



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 4 – Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix A7.1 – Consultation

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Table A7.1: Summary of stakeholder consultation

1 Abbreviations:

- AKS - Averham, Kelham & Staythorpe Parish Council
- BPC – Bathley Parish Council
- CRT – Canal and River Trust
- CTPC – Carlton on Trent Parish Council
- CPC – Caunton Parish Council
- EPM – Egmanton Parish Meeting
- FC – Forestry Commission
- KKO - Kneesall, Kersall and Ompton Parish Council
- LMPC - Laxton and Moorhouse Parish Council
- NSDC – Newark and Sherwood District Council
- NKDC – North Kesteven District Council
- NMPC – North Muskham Parish Council
- SMLC - South Muskham and Little Carlton Parish Council
- STPC – Sutton on Trent Parish Council

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
LVIA study area		
PINS 3.1.2	The ES should provide clear justification for the stated 5 km study area including reference to the ZTV and the potential impacts to identified receptors.	<p>Section 7.1.3 of Chapter 7 describes the study area and the rationale for its extent.</p> <p>A 5 km study area has been used for the PEIR stage assessment.</p> <p>A 2 km study area was proposed in the PEIR Chapter 7 PEIR which identified impacts as being Negligible beyond 1.5 km. In response, no consultees requested the retention of a wider study area and a 2 km study area was agreed with NSDC.</p>
AKS1	Study area of 2-3 km does not take account of taller structures such as transformers and substations.	
BPC3.2 NPC4.2 SMLC 4.2	Request a 5 km study area from above ground features, but not cable routes.	
CTPC2	Request a 10 km LVIA study area.	
NKDC2	See NKDC2 under 'Designated Landscapes' below.	
NMPC2d	Request an LVIA study area of 5 km.	
STPC1	LVIA study area to cover an appropriate area taking into account topography and visibility.	

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
EPM1	Note the proposed EIA stage conforms to a 2km range which fits within EPM observations of our area.	
Landscape Fabric and Features		
NE11	Reference the Wood Pasture and Parkland Inventory and Ancient Tree Inventory.	These are primarily important for biodiversity reasons and that aspect is addressed in Chapter 8 [EN010162/APP/6.2.8]. They also contribute to landscape value, which is considered in TA A7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.3].
NSDC TLO1	Tree and landscape officer requests drawings provided to British Standard 5837 (2012).	These are provided in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA; TA A8.12 [EN010162/APP/6.4.8.12].
NSDC TLO2	Tree and landscape officer requests that ancient woodland, wood pasture, veteran trees and important hedgerows be considered in the design and assessment.	See ref. NE11 above. These features have been identified via surveys being undertaken by ecology specialists and impacts on them have been mitigated as set out in Chapter 8 [EN010162/APP/6.2.8]. Where relevant, they are considered in the LVIA as valued landscape features in the same way as the other natural assets listed. Development parameters (see Chapter 5 [EN010162/APP/6.2.5]) have been set so that development would avoid root protection zones and proximity to existing hedgerows where feasible and removals would minimised.
Landscape Character		
PINS 3.1.1	Effects on National Character Areas should be assessed.	These are considered in TA A7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.5].
NE13.1	The assessment should refer to National Character Area descriptions.	
Visual Receptors		

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
PINS 3.6.2	Effects arising from the temporary or permanent diversion of public rights of way should be assessed.	Visual effects arising as a result of the diversion of public rights of way are considered in section 7.7 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7]. Chapter 18 [EN010162/APP/6.2.18] considers effects on recreation.
CRT1	Requests inclusion of boaters on the river as visual receptors.	These receptors are considered in TA A7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.5].
CPC1	Impact on rights of way should include walkers/ramblers as well as bridleway users.	Chapter 18 [EN010162/APP/6.2.18] considers the effects on recreation, the LVIA considers effects on the visual amenity of users of all rights of way and land with public access in section 7.7 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7].
NE15	The assessment should consider effects on access land, common land and public rights of way.	
Viewpoints		
PINS 3.1.5	Considers that there are insufficient viewpoints to identify all likely significant visual effects, given the scale of the Development with some areas such as Laxton only having one viewpoint. Some consultees identify locations potentially lacking in viewpoints.	At the PEIR stage a number of additional viewpoints were added based on consultee responses to scoping and subsequent consultation with NSDC. See refs. CRT2, CTPC3, LMPC5, and “NSDC Pages 11-12”, below. Viewpoints were further refined following publication of the PEIR with the omission of those beyond the agreed 2 km study area; the omission of viewpoints where design changes would result in no visibility, and the addition of viewpoints requested by consultees. It is important to note that viewpoints are not visual receptors, but are just sample locations to represent effects, and effects are assessed in full for all visual receptors in the study area regardless of the number of viewpoints used.

