



One Earth Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground with West Lindsey District Council

EN010159/APP/8.4.24

August-October 2025

One Earth Solar Farm Ltd

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (“SoCG”) has been prepared in respect of the application for the Proposed One Earth Solar Farm Development Consent Order (the “Application”) made by One Earth Solar Farm Ltd (the ‘Applicant’) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”).

1.1.2 The DCO Application is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for the installation, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated grid connection infrastructure which will allow for the generation and export of electricity to the High Marnham substation (hereafter ‘the Proposed Development’).

1.1.3 The SoCG is being submitted to the Examining Authority as an agreed draft between both parties involved. It will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council.

1.2.2 West Lindsey District Council is one of the host authorities for the application, and the remainder of the host authorities have separate Statements of Common Ground.

1.2.3 Collectively, the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council are referred to as ‘the parties’.

1.3 Purpose of this document

1.3.1 This SoCG is being submitted to the Examining Authority as an agreed draft between both parties. This SoCG is a ‘live’ document and will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.

1.3.2 The SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('DLUHC Guidance')¹.

1.3.3 Paragraph 007 of the DLUHC Guidance comments that:

"A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree, or indeed disagree. A SoCG helps to ensure that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties and therefore makes best use of the lines of questioning pursued by the Examining Authority".

1.3.4 The aim of this SoCG is, therefore, to provide a clear position of the progress and agreement met or not yet met between West Lindsey District Council and the Applicant on matters relating to the Application.

1.3.5 The document will be updated as more information becomes available and as a result of ongoing discussions between the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council .

1.3.6 The SoCG is intended to provide information for the examination process, facilitate a smooth and efficient examination, and manage the amount of material that needs to be submitted.

1.3.7 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.

1.3.8 Once finalised, the SoCG will be submitted to the Examining Authority concerning the Application under section 37 of the PA 2008 for an order granting development consent for the Proposed Development.

1.4 Terminology

1.4.1 In the table in the issues chapter of this SoCG:

- "Agreed" indicates where an issue has been resolved;
- "Not Agreed" indicates a position where both parties have reached a final position that a matter cannot be agreed between them; and

¹ Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (30 April 2024).

- “Under Discussion” indicates where points continue to be the subject of ongoing discussions between parties.

2. Description of the Proposed Development

2.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an import and export connection to the National Grid.

2.1.2 The principal components of the Proposed Development will consist of the following:

- Solar PV Modules;
- Mounting Structures;
- Power Conversion Stations (PCS);
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS);
- Onsite Substations and Ancillary Buildings;
- Low Voltage Distribution Cables;
- Grid Connection Cables;
- Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure;
- Access Tracks; and
- Green Infrastructure (GI).

3. Record of Engagement

3.1 Summary of Consultation

3.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation throughout the early stages of the Proposed Development. Table 01 shows a summary of key engagement that has taken place between the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council in relation to the Application.

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
General Catch Ups		
20th July 2023	Meeting (Virtual)	Initial introductions to the Project
20 th July 2023 – Ongoing	Correspondence (Email)	Ongoing email correspondence between the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council
31st August 2023	Meeting (Virtual)	Follow up introduction to the project
11 th March 2024	Meeting (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project overview• Ecology Survey programme overview• Summary of habitat information• Summary of bat surveys• Summary of bird surveys (breeding and wintering)• Summary of badger, otter and water vole surveys• Summary of great crested newt surveys

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying local conservation priorities (to include within landscape design) Approach to BNG, incorporating local priority species
19 th April 2024	Meeting (Virtual)	Discussion around Jobs and Skills associated with the Proposed Development
8 th May 2024	Meeting (Virtual)	Discussion around socio-economic impacts
14 th May 2024	Meeting (Virtual)	Consultation briefing including an update on EIA, the masterplan and consultation programme
12 th July 2024	Meeting (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open questions from LPA officers to OESF team; Discussion around the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone briefing
9 th October 2024	Meeting (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masterplan and programme update Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement of Common Ground
1 st May 2025	Meeting (Virtual)	Post-submission de-brief and discussion of the next steps

15th August 2025

Meeting (Virtual)

General discussion on the progression of the SoCGs and covering off topics of relevance.

9th September 2025

Meeting (Virtual)

Discussion around the Statement of Common Ground and action points raised during the 2nd round of hearings.

Focused on the topics of landscape, design and cumulatives

Cultural Heritage

29th- 30th April 2024

Meeting (Virtual)

Presentation on scope of cultural heritage assessment and discussion of proposed scope of heritage photomontages.

19th November 2024

Meeting (Virtual)

Presentation of amended masterplan and response of revisions to masterplan. Discussion on anticipated conclusion of heritage impact and additional information required.

Ground Conditions

27 November 2024

Email

Information was provided to West Lindsey District Council relating to land and groundwater contamination issues.

The Scoping Opinion had indicated that potential impacts to existing geological units from contamination should be assessed within the ES for the

construction phase and the decommissioning phase. The Applicant confirmed that the ES chapter provides an assessment of potential effects on existing geological units and provided a copy of the methodology for review.

The Applicant also confirmed that the ES chapter provides an assessment of the potential contamination of groundwater for the construction and decommissioning phases of the project (including consideration of existing groundwater abstraction points). A copy of the methodology was attached for review. It was noted that the methodology had been amended for One Earth Solar Farm since it was presented in the PEIR.

