



**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: EN010159**

**One Earth Solar Farm**

**Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH2): Environmental Matters**

**Response to actions arising from the ISH2 held on the 03 and 04 September 2025 for Deadline 3**

**Prepared by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)**

**September 2025**

Action	Description	Action by	Lincolnshire County Council response
1	Provide national policy requirements for concerns on cumulative landscape impacts of solar schemes	The Councils/ [REDACTED]	<p>The <b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU</b> (Annex IV, Article 5e) states: “A description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment resulting from: the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources”.</p> <p>Article 5 of the EIA Directive (Annex IV) also states: “The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in Article 3(1) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project”.</p> <p><b>Article 3(1) (as referenced above) states:</b></p> <p>1. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the following factors:</p> <p>(a) population and human health;</p>

		<p> <i>(b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;</i>  <i>(c) land, soil, water, air and climate;</i>  <i>(d) material assets, cultural heritage and the <b>landscape</b>;</i>  <i>(e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).</i> </p> <p> <i>This is transposed directly into domestic law through the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017. Schedule 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 details the information for inclusion in Environmental Statements. Schedule 4 Paragraph 4 requires that 'A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and <b>landscape</b>' with Schedule 4 paragraph 5(e) requiring that 'A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from..... the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular</i> </p>
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			<p><i>environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources'</i></p> <p>This is reflected in the National Policy Statements as follows:  <b>Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)</b> states at paragraph 5.10.16 that <i>'The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3) Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.<sup>243</sup>'</i>. Footnote 243 references the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment: Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013, 3rd edition).</p> <p><b>National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-3)</b> states under the title 'Secretary of State decision making' at paragraph 2.10.157 of the Solar chapter <i>'The Secretary of State will consider the landscape and visual impact of any proposed solar PV farm, taking account of any sensitive visual receptors, and the effect of the development on landscape character, together with the possible cumulative effect with any existing or proposed development'</i></p>
2	Provide details of guidance on sequential assessment of landscape effects, as well as difference of effects between applicant and councils	The Councils/ [REDACTED]	This has been provided by AAH consultants in LCC's written submission of the ISH 2 hearing.

14	Clarity of position with regard to drainage/ flood management and controls provided on management plans	LCC/ NCC as LLFA	The information submitted to date is acceptable for LCC as LLFA to accept that the surface water flood risk has been considered in principle in accordance with NPPF and SUDs guidance. Detailed surface water assessment design and mitigation will be required at the detailed design stage of the submission.
22	Discuss with councils at a joint meeting, the process for developments making the shortlist from the long list, to get full agreement (Stage 1 to Stage 2)	Applicant and the councils	<p>LCC was informed on the 11 September of a meeting held between the applicant WLDC and NSDC earlier that week. LCC was not involved in this meeting. A summary email was provided to LCC.</p> <p>LCC is in agreement with the actions provided in this summary. The applicant has agreed to provide a more detailed assessment that sets out the rationale for potential cumulative effects beyond relying solely on the ZOI methodology seen previously. LCC also welcomes that for the purposes of this assessment the assumption that construction may overlap for Cottam, Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge would be applied. LCC would welcome the opportunity to review a draft version of this report prior to its submission at deadline 4 as suggested by the applicant.</p>