POWER FOR GOOD

Steeple Renewables Project

Planning Statement

April 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the Proposed Development

1.1.1 This Planning Statement (the 'Statement') has been prepared on behalf of Steeple Solar Farm Limited (the 'Applicant') in relation to an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Steeple Renewables Project (the 'Proposed Development'). The application for the DCO (the 'DCO Application') is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, which will provide a recommendation on whether to grant a DCO. The Secretary of State ('SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') will make a final decision under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008').

1.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') and associated development comprising grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the development for the delivery of over 50 megawatts ('MW') of electricity.

1.1.3 The DCO Application Order Limits comprises 888.31 hectares ('ha') of land (the 'Site') located on land to the East and West of Sturton-le-Steeple village and South of West Burton Power Station wholly within the county of Nottinghamshire. The Proposed Development has a 40-year design life.

1.1.4 The **Order Limits [EN010163/APP/2.4]** shows the extent of the Proposed Developments location.

1.2 The Applicant

1.2.1 The Proposed Development is being developed by the Applicant, Steeple Solar Farm Limited. Steeple Solar Farm Limited is wholly owned by RES Group, who is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, having been in the sector for more than 40 years. As of 2023, the company had established more than 23

gigawatts of renewable energy projects worldwide and supported more than 12 gigawatts operations.

1.2.2 Further information about the Applicant can be found in the **Funding Statement [EN010163/APP/4.2]** that has been submitted as part of the DCO application.

1.3 Legislative Context

1.3.1 The Proposed Development is defined as a National Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the PA 2008 because it is for the construction of an onshore generating station in England, which does not produce electricity from wind, with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts ('MW'). Therefore, the Proposed Development requires development consent through a DCO to be able to proceed.

1.3.2 The PA 2008 prescribes that the SoS is responsible for determining an application for development consent, with the power to appoint an Examining Authority ('ExA') of appointed person(s) to manage and examine the application. The ExA, appointed through the Planning Inspectorate, will make procedural decisions and examine the application. Following their examination of the application, the ExA will make a recommendation to the SoS who will then decide whether to grant a DCO.

1.3.3 DCO applications are determined in line with Section 104 of the PA 2008 where a relevant National Planning Statement ('NPS') has effect in relation to the development.

1.3.4 Section 104 of the PA 2008 sets out what the SoS must have regard to when deciding the DCO application. This includes:

- *any national policy statement which has effect in relation to the development of the description to which the application relates (a 'relevant NPS');*
- *any local impact report (within the meaning given by section 60(3) submitted to the Secretary of State before the deadline specified in a notice under section 60(2));*

- *any matters prescribed in relation to development of the description to which the application relates; and*

- *any other matters which the Secretary of State thinks are both important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision.*

1.3.5 It is considered the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), the NPS for Renewable Energy (EN3) as well as the NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) have effect in relation to the Proposed Development and are, therefore, relevant NPSs for the purpose of Section 104(2)(a) of the PA 2008. Consequently, it is considered that the Proposed Development should be determined in accordance with Section 104 of the PA 2008.

1.3.6 A more detailed explanation of the legislative and policy context of the Proposed Development is set out in Section 4 and Section 5 of this Planning Statement.

1.3.7 Section 115 of the PA 2008 also states that a DCO can include consents for 'associated development', which is development that is not an NSIP in its own right but is associated with the NSIP. The NSIP and associated development works are defined in Schedule 1 of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** and explained in the **Explanatory Memorandum to the draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.2]**.

1.3.8 A DCO may include provisions that removes the requirement to obtain other consents. Details of the consents and authorisations included in the DCO are explained in the **Explanatory Memorandum to the draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.2]**. An **Other Consents and Licenses document [EN010163/APP/5.9]** explains the other consents and licenses that are required in connection with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and which will be acquired separately from the DCO.

1.3.9 The Proposed Development is an 'EIA Development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations'). This means that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must

be undertaken in respect of the Proposed Development. The Applicant has prepared an **Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to 6.2.19]** that accompanies the DCO Application. The ES is based upon the **EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010163/APP/6.3.1]** adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. A summary of the environmental matters considered in the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to 6.2.19]** are discussed in the Planning Appraisal in Section 6 of this Planning Statement.

1.4 Pre-Application Consultation

1.4.1 The Applicant has undertaken extensive non-statutory and statutory consultation throughout the design and development of the Proposed Development described within the **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]**.

1.4.2 **Table 1** below provides a summary of the key stages, with further details set out within the accompanying **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]**.