10 December 2024

Email

Response from the Applicant (to all local planning authorities) further explaining the reasons for the amendments to the methodology.

16 June 2025

Email

The Applicant requested information held by the local authority relating to private water abstraction locations (licensed or unlicensed) in response to consultation comments that the original dataset may not have been complete. Response awaited as to whether any information is available from West Lindsey District Council.

[26 June 2025](#)

[Email](#)

[Response received from West Lindsey District Council to indicate that they do not hold any data relating to private water abstractions.](#)

Landscape and Visual

22nd April 2024

Virtual meeting

Key Topics:

- LVIA methodology
- LVIA Study Area
- Landscape receptors
- Visual receptors
- Representative viewpoints
- Photomontages

Key Outcomes:

- Request for LVIA study area refinement to be detailed in the LVIA
- Suggestion of ZTV approach and agreement to share drafts for comment

Comments on consultation note to be provided in writing Follow-up meeting to be scheduled following publication of the PEIR

18th October 2024

Virtual meeting

Key Topics:

- LVIA Study Area
- Scope of cumulative assessment
- Scope of photomontages

Key Outcomes:

- Agreed that 2km LVIA Study Area was appropriate

Justification on photomontage scope to be provided in the LVIA

15th August 2025

Virtual Meeting

Key Topics:

- Outstanding LVIA matters
- Visual impacts on users of A1133
- Design of BESS and substation
- Glint and Glare mitigation fencing

Key Outcomes:

- WLDC to review and update position on LVIA matters
- Applicant to clarify how the height of the substation and BESS will be distributed across the Work Areas.
- Applicant to clarify full extent of fencing and anticipated timescales

9th September 2025

Virtual Meeting

Key Topics:

- Location of substation
- Extent of Glint and Glare mitigation fencing
- Other miscellaneous outstanding LVIA matters

Key Outcomes:

- Applicant to provide clarification with supporting drawings on location of the substation
- Applicant to provide further clarification on glint and glare fencing
- Applicant to provide clarification with regard to any conflict between proposed access gate G and vegetation removal plan
- Applicant to provide additional baseline photograph from A1133 lay-by to supplementary existing assessment of motorists along the A1133

<u>Noise</u>		
<u>01/10/2025</u>	<u>Meeting (Virtual)</u>	<u>Discussion of noise related elements of the Statement of Common Ground following hearings round 2.</u>

Table 01 – Record of Engagement

4. Current Position

4.1 Position of the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council

4.1.1 The following tables set out the position of the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council, following a series of meetings and discussions with respect to the key areas of the Proposed Development. This includes matters where discussions are ongoing.

4.1.2 As noted above, this is a 'live' document, and some aspects have yet to be agreed upon between both parties. The intention is to provide a final position in subsequent versions of the SoCG, addressing and identifying where changes have been made, and ultimately, documenting agreement by both parties on relevant points.

Table 02 – Cultural / [Built](#) Heritage

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
02-01	Scope of Assessment	Scope of Assessment around Kettlethorpe and Dunham. Further detail can be found in Table 10.5 of ES Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [APP-039].	Concerns addressed, further detail can be found in Table 10.5 of ES Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [APP-039].	Under Discussion Agreed
02-02	Impact to Roman Vexillation Fortress, and a Royal Observer Corps	Any adverse impact must be given due negative weight. WLDC to defer to Historic England on their stance on this point.	As detailed within paragraphs 10.6.81 – 10.6.85 of ES Chapter 10 [APP-039], the Proposed Development are at a distance of c.880 metres from the asset at its southern boundary and no permanent, long term-adverse effects have been	Under Discussion

	Monitoring Post (Scheduled Monument)		found during operation and therefore no 'negative weight' within the balance.	
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~~Table 03 – Ground Conditions~~

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
03-01	Methodology for Land and Groundwater assessment	No response received	In the absence of further queries, the methodology put forward by the Applicant was adhered to in the assessment of land and groundwater receptors, without any subsequent queries or concerns on the assessment having been submitted by West Lindsey District Council	Under Discussion
<u>03-02</u>	<u>Request for private water supply data</u>	<u>Response received from West Lindsey District Council to indicate that they do not hold a dataset of this type</u>	<u>No data on private water supplies are held by West Lindsey District Council, so no further action is required on this matter</u>	<u>Agreed</u>