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
CRT2	Request an additional viewpoint along the banks for the Trent in the area of visibility to the south of Viewpoint 20.	Viewpoint 47 was added at the PEIR stage in this location.
CTPC3	<p>Request consideration of “<i>historically significant viewpoints</i>”, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from across the Trent basin looking towards Carlton from Besthorpe/ Collingham; - from the turbines at the top of the hill on Ossington Road looking across to Lincoln; - looking towards the parish from Tuxford including the cumulative impact with the current panels of Egmanton and the wind turbines; - from the A1 approaching the parish from the south, in particular relating to the role of St Mary’s church spire as a landmark. 	<p>At PEIR stage viewpoints 18 and 20 represented the most open views across the Trent from near Besthorpe and Collingham as mature hedgerows and trees limit visibility along the western edges of both of these settlements. Illustrative viewpoints A and B were also added to further illustrate effects in these locations.</p> <p>Following the agreement of a 2 km study area, viewpoints 18, 20 and illustrative views A and B were beyond the study area. Viewpoint 18 was moved to another part of Ferry Lane in a location suggested by CTPC in response to the PEIR.</p> <p>Viewpoint 48 has been added on Ossington Road.</p> <p>Viewpoint 40 was included at the PEIR stage to represent views from Tuxford. Viewpoint 40 was beyond the agreed 2 km study area for the ES.</p> <p>Illustrative Viewpoint H has been added at the OK Diner to address this point.</p>

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
LMPC5.1	<p>Request additional viewpoints located at:</p> <p>a. Various points within all three of the Open fields.</p> <p>b. Locations within the village, including the Grade 1 listed Church and churchyard.</p> <p>c. Laxton Castle Site.</p> <p>d. Any other high points within the conservation area overlooking the Development.</p> <p>e. Moorhouse Church.</p>	<p>It is noted that a number of these suggested locations relate to heritage assets – which are considered in Chapter 11 [EN010162/APP/6.2.11]:</p> <p>a. Viewpoint 11 was selected at PEIR stage to represent views from the open fields. Illustrative viewpoints C and D have been added in West Field and South Field to further illustrate views from the Open Fields. Viewpoint 11 is beyond the 2km ES study area.</p> <p>b. The ZTV study and site work indicated that locations within the village have limited visibility towards the Development due to screening by buildings and nearby hedges and trees – hence the selection of viewpoint 12 at PEIR stage to represent the most open views. Illustrative viewpoints E (Toad Lane) and F (Footpath at Laxton) have been added to further illustrate effects on Laxton. Viewpoint 12 is beyond the 2 km ES study area.</p> <p>c. There is no public access to the Laxton Castle site and as such it is not suitable as an LVIA viewpoint.</p> <p>d. Effects on the Conservation Area are a heritage matter. Illustrative viewpoints E and F are located within the Conservation Area.</p> <p>e. Moorhouse Church was considered as a potential LVIA viewpoint before identifying viewpoint 13 at Moorhouse. It was judged that the church is not in regular community use and as such does not warrant consideration in the LVIA chapter.</p>

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
NSDC pages 11-12	Request further engagement in relation to viewpoint selection.	<p>Further information including the PEIR masterplan; ZTV study for the PEIR solar areas; revised viewpoint list including changes detailed in this table were provided to NSDC on 28/08/2024, with a request for input should they be of the opinion that changes were needed. No response had been received prior to publication of the PEIR.</p> <p>Further consultation with NSDC took place after publication of the PEIR and resulted in the following changes to viewpoints:</p>
NSDC VP	<p>Requested the following viewpoints in response to the PEIR (numbers in brackets indicate the viewpoint that was altered or added):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mill Hill (Illustrative I); - Footpath near Park Farm (50); - Footpath near Besthorpe Hall (51); - Local Road north of Upton (28); - Footpath near illustrative view G (Mount Pleasant Farm) (52); - A1 layby south of Weston (15); and - A1 overbridge near Weston. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All viewpoints beyond the 2 km study area to be omitted; - viewpoint 15 to be moved to a northbound layby of the A1 closer to the Site near Weston; - viewpoint 18 to be moved to Besthorpe nature reserve; - viewpoints 26-28 and 30 to be moved to nearby locations with slightly more open views; - viewpoint 35 to be moved to the northwest of Norwell following design changes; - viewpoints 50-55 to be added in response to requests for additional views from NSDC, CTPC and EPM. Other locations