Table 1 – Summary of consultation

Stage or Consultation Phase	Key Dates	Description
Non-Statutory engagement and consultation	Engagement (August to December 2023) and Consultation (23 October to 6 December 2023)	Non-statutory discussions with and briefings for host authorities (officers and elected members), the public, and other stakeholders through extensive informal consultations.
Agreeing the draft SoCC	March to December 2024	The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) set out the approach to the formal statutory consultation process.
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Request	Scoping Request submitted 19 April 2024; Scoping Opinion issued 3 June 2024.	Request to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, for EIA Scoping Direction. The Planning Inspectorate issued the Screening Opinion after consultation with prescribed bodies under

		regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.
Statutory Consultation and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	20 January 2025 to 3 March 2024.	The Statutory Consultation sought to gather additional views and feedback on the proposal from a range of stakeholders and communities. This included issuing a consultation newsletter, press releases, formal notices, public exhibitions both online and in person. In person events were held 1st, 5th and 19th February and a webinar 12th February. The PEIR provided a preliminary account of the likely significant environmental effects of Proposed Development to inform the consultation process. The purpose of the PEIR was to enable interested parties (including members of the public, local planning authorities and statutory bodies), to develop an informed view of the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and to help inform their consultation responses during the proposed statutory consultation.
On-going Engagement	March to May 2025	Informal consultation and continued engagement to keep stakeholders informed of progress and to agree Statements of Common Ground with prescribed consultees in due course.

1.4.3 The Applicant has had regard to all feedback it has received in response to its consultations when developing the Proposed Development as described in the **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]**.

1.4.4 The ongoing consultation with Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council (the 'Host Authorities') has comprised regular meetings where updates have been provided on the Proposed Development, including the development of the design, and technical meetings with the Host Authorities'

planning representatives and technical specialists, including transport, Public Rights of Way, heritage assets, archaeology, ecology, and drainage. Discussions with the Host Authorities have played a role informing the development of the Proposed Development's design and the content of the application, including the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to 6.2.19]**. Details of engagement with Local Authorities and others has been undertaken from the early consultation stage during July to September 2023 through to submission of the application as well as a summary of the changes made to the Proposed Development in response to consultation feedback is set out in the **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]**.

1.4.5 The Applicant has also undertaken regular engagement with the Planning Inspectorate throughout the DCO Application preparation. This has enabled discussions regarding consultation responses received during preparation of the DCO Application and statutory consultation generally. Furthermore, this engagement has kept the Planning Inspectorate up to date regarding the DCO application submission date and ensuring a team is in place to address the DCO Application upon formal submission.

1.5 Purpose and Structure of this Planning Statement

1.5.1 The purpose of the Planning Statement is to provide an overview of the Proposed Development, its impacts and the DCO Application as a whole in an easily accessible format. It considers and assesses the Proposed Development against relevant planning policy and other matters the Applicant considers are likely to be important and relevant to the SoS's decision.

1.5.2 The remainder of the Planning Statement is structured as follows:

- Section 2 – The Order Limits and Surrounding Context, describes the existing land uses and characteristics of the Site and its surroundings, including its planning history;

- Section 3 – The Proposed Development, provides a summary of the Proposed Development;

- Section 4 – Legislative and Policy Context, outlines the decision-making framework; the planning policy context for the Proposed Development; and other legislation and policy considered by the Applicant to be important and relevant;

- Section 5 – The Need and Benefit, summarises the need and benefit for the Proposed Development;

- Section 6 – Planning Appraisal, explains the Proposed Development's compliance with the relevant NPSs and planning policy that the Applicant expects to be important and relevant to the decision; and

- Section 7 – Conclusion and Planning Balance, presents the overall planning balance and conclusions of this Planning Statement.

1.5.3 There are No. 4 appendices appended to this Planning Statement that are to be read in conjunction with the Planning Statement:

- Appendix A – Glossary

- Appendix B – Planning Application History from Within and Outside the DCO Limits provided by Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council;

- Appendix C – National Policy Accordance Table; and

- Appendix D – Local Planning Policy Accordance Table.

1.6 Relationship of the Planning Statement to the DCO Application

1.6.1 In assessing the Proposed Development against relevant policy and demonstrating the overall planning case for the Proposed Development, this Planning Statement

draws upon the conclusions of other documents accompanying the DCO Application and should be read alongside the following application documents, in particular the:

- Draft DCO **[EN010163/APP/3.1]**;
- Consultation Report **[EN010163/APP/5.1]**;
- Environmental Statement ('ES'), Figures, Appendices, and Non-Technical Summary **[EN010163/APP/6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4]**;
- Design and Access Statement **[EN010163/APP/7.3]**;
- Outline Construction Environmental Management ES Appendix 4.1 Plan **[EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**;
- Outline Operational Management Plan ES Appendix 4.4 **[EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**;
- Outline Decommissioning Plan ES Appendix 4.2 **[EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**;
- Report to Inform Habitats Regulation Assessment **[EN010163/APP/5.5]**; and
- Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ES Appendix 7.14 **[EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.