Table 034 – Noise and Vibration

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant Comment	Status
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03-01	<u>Noise and Vibration Effects – construction noise</u>	<p><u>WLDC disagree with the construction noise thresholds for significance that have been set in this ES. These are however matters that WLDC is seeking to progress with the applicant through the Statement of Common Ground.</u></p> <p><u>(1) The list of BPM shown in Table 3.7 of the Outline CEMP appears to be comprehensive, although it may not completely reflect the mitigation described in para A.15.3.26 in Appendix 15.3 or potential restrictions on piling methods.</u></p> <p><u>(2) Where impacts are shown to be minor, the measures outlined should be adequate to control noise and vibration. However, if the assessment were more in line with BS5228 there is potential for significant noise impacts, requiring specific mitigation for some works near to some receptors.</u></p>	<p><u>The Applicant's position is that the criteria used for evaluating the magnitude of construction noise impacts, and hence significance of construction noise effects, are consistent with those set out in BS 5228: 2009 +A1: 2014-, -however further clarification will be provided to WLDC confirm the effect of changing significance criteria thresholds on the outcome of the construction noise assessment. It is expected that this change will not materially change the assessment outcome as confirmed to WLDC. ;</u></p> <p><u>Further, tThe Applicant's position is that the CEMP(s) will be the most appropriate form of controlling construction noise, which are required to be submitted to and approved by the LPAs under Requirement 13 of the draft DCO [REP2-009]. The CEMP(s) will therefore include the details of noise mitigation that are relevant to the precise works activities, construction plant and equipment, etc., which will be known in more detail at the time that the CEMP(s) are produced.</u></p>	<u>Agreed</u>
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Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant Comment	Status
03-02	Baseline noise survey locations	Agree with the baseline noise survey locations.	The baseline noise survey was carried out at locations that were agreed as being appropriate (as shown in Chapter 15 of the Environmental Statement [APP-044] and Appendix 15.2 of the Environmental Statement [APP-140]).	Agreed
03-03	Baseline noise survey results	Agree that sufficient data was gathered at each of the baseline noise monitoring locations.	Sufficient data was gathered at each of the baseline noise monitoring locations to form an appropriate basis for the noise assessment (see Appendix 15.2 of the Environmental Statement [APP-140]).	Agreed

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant Comment	Status
03-04	Study areas	Agree with the Applicant's choice of study areas.	<p>The respective study areas and the associated sensitive receptors identified are appropriate for the basis of the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction traffic noise and vibration; On-site construction noise and vibration; Operational noise. 	Agreed
03-05	Standards and guidance	<p>Agree that the Applicant has followed the appropriate standards and guidance.</p> <hr/>	<p>The appropriate standards and guidance have been referenced for the following aspects of the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction traffic noise and vibration; On-site construction noise and vibration; Operational noise. 	Agreed

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant Comment	Status
03-06	Significance criteria	Agree that appropriate significance criteria have been adopted.	Appropriate significance criteria have been adopted for the assessment of the significance of effects associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction traffic noise and vibration; On-site construction noise and vibration; Operational noise. 	Agreed
03-07	Control of noise and vibration impacts associated with construction traffic	Agree that the control of construction traffic noise and vibration will be adequately controlled by the CTMP.	Potential noise and vibration impacts associated with construction traffic can be adequately controlled by the use of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). An outline CTMP has been included as part of the application documents [REP1-005], for further discussion and agreement.	Agreed

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant Comment	Status
03-08	Control of on-site construction noise and vibration	Agree that on-site construction noise and vibration potential impacts can be controlled by the use of a CEMP.	Potential impacts of on-site construction noise and vibration can be adequately controlled by the use of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). An outline CEMP has been included as part of the application documents [REP2-049], for further discussion and agreement.	Agreed
03-09	Control of operational noise	Agree with the noise requirement for operational noise control.	Potential impacts of operational noise can be controlled by requirement. A noise requirement, based on appropriate standards and guidance, has been proposed. Please refer to Requirement 16 of the Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003].	Agreed

Table 045 – Landscape and Visual

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
045-01	LVIA methodology	No comments or concerns on the LVIA methodology have been raised to date.	The applicant proposes that the LVIA methodology is agreed and is considered to be in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, and the associated clarification note (LITGN-2024-01).	Agreed
045-02	LVIA Study Area	West Lindsey District Council requested that further justification should be provided for the proposed 2km LVIA Study Area. In response, photographs from 8 locations were provided by the applicant to test the judgement of no significant visibility beyond 2km.	The LVIA 2km Study Area is agreed as being appropriate.	Agreed

		West Lindsey District Council welcomed this additional information and considered the 2km Study Area to be sufficient.		
045-03	Scope of landscape receptors	No comments or concerns on the scope of landscape receptors have been raised to date.	The applicant proposes that the scope of landscape receptors is agreed.	Agreed
045-04	Scope of visual receptors	No comments or concerns on the scope of visual receptors have been raised to date.	The applicant proposes that the scope of visual receptors is agreed.	Agreed
045-05	Scope of representative viewpoints	West Lindsey District Council would request that a representative viewpoint is included from the layby on the A1133 (53°14'36.0"N 0°45'37.5"W) (What3Words Monkeys.stunner.newlywed). <u>We agree this will be supplementary to the existing assessment but await further information being supplied.</u>	The Aaapplicant proposes that the scope of representative viewpoints is agreed <u>will provide a baseline photograph from the suggested location. This was agreed to be supplementary to the existing assessment of motorists along the A1133, rather than requiring further assessment.</u> -	Under Discussion
045-06	Scope of photomontages	West Lindsey District Council suggested an additional Type 4 photomontage from Viewpoint 8 along the A57 following review of the PEIR.	Further discussion was had between the applicant and the District Councils during the preparation of the LVIA ES Chapter regarding the scope of photomontages resulting in agreement that any justification for the photomontage scope should be included within the LVIA.	Agreed