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
CTPC5	<p>Requested the following viewpoints in response to the PEIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eaves Lane, Sutton on Trent (54); - Ossington Lane, near Common Farm; - Ossington Lane near the Grange (55); - Norwell Road near Park Lidget; - Carlton Road, near Willoughby Barn; - Carlton Road, north of Willoughby Barn; - Carlton Lane, SE of rail crossing; - Ossington Road; - Besthorpe Nature Reserve (18); and - Carlton Ferry Lane. 	<p>requested by CTPC and NSDC were either close to viewpoints already included, beyond the study area or related to heritage matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illustrative view I was added at Mill Hill, Eakring.
EPM1	<p>Requested the following viewpoints in response to the PEIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hagg Lane (53). 	
NKDC2	See NKDC2 under 'Designated Landscapes' below.	
Designated Landscapes		
NE12.3	Assessment of effects on National Parks and National Landscapes should consider effects on their Special Qualities.	This is agreed, however there are no such landscapes within 30 km as detailed at paragraph 154 of the Scoping Report.

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
NE14	The ES should consider effects on Heritage Landscapes of historic, scientific or scenic interest as identified by https://www.hmrc.gov.uk/gds/heritage/lbsearch.htm .	Only Carlton Hall on this list is within the LVIA study area. Its inclusion on the list relates to the building and art and furniture within, not the historic landscape and it is accordingly not considered as a receptor in the LVIA.
NSDC page 11	The Sherwood Forest Regional Park set out in the Amended Core Strategy DPD (2019) is no longer being actively pursued at this time and should not be considered as a landscape designation in the ES.	Noted – this receptor has been scoped out of the LVIA and is not included in the text or figures.
NKDC2	Study area of 5km may be appropriate but also request that the extensive views from the elevated Lincoln Cliff AGLV be considered via an initial viewpoint from the northern end of the AGLV (potentially around Harmston/Coleby/Boothby Graffoe; from the Viking Way footpath) to assess individual and cumulative effects with Fosse Green Solar and whether more detailed assessment is needed.	The suggested viewpoint location is more than 18 km from the Development and while the Development may be visible at such distances in good visibility conditions (taking account of the elevated nature of views) it would not give rise to greater than Negligible effects, regardless of any interactions with Fosse Green Solar (which is proposed to be located to the northeast of Norton Disney, around 9.5 km east of the Development). Effects on the Lincoln Cliff AGLV are not considered further.
Lighting		
PINS 2.1.8	Lighting should be described and assessed in relevant chapters.	Lighting is described in Chapter 5 [EN010162/APP/6.2.5], and its effects on visual receptors are considered at section 7.8 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7].
NSDC, page 5	Effects of lighting should be considered in the LVIA.	

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)		
PINS 2.1.14	Overlap with A46 Newark scheme.	<p>The scope of the cumulative assessment, taking into account comments from consultees, is set out in Chapter 2 [EN010162/APP/6.2.2] and section 7.10 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7] which sets out how cumulative developments have been considered.</p> <p>In general, it should be noted that the requirement is to assess the effects of the Development taking account of other developments, not to assess the effects of other developments, and the study area reflects this.</p> <p>The cumulative shortlist, based on an initial search area of 10km, including those to be considered in relation to landscape and visual effects was agreed with NSDC during consultation after publication of the PEIR and prior to preparation of the ES.</p>
PINS 2.2.7	Cumulative effects - the ES should consider the potential for significant cumulative effects from all other development types.	
BPC2 NPC1 SMLC3	Scope of cumulative assessment should include all solar farms larger than 3 MW and all battery storage over 20 MW within 10km.	
CTPC4	Request the inclusion of all solar farms within a 50 mile radius in the cumulative assessment.	
KKO3 NMPC1	Request a 10 km cumulative study area for solar farms and BESS, subject to a minimum capacity.	
NE2	Provide a list of projects that may need to be considered in the assessment of cumulative effects.	
NE12.4	Schemes in scoping should be considered in the cumulative assessment.	
NSDC pages 11-12	Request further engagement in relation to the list of cumulative developments to be considered in assessment.	
NKDC1	The Fosse Green solar project should be scoped in to the assessment of cumulative LVIA effects.	

