NPS policy test NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.10.6 " <i>Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.</i> "

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		Please explain how the approach would achieve the minimum harm to the landscape, and or provide further explanation and justification for the mitigation proposed.
Q15.0.5	Applicant	<b>Location of BESS</b> In light of the concerns of the locations identified by West Lyndsey DC in their WR at D1 with regard to the locations of the BESS, please set out a detailed response. In doing so please advise whether the revised location indicated in the WR as a preferred option in landscape terms would be any better, worse or neutral with regard to other environmental criterion such as flooding, noise etc.
Q15.0.6	The Applicant	<b>Landscape effects at night/ light pollution</b> (1) The Proposed Development is largely in a rural landscape where light sources appear to be limited, please explain what assessment has been undertaken in respect of potential light pollution, during construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning. (2) What controls are in place to ensure that effects of light during the respective periods are managed, and that adverse effects are mitigated? (3) Can you confirm that lighting would only be installed at the BESS for the operational period?
<b>16. Noise and vibration</b>		
Q16.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Potential noise impact from piling</b> Whilst it is acknowledged that the final number of solar panels/frames that will form the proposed development has not yet been finalised, it would aid the ExA if details were provided shown on plans, of any relevant scenarios that are being considered. (1) What does the DCO secure to ensure piling activities would not cause harm ?
Q16.0.2	The Applicant	<b>Noise and vibration effects</b> Paragraphs 15.6.5 (noise) and 15.6.6 (vibration) of Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration both state that there will not be any significant effects of noise and vibration during construction due to construction activities taking place near receptors only lasting a short time.  (1) oCEMP relies on BPM – are the LPAs satisfied this would be appropriate – and also whether they agree with the reference to stakeholders or should the Councils be specified as bodies required to be worked with? <i>“agreed with appropriate stakeholders following appointment of a principal contractor and prior to commencement of construction work”</i> (2) are councils content that the oCEMP provides adequate mitigation and management measures to enable construction to take place whilst keeping noise and vibration levels to a satisfactory level?
<b>17. Socio-economic effects</b>		
Q17.0.1	The Applicant	<b>Tourism</b> The Applicant's response at Deadline 1 to the question regarding a 2013 study of the “Impact of Renewable Energy Farms on Visitors to Cornwall” is noted. (1) Please provide the evidence that demonstrates this study is relevant as a guide for the impacts on tourism that could be caused by the One Earth Solar Farm proposal. (2) How relevant is the comparison of tourism in Cornwall with tourism in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire? (3) How many of the solar farms in the study are of a similar scale to the Proposed Development? (4) How many solar farms in the study are located a similar distance from the Proposed Development as the other solar farms in the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire area?
Q17.0.2	The Applicant	<b>Tourism</b> Please provide the evidence that enabled the conclusion in paragraph 17.6.13 to be reached, that the One Earth Solar Farm is not likely to be a deterrent to tourists upon completion. For clarity, please also provide the evidence and conclusion for the cumulative effects on tourism of all solar projects in the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire area.
Q17.0.3	The Applicant (1) The Councils (2)	<b>Employment and skills</b>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>(1) Within their LIR, BDC refer to their expectations on employment during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Can the Applicant please provide a response to the issues raised, including whether the measures outlined by BDC should be incorporated into the application documentation.</p> <p>(2) Can the Councils please confirm whether they are satisfied with the measures proposed, or are there more requirements needed?</p>
<b>18. Transportation and traffic</b>		
Q18.0.1	The Applicant	<p><b>National Highways RR</b></p> <p>National Highways has raised a number of issues in their RR [RR-078] and subsequent WR [REP1-001 - REP1-085]. Can the Applicant please provide the following information:</p> <p>(1) An hourly breakdown of construction staff two-way trips on the SRN.</p> <p>(2) The number of workers anticipated during the construction phase, arrival and departure times, and assumptions for the capacity and occupancy rates for the proposed minibus service.</p> <p>(3) Hourly two-way trips for HGVs on the SRN, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A1/A57 junction; and</li> <li>• A1/A46 junction.</li> </ul> <p>(4) Detailed evidence on AIL routes on the SRN.</p>
Q18.0.2	NCC	<p><b>Crabtree Lane and Moor Lane</b></p> <p>Are NCC satisfied with the passing places proposed by the Applicant in the revised oCTMP at Deadline 1?</p>