		No further comments or concerns on the scope of representative viewpoints have been raised to date.	The applicant proposes that the photomontage scope is agreed.-	
045-07	Assessment assumptions and limitations	No comments or concerns on the assumptions and limitations have been raised to date.	The applicant proposes that the assumptions and limitations of the LVIA are agreed. Discussions remain on-going regarding the assumptions on the Glint and Glare fencing in terms of its extent and duration. The Applicant will provided further clarification in its response to the related action point from ISH2 in REP3-065. -	Under Discussion
045-08	Level of effect on landscape receptors	<u>West Lindsey District Council has raised concerns within the Local Impact Report about the design of the substation and the associated landscape character effects within the district.</u> No comments or concerns on the level of effect on landscape receptors have been raised to date.	The applicant proposes that the level of effect on landscape receptors are agreed. Discussions remain ongoing regarding the justification for the location of the substation. The applicant will provide further clarification with supporting drawings on the location of the substation. The Applicant has provided supplementary drawings to WLDC to support the reason for the proposed location of the substation. <u>WLDC requested that a plan is created and provided to include neighbouring</u>	Under discussion

			applications for Anglian Water to demonstrate the relationship between the proposed substation.	
045-09	Level of effect on visual receptors	<p>West Lindsey District Council has raised concerns within the Local Impact Report about the visual impacts on users of the A1133, particularly with regard to the nearby BESS and substation. It was questioned whether this could be located on lower-lying land and during follow-up discussion, it was questioned whether the Work Area 2 and 3 could be refined to provide clarity on where the taller elements would be located.</p> <p>Discussions are progressing to agree more specific siting parameters for the substation.</p> <p>Also in follow-up discussions, West Lindsey District Council questioned the close board fencing shown in Viewpoint 4. Further clarity was requested around the purpose of this fencing, its extent, and anticipated duration before the adjacent vegetation would be established such that the requirement for the fencing would be no longer required.</p>	<p>Discussions remain ongoing regarding the justification for the location of the substation. The Applicant has provided supplementary drawings to WLDC to support the reason for the proposed location of the substation.</p> <p>WLDC requested that a plan is created and provided to include neighbouring applications for Anglian Water to demonstrate the relationship between the proposed substation.</p> <p>The applicant will provide further clarification with supporting drawings on the location of the substation. The applicant explained that detail has been provided within the response to the Local Impact Report and will provide further clarifications ahead of Deadline 2.</p>	Under discussion

045-10	Approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impacts	<p>West Lindsey District Council has raised concerns within the Local Impact Report about the cumulative landscape impacts of the One Earth Solar Farm with other NSIPs in the district. West Lindsey District Council has questioned the appropriateness of the 2km Zone of Influence used for the assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects, and has suggested a sequential assessment would be more appropriate.</p> <p><u>WLDC remain concerned that the wider assessment of the cumulative effects of sequential views of the NSIP solar schemes in West Lindsey has not been considered.</u></p>	<p>The Applicant explained that <u>a detailed response was provided in its response to the Written Representations at Deadline 2 [REP2-082]. -The cumulative landscape and visual assessment focusses on a 2km Zone of Influence, including land within West Lindsey District, as this was considered to be a proportionate area in which significant landscape and visual effects could be experienced. This was established based on a number of factors including an understanding of the prevailing landform, vegetation patterns, and the emerging design parameters</u>detail has been provided within the response to the Local Impact Report and will provide further clarifications ahead of Deadline 2. The applicant has also had regard to the Joint Interrelationships Report that has been prepared as part of the DCO examinations for Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Tillbridge, in which no potential significant cumulative effects with One Earth Solar Farm were identified.</p>	Under discussion
045-11	Outline Landscape and Environmental	<p>No comments or concerns on the OLEMP have been raised to date <u>other than queries around the glint and glare mitigation proposed</u></p>	<p>This item remains under discussion with respect to glint and glare mitigation. Discussions remain on-going regarding the glint and glare mitigation, as well as</p>	Under discussion

	Management Plan (OLEMP)	<p><u>by the Applicant. , and potential conflicts between the commitments in the OLEMP and what was shown on the vegetation removal plan with regard to access gate G.</u></p> <p><u>WLDC await clarity on the proposed fencing mitigation which we understand will be submitted at deadline 4.</u></p>	<p><u>conflict between proposed access gate G and vegetation removal plan.</u></p> <p><u>The applicant will provide provided clarification in its response to the related action point from ISH2 [REP3-065].</u></p>	
04-12	<u>Vegetation Removal – Gate G</u>	<p><u>Query around the potential conflicts between the commitments in the OLEMP and what was shown on the vegetation removal plan with regard to access gate G.</u></p> <p><u>WLDC await clarity on the interaction between vegetation retention and the use of the existing access north of the reservoir running westwards from Gate G.</u></p>	<p><u>Discussions remain on-going regarding the conflict between proposed access gate G and vegetation removal plan.</u></p> <p><u>The applicant provided clarification in its response to the related action point from ISH2 [REP3-065].</u></p>	<u>Under discussion</u>
045-12	<u>Glint and Glare mitigation fencing – Viewpoint 4</u>	<p><u>West Lindsey District Council questioned the close board fencing shown in Viewpoint 4. Further clarity was requested around the purpose of this fencing, its extent, and anticipated duration before the adjacent vegetation would be established such that the requirement for the fencing would be no longer required. Raised a query around the purpose for the wooden fencing demonstrated in</u></p>	<p><u>Discussions remain on-going regarding the assumptions on the glint and glare fencing in terms of its extent and duration.</u></p> <p><u>The applicant provided clarification in its response to the related action point from ISH2 [REP3-065]. The applicant will provide further clarification in its response to the related action point from ISH2The</u></p>	Under discussion