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)		
PINS 3.1.3	RVAA study area of 100m may not be adequate given extent of development and should be agreed with relevant consultees. All elements and phases of the Development should be considered in the RVAA.	<p>The RVAA, including justification of the study area, is provided in TA A7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.6]. NSDC are considered to be the relevant consultation body and information regarding the proposed increased study area of 250 m was provided to NSDC on 28/08/2024. but NSDC did not respond prior to the preparation of the PEIR. The comments of other consultees relating to the RVAA study area have been taken into account.</p> <p>All elements and phases of the Development are considered in the RVAA. The maximum height of CCTV poles will be 3.5 m.</p> <p>All of the solar farm applications referenced by consultees have been reviewed in detail as set out within TA A7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.6]. In keeping with the applications referenced, effects on local residents in public places near their homes are considered within the LVIA. TA A7.6 provides a separate assessment of effects on private amenity which is informed by the LVIA findings. A detailed review of the applications referenced indicates that despite starting with varied study areas and taking slightly different approaches only one of the</p>
AKS2	Request a 500m distance from residential properties for RVAA.	
BPC3.1	Scope of RVAA should include all properties “ <i>within 1km of solar panels, infrastructure and the BESS</i> ” and within 500m of the cable corridors.	
CTPC1	Request a 3km study area for effects on residential property – based on a range of factors – not just visual effects.	
NSDC, page 13	Do not disagree with the extent of the RVAA study area at 100m but require clarity on other aspects of the scope including whether all phases of development are considered.	
KKO4 NPC4.1 SMLC 4.1	Suggest that the RVAA study area is too small compared to recent local applications and should be 1km from above ground structures and 500m from cable corridors.	
NMPC2a	Request consideration of CCTV poles and lighting poles in the RVAA, based on the assumption of a minimum height of 4m.	

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
NMPC2b	Request RVAA includes all properties within 1km of above ground structures and 500m of the cable corridors; or referencing RVAA guidance - that a study area of 50-250m be used for the RVAA.	<p>assessments identified effects potentially requiring RVAA consideration beyond 100 m and that assessment did not provide an RVAA for that property.</p> <p>In response to these comments, the RVAA study area was extended to 250 m for the PEIR stage assessment.</p> <p>The PEIR identified 9 properties/groups requiring detailed consideration in the ES. Following design changes 3 of these were no longer within the study area. It was agreed with NSDC that the following properties required detailed consideration within the ES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caunton Common Barn - Caunton Lodge Farm - Mainwood Farm - The Shires - Willoughby Farm - Willoughby Barn

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
Methodology and presentation of assessment		
PINS 2.2.2	Differentiate embedded and additional mitigation measures.	Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7] provides embedded measures, in relation to landscape and visual effects, with additional mitigation measures described in section 7.10.
PINS 2.2.4	Decommissioning assessment.	The decommissioning process is described in Chapter 5 [EN010162/APP/6.2.5]. Effects of the decommissioning process and any remaining effects after decommissioning are considered in section 7.7 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7].
PINS 2.2.5-2.2.6	Identifying which effects are significant and why.	As set out at section 7.3 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7] and in TA A7.2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.2], effects which are Major-moderate or Major are judged to be significant in the LVIA. The rationale underlying each contributory judgement is provided within the assessment.
PINS 2.2.9	Assessment of future receptors.	Applications in the zone of influence (ZOI) are being monitored as potential cumulative sites. These and consented projects may also be future receptors and are considered in the LVIA and RVAA.
PINS 2.2.10	The ES should provide sufficient detail on the inclusion or otherwise of sensitive receptors.	Landscape and visual receptors are listed in Table 7.2 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7], shown on Figures 7.3 to 7.7 and the rationale for their inclusion (or not) in detailed assessment is set out in section 7.7 of Chapter 7.

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
PINS 2.2.13	The ES should assess specific effects.	As set out above (refs. 2.2.5-6 and 2.2.10), specific effects are identified and described for individual receptors. The only receptors which are grouped are visual receptors as it is not possible to assess visual effects on every individual person. Visual receptors are grouped by their location to represent communities and/or people in a specific place.
LMPC5.2	Assessment should consider effects arising if woodlands are felled.	It is not considered likely that areas of woodland would be clear felled and not replanted during the lifetime of the development.
NE13.2	The ES should contain an assessment of effects on local landscape character, and an assessment of landscape and visual effects based on GLVIA3.	Such an assessment is provided in section 7.7 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7].
NSDC, page 6	The ES should take into account the time and nature of any new landscaping being established and maturing during the lifetime of the development.	This is considered within the assessment of effects as set out at section 7.7 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7].
NSDC, pages 8-9	Provide a list of plans and policies to be taken into account in the ES.	A brief summary of policy relevant to Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7] is provided at section 7.4.
NSDC pages 10-11	Request a specific approach to referencing documents.	This has been followed in respect of landscape and visual documentation.

