

Placement, size and numbers of PCS units

Placement and size of PCS units

In addition to my previous concerns regarding the lack of clarity on the siting of PCS units in relation to residential properties and noise, I wish to raise further concerns about the size of these units.

According to the Design Approach Document [APP-171] and the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-177], PCS units are expected to measure approximately 13 m in length and 3 m in width. The height varies depending on location:

- up to 4.5 m above ground level outside flood areas; and
- up to 6 m above ground level within flood-risk areas, where units may be raised on stilts or plinths.

I have previously expressed concern about the solar panels being 3.5–3.8 m high. However, these panels will in fact be dwarfed by PCS units that may reach a maximum of 6 m in height.

I have not seen any visualisation of PCS units within the Applicant's 3D model or photomontages. The Applicant provided limited visualisations of solar panels, both with and without mitigation, but PCS units appear to have been omitted. This omission prevents residents and the Examining Authority from understanding the true visual impact of key infrastructure.

I therefore remain seriously concerned about the size, placement, and noise associated with PCS units, and the resulting effects on the visual amenity of the area and the residential properties located within the Order limits.

Number of PCS units/Inverters

In the Applicant's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR, May 2024, Volume 1, Chapters 1–6), the design parameters table confirmed:

“Power Conversion Stations (PCS) – Number: up to 170 across the Site.”

However, in the later Environmental Statement (ES) and Outline Design Parameters, no fixed number of PCS units is given. Instead, the Applicant sets only size and siting parameters, leaving the total number flexible to be determined at detailed design.

This raises several concerns:

- Assessment validity – Without a fixed number of PCS units, it is unclear whether the noise, visual, and cumulative assessments have been based on a realistic worst-case scenario of 170 units, or on a smaller indicative number.
- Public understanding – Residents cannot properly gauge the scale of development if the number of PCS units is not transparently fixed in the submitted documents.
- Mitigation – The difference between 80, 120, or 170 PCS units is material to both noise and visual impacts, especially as some units may reach 6 m in height.

I respectfully request that the Examining Authority require the Applicant to:

1. Confirm the maximum number of PCS units proposed within the scheme, and secure this figure within the DCO.
2. Demonstrate that the Environmental Statement has assessed impacts on the basis of that maximum number, to provide confidence that a true worst-case scenario has been assessed.