		<p>Viewpoint 4. Further clarity requested around the extent of this fencing, and the length of time if it is temporary.</p> <p><u>WLDC await clarity on the proposed fencing mitigation which we understand will be submitted at deadline 4.</u></p>	<p>applicant will provide further clarifications ahead of Deadline 2.</p>	
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Table 056 – [Ecology Agricultural Land](#)

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
056-01	Loss of BMV – Food Security	The applicant's reliance on the loss of BMV land being 'temporary' is, in WLDCs view, flawed given the 60-year lifespan that the OESF seeks development consent for. This is a significant period of time, akin to permanent development, where land would not be available across the whole Scheme for the production of food. The total land and over 660ha of BMV land will be lost to the agricultural sector for the production of food for several generations. This is an impact that is significant and adverse.	<p>The utilised agricultural area (UAA) is 16.8 million hectares in 2024 (Defra 2024), therefore the total agricultural land take from the Proposed Development accounts for less than 0.01% of the UAA. Therefore, the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect on National Food Production.</p> <p>In terms of the temporary nature of the Proposed Development, the Applicant is seeking a 60-year consent, which is consistent with other similarly sized solar projects including consents granted for Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Mallard Pass solar farms, which have all been granted 60-year consents. It's important to be clear that EN-3 para 2.10.65 states that "An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time-period or for differing time periods of operation" and does not impose or suggest a 40-year limit is required.</p>	Under discussion

			<p>In recent decisions the Secretary of State has confirmed that the 60- year consent lifespan is 'temporary and reversible for the majority of the land' (paragraph 4.167 of the Gate Burton decision) and it is the case for this Proposed Development as noted in paragraph 3.6.2 of the Planning Statement [ref. APP-168] that at the time of decommissioning the land will be reverted back to its original condition.</p> <p>The Applicant has assessed the decommissioning of the Proposed Development demonstrating that the Project is temporary with an end date of 60 years from first operation.</p>	
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Table 067 – Principle of Development / Site Selection

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
067-01	Lifetime of the Proposed Development	<p>WLDC notes that the applicant considers the Scheme to constitute a 'temporary' development and have treated it as such in their EIA. This has resulted in the assessed impact being derived on the basis that the impacts will be 'temporary'.</p> <p>WLDC consider a 60-year timescale to have the effect of permanent impacts. Whilst the infrastructure can be removed at the end of the consent lifespan, this period is significant and will be experienced over several generations.</p> <p>To reduce or downgrade impacts on the basis that 60 years is 'temporary' is considered to be an unrealistic approach. All assessments should have been carried out on the basis that the impacts would be permanent to reflect the time period over which they would be experienced. This would potentially be beyond</p>	<p>The Applicant is seeking a 60-year consent, which is consistent with other similarly sized solar projects including consents granted for Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Mallard Pass solar farms, which have all been granted 60-year consents. It's important to be clear that EN-3 para 2.10.65 states that "An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time-period or for differing time periods of operation" and does not impose or suggest a 40-year limit is required.</p>	Under discussion

		the year 2090 based on the lifespan of development consents being granted.	<p>In recent decisions the Secretary of State has confirmed that the 60- year consent lifespan is 'temporary and reversible for the majority of the land' (paragraph 4.167 of the Gate Burton decision) and it is the case for this Proposed Development as noted in paragraph 3.6.2 of the Planning Statement [ref. APP-168] that at the time of decommissioning the land will be reverted back to its original condition.</p> <p>The Applicant has assessed the decommissioning of the Proposed Development demonstrating that the Project is temporary with an end date of 60 years from first operation.</p>	
067-02	Sequential Test / Site Selection search radius	The applicant has undertaken a search within a 10km radius of High Marnham, which according to paragraph 10.1.15 of the Planning Statement [APP-168]. However, this is not justified beyond "the desire to be as close to the point of connection as possible". It is not clear why other radii, such as 12km or 15km did not also fulfil that requirement, nor whether such a search would have identified sites outwith Flood Zone 3. It is also the case that, given the compulsory purchase powers	The Applicant prepared further evidence to demonstrate how the Sequential Test was applied and satisfied as part of the Deadline 2 Submissions [REP2-080]. The Assessment also provides further evidence to justify the 10km search area, and a sensitivity test has also been undertaken to extend this search area to 15km to address comments raised during ISH1.	Under discussion