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
Figures		
PINS 2.2.10	It would be helpful if each chapter of the ES provided figures showing the location of all receptors or groups of receptors considered.	Landscape and visual receptors are shown on Figures 7.3 to 7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3-7].
PINS 2.2.11	All figures should include the Order Limits.	It is considered that the Order Limits are of limited relevance to the extent and significance of landscape and visual effects given that it will not be a tangible feature in the landscape; and it can obscure and distract from the information that is important – particularly given the complex shape of the Order Limits for this project. However, it is included on Figures 7.3 (Landscape Character) [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3] and 7.5 (Visual Receptors) [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] as requested.
PINS 2.2.12	It would be helpful to provide figures in a searchable format rather than as images.	Searchable figures have been provided where this does not cause file sizes to exceed the upload limit.
PINS 3.1.4	All relevant baseline information (e.g. RLCAs and NCAs) should be included on figures.	See ref. 2.2.10 above. Figures 7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3] and 7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.4] show RCAs. Within the study area, the boundaries between the RCAs and NCAs are approximately matched and NCA 49 Sherwood ¹ coincides with the Sherwood RCA; NCA 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales ²
Other		

¹ Natural England (online only - undated). National Character Area 49 Sherwood. Available at: Sherwood - National Character Area Profiles (nationalcharacterareas.co.uk). Accessed 23/10/2024

² Natural England (online only - undated). National Character Area 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales. Available at: Trent and Belvoir Vales - National Character Area Profiles (nationalcharacterareas.co.uk) . Accessed 23/10/2024

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
PINS 2.1.12	Temporary haul roads to/from construction compounds should be described and their effects assessed.	No temporary haul roads outside of Work Areas are required as part of the Development. Haul roads within Work Areas are included in the assessment.
PINS 3.6.3	The ES should include a consideration of effects such as disturbance of tranquillity.	There is no guidance relating to the assessment of effects on tranquillity and (except in relation to Open Green Spaces) it is not protected by national planning policy. Where tranquillity is an important baseline characteristic or quality of a landscape receptor, effects are considered in this assessment.
NE12.5 and NE15	Recommend consideration of national and local to design guidance and indicated that consideration of design alternatives should provide justification of the final design in terms of the landscape impact and benefit. Recommends that access improvements are considered within the design.	This is a matter which extends outside of the scope of the LVIA. The LVIA sets out landscape and visual mitigation (and enhancement) measures which have a bearing in terms of the landscape and visual effects at section 7.6 of Chapter 7 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7]. Project alternatives are considered as required by the EIA Regulations in Chapter 4 [EN010162/APP/6.2.4]. The evolution of the design, including landscape considerations, is described in Chapter 4 and the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.8].
NSDC pages 10 & 13	NSDC intend to appoint a consultant to advise on LVIA matters and request further liaison.	Further liaison with the appointed consultant was undertaken after publication of the PEIR – see above.
NMPC2c	Additional above ground transmission infrastructure should be scoped in if required.	None is required.

Ref	Issue	How this is addressed
<p>Design</p> <p>Following the publication of the PEIR, a number of consultees and members of the public made comments on design, including such matters as reducing visibility from houses, settlements and roads; or increasing offsets from footpaths.</p> <p>For the most part, these comments sought to prevent visibility from homes and settlements and/or related to non-significant effects and the design was not adjusted in response.</p> <p>Changes to the design for other reasons (including flood risk, heritage, consultation comments and/or technical design factors) have resulted in reductions in panel areas which also have the benefit of reducing landscape and visual effects. This is particularly the case in relation to the area between Cromwell and Kelham, where a large extent of panel areas have been removed.</p> <p>Design changes specifically made to reduce landscape and visual impacts, or effects on residential visual amenity, in response to consultation feedback between the PEIR and ES include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The omission of a panel area to the east of Kneesall Lodge; • the omission of a panel area to the northwest of Norwell Woodhouse; and • increased setback of the panel area to the south of Brookdale Farm at Moorhouse. <p>In addition, a number of consultation comments focussed on the enclosure of views by proposed hedgerows. In developing the design, consideration was given to these comments, seeking to retain open outlooks where this would be compatible with mitigating open views of the solar panels. Specific locations where the design was amended to address this point include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased setback of the panel area to the east of Ossington to retain long-distance outward views from around the road junction; and • Footpath Maplebeck FP7 to the south of Maplebeck. <p>A fully detailed review of comments on the design and the responses is provided in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1]. The Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6] provides a more detailed description of the evolution of the design and the rationale for each design change.</p>		