Q18.0.3	The Applicant	<p><b>Trip generation for construction traffic</b></p> <p>The TA gives maximum trip rates as a daily rate. More detail is required. For all traffic assessments carried out, provide peak hours assessment not daily.</p>
Q18.0.4	The Applicant	<p><b>Construction staff travel plan</b></p> <p>The Applicant's response to RR-032 on socio-economics, submitted at Deadline 1, states:</p> <p><i>“potential cumulative increases in accommodation demand from temporary construction workers and the resulting potential shortage of accommodation for others. “</i></p> <p>It is stated that 80% of construction staff will arrive by minibus and will be 'local'.</p> <p>(1) How will the Applicant ensure that staff working on the construction phase will be 'local'?</p> <p>(2) Will local staff require accommodation, that will potentially have a negative impact on the availability of accommodation for tourists, as stated in the socio-economics chapter?</p> <p>(3) What evidence exists to substantiate the 80% target is achievable? Other schemes are referred to but no detail is given as to what schemes they are, whether they are located in a similar location to the Proposed Development, or where the local staff will travel from.</p>
Q18.0.5	National Highways	<p><b>AIL routes</b></p> <p>Please provide an update on the latest position with regards to agreeing routes and mitigation for AIL deliveries.</p>
Q18.0.6	The Applicant	<p><b>Sites accesses layout</b></p> <p>Please provide appropriate plans showing the layout of the access points to the site, including an RSA1, visibility splays, swept path analysis and gate set back distances.</p>
Q18.0.7	NCC	<p><b>National Cycle Route (NCR) 647</b></p> <p>Within their LIR, NCC state the following:</p> <p><i>“NCC wishes to secure explicit confirmation within the OPROWMP that any damage caused to the site because of the works including to trees, shrubs, vegetation, verges, path surfaces, signage, fences, drainage and all and any other infrastructure will be made good, with a pre- and post-works condition assessment carried out by the applicant. NCC also seeks confirmation that any appropriate measures will be put in place to ensure the safety of users, and that signage will be installed to warn users of any disruption. This should include any crossing points that are required during the construction phase, details of which shall have been agreed prior to their installation, and which shall give</i></p>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p><i>priority to any users of the multi-user route. This is necessary in order to minimise the impact on users of the NCR including pedestrians and cyclists “</i></p> <p>Are the NCC content that the ability to approve the PROWMP give sufficient control to ensure that the appropriate measures sought would be in place?</p> <p>If NCC consider there are currently gaps in what the oPROWMP, please advise what needs to be added</p> <p>In order to ensure that the PROW is returned to an appropriate standard, are you seeking a survey of the current condition and an agreement of the standard you would expect it to be returned to?</p>
Q18.0.8	The Applicant NCC	<p><b>NCC LIR</b></p> <p>Within their LIR, NCC raise a number of issues.</p> <p>Can both parties please explain what the latest position is in respect of the Transport Assessment (TA) and provide a timeframe towards providing a clear statement to the examination.</p> <p>In the event that additional work is needed, when might this expect to be submitted to the examination?</p>
Q18.0.9	The Applicant	<p><b>Cumulative traffic assessment</b></p> <p>The revised TA submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1, now contains a cumulative assessment, however, a daily total number of vehicles has been given.</p> <p>Can the Applicant please provide a peak hours assessment.</p>
<b>19. Cumulative Effects</b>		
Q19.0.1	Bassetlaw District Council	<p><b>Cumulative Effects:</b></p> <p>Within the RR [AS-002] the Council reference two applications, 23/00748/HAZ and 24/01138/FUL and a screening opinion 25/00387/SCR.</p> <p>(1) Please provide a plan identifying the sites of both applications and the area for the screening opinion relative to the Order Limits for the DCO application.</p> <p>(2) In respect of the application for the BESS, please update the ExA on the progress towards the resolution of the s106.</p>
Q19.0.2	The Applicant	<p><b>Cumulative Effects</b></p> <p>(1) In the first bullet point under paragraph 18.5.22 of Chapter 18 of the ES reference is made to the siting of a substation. Please provide a plan identifying where this is proposed to be located.</p> <p>(2) Two schemes are identified as having potential cumulative effects – a solar farm ref 21/01577/FULM and the North Humber to High Marnham NSIP. Please provide plans identifying their respective red edge outlines, (accepting that the NSIP is yet to be applied for, the most up to date red edge currently available).</p>
Q19.0.3	The Applicant	<p><b>Cumulative Effects</b></p> <p>WLDC in their LIR identify concern that the Cumulative assessment to date does not assess the potential worst-case scenario in excluding some of the NSIP developments recently consented or which have the potential to be consented in a time frame that could overlap with this project.</p> <p>(1) Please explain the reasoning behind the cumulative assessment and justification for the exclusion of the projects listed.</p> <p>(2) To provide certainty would it not provide a fuller picture to include all the projects listed to ensure the worst-case scenario has been considered, and possible mitigation planned for?</p>