		<p>available with a DCO, WLDC do not consider that the sequential test needs to be restricted by sites which are “reasonable available”.</p> <p><u>WLDC do not consider that the applicant has demonstrated adequately that it has met the requirements of the sequential test. This view has been underlined by the update to Planning Practice Guidance on Flood Risk and Coastal Change paragraph 27a. In particular the applicant has not sufficiently demonstrated that an adequate review of whether the scheme can be split across a number of alternative sites, as was the case with the Cottam NSIP scheme.</u></p>	<p><u>Following discussions within the Issue Specific Hearing 2, the Applicant further developed their Sequential Test through an addendum which was submitted at deadline 3 [REP3-069]. The Applicant continues to develop the Sequential Test following the requests from the ExA. WLDC and the Applicant to continue discussions on this.</u></p> <p><u>is preparing further evidence to demonstrate how the Sequential Test has been applied and satisfied as part of the Site Selection. This will be submitted at Deadline 2 following on from discussions arising during the ISH1 and within the Local Impact Reports.</u></p>	
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067-03	BESS Capacity	WLDC queries the total capacity of BESS as part of the Proposed Development.	<u>The Applicant confirms that, at this stage of the application, the Western Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is proposed to provide a capacity of 500 MW with a discharge duration of four hours, while the Eastern BESS is proposed to provide a capacity of 370 MW with a discharge duration of four hours. In the event that both BESS schemes are progressed to the detailed design and implementation stage, each installation would be configured to provide a capacity of 370 MW with a four-hour discharge duration. Applicant to provide a response to this point.</u>	Under discussion. <u>Agreed</u>
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Table 078 – Design

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
078-01	Design Approach	<p>Whilst recognising the general locations and site characteristics favoured by solar farm development, WLDCs view is that policy requires applicants to minimise impacts as far as possible. The design approach adopted by the OESF project has, however, resulted in solar panels being sited up to field boundaries in highly visible locations. Additionally, associated development such as the BESS and substation, up to 13.5m high, according to the height parameter plans [APP-016], has also been located in a location is highly visible with open views into the site from area within West Lindsey and adjacent to the south from within Newark and Sherwood District Council administrative area.</p> <p>The location of panels, BESS and substation in the large open field to the east of the A1133 represents a highly visible and conspicuous part of the OESF project and WLDC does not understand from the application how, integrating policy requirements on 'good design' has resulted in a methodology that has resulted in</p>	<p>The BESS and substations have been sited in line with the Outline Design Parameters [REP1-021]. The Proposed Development has also been refined with regard to Agricultural Land Classification and areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p><u>The Applicant has continually sought to embed good design into the project, and evidence of this is provided in the Design Approach Document [AS-013]. The Applicant disagrees that the substation and BESS are located in a conspicuous and highly visible location. The Applicant judges that the visual impact of the Proposed Development as a whole would be localised in the landscape. This is supported by the conclusions of Chapter 11 [REP1-025] which finds that significant visual effects would be mostly experienced by people within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits and no significant effects are predicted beyond approximately 200m of the Order Limits.</u></p>	Under discussion

		this area being selected as the optimal location for this type of development	<u>The Applicant is in further discussions around this point with West Lindsey District Council and the Applicant is reviewing the comments stated to date.</u>	
08-02	Design Approach	The design approach applied to the OESF project has resulted in the siting of large-scale infrastructure in the form of the substation and BESS being located in conspicuous and highly visible location within the West Lindsey District. The eastern BESS area is identified on the height parameter plans [APP-016] as having a maximum height of 13.5m. It should be noted that, according to plans submitted by Anglian Water for the works currently being undertaken at the Hall Water Treatment Works, immediately northwest of and adjacent to the eastern BESS area, the current main (and highest) building on the water treatment works site is approximately 10m in height to its ridge. This is currently the highest structure for some considerable distance. Assuming the 13.5m maximum height indicated on the plans will extend across the majority of the BESS area, the BESS area would be a major new element in the countryside, akin to distribution warehousing.	<p>The Applicant has continually sought to embed good design into the project, and evidence of this is provided in the Design Approach Document [AS-013].</p> <p>The Applicant disagrees that the substation and BESS are located in a conspicuous and highly visible location. The Applicant judges that the visual impact of the Proposed Development as a whole would be localised in the landscape. This is supported by the conclusions of Chapter 11 [REP1-025] which finds that significant visual effects would be mostly experienced by people within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits and no significant effects are predicted beyond approximately 200m of the Order Limits.</p>	Under discussion

08-03	Impact on Landscape Character	WLDC deems the impact of the OESF upon landscape character and visual effects within the district to be significant and adverse. It is not understood why the Scheme has been designed in a manner that does not seek to minimising effects by siting large scale infrastructure in such a prominent location, clearly visible from public rights of way upon the only raised ground in the nearby landscape.	The iterative assessment and design process undertaken throughout the pre-application phase has sought to minimise adverse impacts as far as has been practical however some impact is considered inevitable. This is reflected in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), paragraph 5.10.5 which states that "Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation."	Under discussion
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078-024	Design approach	<p>WLDC disagrees with the justifications provided by the applicant. A significant amount of BMV land is purposed to be lost without sufficient justification as to way the design approach has not avoided its use as part of the scheme. To locate infrastructure such as the BESS on BMV land has not been adequately justified, especially where there are lower grades of land nearby that could accommodate these Scheme components.</p>	<p>The Applicant has taken steps to avoid and minimise use of BMV land, however, there does still remain BMV land within the Site. The Applicant has set out its justification for this in the application documents. It is explained within Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-033] that other potential Order Limit locations were not of significantly better BMV profile in comparison to the Order Limits, resulting from detailed ALC survey. As the Order Limits have evolved, some land parcels of ALC Grade 2 have been removed in seeking to avoid and minimise impacts to BMV land.</p> <p><u>As noted within the Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 2 [REP3-065], the Applicant set out the Breakdown of Agricultural Loss at a District Level in terms of both the Proposed Development and other NSIP applications in the area.</u></p>	<p>Under discussion</p>
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Table 09 – Cumulatives

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
09-01	Cumulative Assessment in regards to landscape and visual	<p>WLDC notes that Landscape and Visual assessment in the ES does not carry out a cumulative assessment against the projects including Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar.</p> <p>This is due to a 2km study area buffer being applied, which excludes the other projects. 7.26. Whilst this approach may reflect typical methodology, it results in there being no assessment of the total impact of all of the projects on the landscape character of West Lindsey and the significant magnitude of change that its character will endure as a consequence of solar farm development cumulatively.</p>	<p>As explained during Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) and detailed within the Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at the ISH1 (REP1-077), the Applicant's approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual effects is consistent with the Planning Inspectorate's guidance on cumulative effects.</p> <p>With regard to cumulative impacts with other NSIP solar projects, the Applicant also explained that this has been considered within the DCO examinations for Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Tillbridge, which all found there to be no potential for significant cumulative effects with One Earth Solar Farm.</p> <p>Further information on this can be found within the Joint Interrelationship Report [REP1-074].</p>	Under discussion

09-02	Cumulative Assessment in regards to Traffic	<p>The OESF Transport Assessment states that the Cottam Solar project has not been included in the cumulative assessment as it would not coincide with the OESF construction period. It also omits the Tillbridge Solar Project from the assessment for the same reasons.</p> <p>WLDC contends that this is an incorrect assumption to make as the Cottam project has a 5-year consent lifespan, which has yet to commence development (or submit details to discharge DCO 'requirements'). There is therefore a strong likelihood that construction activity and associated travel movement could occur at the same time using the same roads for five solar NSIP projects concurrently. WLDC considers that, as all the traffic data for each project is in the public domain, the OESF should assess the likely cumulative construction traffic impacts.</p>	<p>Cumulative traffic matters have been considered and the assessment is based upon the published dates of construction, as per standard transport planning guidance. As such, no further assessment is considered reasonable or necessary.</p> <p>The approach adopted in the assessment of cumulative traffic is standard and compliant.</p> <p>A Joint Interrelationship Report [REP1-074] was submitted at Deadline 1 which considers the cumulative effects of the nearest NSIP solar schemes located within 16km of the Proposed Development. In addition, an update to the Transport Assessment [REP1-045] was submitted at Deadline 1 incorporating committed developments. The findings from both these assessments confirm there are no inter-project cumulative significant effects on any environmental aspect.</p>	Under discussion
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		<u>It is also noted by WLDC that the OESF project has not engaged collaboratively with other cumulative projects with regard to traffic management. The other solar NSIP project of Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge have all worked together to produce a 'Joint Report on Interrelationships', which brings together the key cumulative impacts of the projects and identifies areas where impacts could be minimised/mitigated. This report was produced and submitted as part of the respective applications and was updated as required during examination phases.</u>	<u>The outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP3-050] and the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP3-041] sets out details on how the Applicant will work with other projects to reduce potential cumulative impacts.</u>	
09-03	Traffic Management of cumulative schemes	It is also noted by WLDC that the OESF project has not engaged collaboratively with other cumulative projects with regard to traffic management. The other solar NSIP project of Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge have all worked together to produce a 'Joint Report on Interrelationships', which brings together the key cumulative impacts of the projects and identifies areas where impacts could be minimised/mitigated. This report was produced and submitted as part of the respective applications and was updated as required during examination phases.	A Joint Interrelationship Report [REP1-074] was submitted at Deadline 1 which considers the cumulative effects of the nearest NSIP solar schemes located within 16km of the Proposed Development. In addition, an update to the Transport Assessment [REP1-045] was submitted at Deadline 1 incorporating committed developments. The findings from both these assessments confirm there are no inter-project cumulative significant effects on any environmental aspect.	Under discussion

			The outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-055] and the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP1-047] sets out details on how the Applicant will work with other projects to reduce potential cumulative impacts.	
09-034	Schemes in the district	WLDC notes that the applicant has provided a drawing that identified the approximate location of other projects through numbered circles (Figure 18.9 / Drawing Number EN10159/APP/6.20/18.9). Whilst serving as a useful reference, WLDC wishes to see a drawing that shows the true extent of solar farm area coverage in the District and surrounds, including solar NSIPs and any large scale (49.9MW) schemes consented or proposed to be consented under the Town and Country Planning Act. Were such a drawing produced with, for example, the Order Limits/red-line boundaries of other projects shown, the extend of land lost to solar farm development and the proximity to each other would be revealed. WLDC considers that this exercise is required in order for the cumulative impacts of the OESF project to be properly considered. WLDC request that proposed large vehicle and AIL routes are included in this drawing or set of drawings, along with context background mapping showing flood risk zones and agricultural land classification.	<p>The Applicant submitted a Joint Interrelationship Report [REP1-074] at Deadline 1 demonstrating this interrelationship of cumulative schemes in the area. <u>From this report, it is clear in figure 2 that there are no other NSIP schemes that cross into the One Earth Solar Farm Order Limits other than the North Humber to High Marnham application.</u></p> <p><u>Therefore, the Applicant demonstrates that there is no relationship between the One Earth Solar Farm and other large scale applications within the district.</u></p>	Under discussion

09-045	Accommodation impacts	If the cumulative impacts result in much of the accommodation available within West Lindsey being used to accommodate construction workers, WLDC has concerns that this would have an adverse impact upon the tourism sector. Should there be a significant reduction in the availability of accommodation for tourists, it can be assumed that visitors will look elsewhere beyond the District. Due to the potential lengthy cumulative construction period of a number of years, the ability for tourist accommodation businesses to recover once construction is complete is unknown and it is feared it would take significant time to do so. The tourist industry is already seeking to re-establish growth post-COVID, and eliminating accommodation for visitors could prolong this recovery.	The ES Chapter 17 – Socio-Economics [APP-046], includes data on existing labour supply, to provide some further context on the likelihood of construction workers being required from further afield and hence increasing demand for accommodation. Whilst the new construction jobs will likely be required at a range of skills levels (including some specialist skills), the data suggests- in quantitative terms – a relatively large pool of potential workers <u>are locally local</u> .	Under discussion
09-05	<u>Shortlist Approach</u>	<u>Comment taken from the Issue Specific Hearing 2 around the approach taken to creating the shortlist associated with the Cumulative Assessment for the Proposed Development.</u> <u>WLDC in agreement with the cumulative longlist and open to continuing to engage with the Applicant around the further cumulative assessment.</u>	<u>The Applicant will produce a technical note for Deadline 4 setting out the approach that has been taken to assessing the cumulative applications to create the short-list taken forward within the Environmental Statement for the Proposed Development.</u>	<u>Under discussion</u>

Table 10 – Traffic and Transport

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
10-01	Construction Routes	<p>The OESF assesses and proposes two construction traffic route options. As both options have been demonstrated to be viable by the applicant, WLDC considers that there is no compelling reason to propose both routes, and that the 'Proposed Access Route 2', using the M18 to access the site from the west, should be the only option used. This would avoid potential significant cumulative construction traffic impacts along the A15, the A46 Lincoln bypass and the A57 from Lincoln to the site.</p> <p>The avoidance of 'Proposed Access Route 1' would minimise the impacts upon communities in terms of disruption, noise and air quality impacts, and additional traffic management that could extend for a period of 5-10 years should all five NSIP projects overlap/stagger their construction phases.</p>	<p>The construction access routes are described in the Transport Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]. This indicates access primarily from the south and east, with no access proposed from the A15.</p> <p>Cumulative traffic matters have been considered and the assessment is based upon the published dates of construction, as per standard transport planning guidance. As such, no further assessment is considered reasonable or necessary.</p> <p>The approach adopted in the assessment of cumulative traffic is standard and compliant.</p>	Under discussion

10-02	Construction Access – road safety– impacts on hedgerows	Queries raised as to why the Scheme appears to propose on the Indicative Layout (EN010159/APP/2.9 rev 1) two construction access points in close proximity to each other from the A1133 into the eastern part of the site. There does not appear to be a compelling reason to remove hedgerows forming the field boundary to create this access. The use of a single access would minimise the environmental harm caused and WLDC would welcome such an amendment to the OESF project. The Transport Assessment (Appendix 12.2 EN010159-000179-6.21) identifies the northernmost access as “Gate F”, but the access immediately adjacent the Anglian Water Works is not shown. WLDC considers this needs to be clarified.	The southern access junction is for emergency access and would not be used for construction access. Further details of this access are provided in Transport Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21].	Under discussion Agreed
10-03	Construction Access – impacts on hedgerows	The Gate G access is directly opposite the existing access for the Anglian Water Hall Water Treatment Works. Given a maximum 6 metre width without removing the field boundary hedgerow there does not appear to be enough width for two large goods vehicles to pass each other on the access road. This has the potential, if a large goods vehicle is leaving the site, for the need to an incoming vehicle to need to wait on the carriageway of the single carriageway A class road with a 60 miles per hour national speed limit for the vehicle to exit.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised by West Lindsey District Council. The Applicant can confirm that Gate G is proposed to utilise an existing access track to the north of the Anglian Water Hall Water Treatment Works, with upgrades only to the proposed access point off the A1133 to facilitate access and egress movements.	Under discussion

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Table 11 – Community Benefits

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
11-01	Lack of information around community benefits	WLDC is concerned that there appears to be scant information on the developer website or within their documents which allude to any direct community benefits. In this context WLDC wishes to ensure that a community benefit fund is established for the OESF, and that the fund is distributed proportionally between the relevant communities, with particular regard to the cumulative effects of the OESF and other solar NSIP projects in the WLDC area.	The Applicant has committed to a community benefit fund to support local priorities and initiatives, and will continue to consult on the best structure and approach to this fund with the community and other stakeholders if the project is consented.	Under discussion

Table 12 – DCO Requirements

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
11-01	Discharge of Requirements	The Local Planning Authority request that in the event of a DCO consent, a period of at least 13 weeks is given to consider all applications to discharge conditions.	<p><u>The Applicant appreciates the points raised by the Council and at Deadline 2 has extended the time from ten to twelve weeks. The Applicant does not agree that the time allowed should be any longer than this, for the reasons previously set out in support of the ten week period. The Applicant has also made consequential amendments to the time periods in Article 45 and Requirement 20 (Decommissioning and restoration).</u></p> <p><u>Agreement pending meeting between the Applicant and West Lindsey District Council</u></p>	Under discussion

Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant

Name:

Signature:

Date:



one earth
solar farm

Contact

Name

Email

Number