1.6.2 The **Section 55 Checklist [EN010163/APP/1.6]**, **List of Application Documents [EN010163/APP/1.1]** and the **Application Guide [EN010163/APP/1.4]** set out the structure of the DCO Application and how it satisfies relevant requirements of legislation and guidance around preparation, assessment and submission, including:

- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations');

- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations');

- The Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG, now known as the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) Planning Act 2008 – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Application form Guidance (2013); and

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (last updated 21 January 2025).

1.6.3 The **Electronic Application Index [EN010163/APP/1.5]** provides a full schedule of documents submitted with the DCO Application.

2. THE ORDER LIMITS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.2 This section provides an overview of the Order Limits and surrounds, with a more detailed description provided in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**. All land falling within the Site boundary is shown on the **Order Limits [EN010163/APP/2.4]**.

2.2 The Site

2.1.1 The layout of the Proposed Development is shown on the **Site Layout Plan [EN010163/APP/2.6]**.

2.1.2 The 'Development Area' is the area within the Order Limits which the solar PV arrays, onsite substation, BESS and associated infrastructure and accesses will be located generally comprising of agricultural land.

2.1.3 The 'Biodiversity Mitigation Area' is the area within the Order Limits where biodiversity mitigation will be created. This is agricultural land to the eastern and western end of the order limits.

2.1.4 The 'Underground Cable Connection Area' is an area within the Order Limits in which underground cable connections will be located. These cables transfer electricity generated by the solar PV arrays to onsite substation and electricity infrastructure. This generally comprises agricultural land.

2.1.5 The 'Underground Grid Connection Cable Area' is an area within the Order Limits in which underground grid connection cables will be located that transfer electricity generated by the site to the 400kV West Burton Substation.

2.2 Site and Surroundings

2.2.1 The site mainly lies to the east and west of Sturton-le-Steeple village, within the Parish of Sturton-le-Steeple, with smaller parcels of land within the parish of West

Burton to the north, North Leverton with Habblesthorpe to the south, and Clarborough with Welham to the south-west. Settlements within the wider surrounding area including Knaith approximately 250m east on the opposite side of the River Trent, North Leverton with Habblesthorpe and Fenton located 500m to the south of the Site. South Leverton, Clarborough, North Wheatley and South Wheatley are located 1.km to the south, 850m to the west, 1.3km, and 1km to the north of the Site, respectively. Gainsborough is located c.5km to the north-east of the Site.

2.2.2 The Site contains over 100 fields, as shown on the **Field Numbering Plan [EN010163/APP/2.5]**. The Order Limits mainly include agricultural land, a small part of the existing West Burton Power Station (a prominent feature un the surrounding area) covering the area around the existing 400kV substation, and a number of local roads (sections of Wheatley Road; Station Road; Gainsborough Road, and Wood Lane in the north-western portion of the Site; and Littleborough Road, and Common Lane, in the eastern portion of the Site).

2.2.3 Agricultural land within and surrounding the Order Limits is generally relatively large, regular shaped arable fields, with some dividing hedgerows and individual trees. A small rectangular area located in the north-western portion of the Site has been excluded from the Site; this area is part of a separate development which has secured consent for solar development (under planning permission reference 20/00117/FUL). Small woodland plantations are located within some of the fields. Individual properties are also located close to the boundaries of the Site and within the wider surrounding area.

2.2.4 There are a number of both overhead electricity transmission/distribution lines, underground fuel, and water pipelines which pass through the Site. The locations of these are shown on **ES Figure 3.1 Site Constraints Plan [EN010163/APP/6.4.3]**. Within the eastern extent of the Site are four overhead lines which run out from the existing West Burton Power Station site in a south-easterly direction.

2.2.5 The River Trent, a tributary of the Humber Estuary, lies adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site. The Great Central Railway eastern main line runs through the western part of the Order Limits and Great Central Railway line adjoins the southern boundary of the Order Limits.

2.2.6 The **ES Figure 3.1 Site Constraints Plan [EN010163/APP/6.4.3]** provides an overview of identified environmental constraints. Further detail on topic-specific environmental constraints within, and outside of, the Site are set out in further detail within the individual topic chapters of the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to 6.2.19]**.

2.3 Relevant Planning History

2.3.1 Due to the fact the Site is largely agricultural, relevant planning history of land within the Order Limits is limited. **Table 2** below summarises the planning history of the planning and associated applications publicly available as confirmed by Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, within the Order Limits.

Table 2 – Planning History of DCO limit

Reference	Description of Development	Decision	Submission Date
24/00509/PREAPP	Proposed National Strategic Infrastructure Project Consultation from The Planning Inspectorate on Behalf of the Secretary of State for a Scoping Opinion - Proposed development of a Solar Farm located in Bassetlaw comprising up to 400MW of solar energy generation and a 200MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).	Scoping Opinion Issued	23.04.2024

2.3.2 The EIA Scoping Opinion from **Table 2** above relates to this DCO application.

2.3.3 There is also substantial Planning History at the West Burton Power Station, its associated West Burton Bole Ings Ash site and the neighbouring Sturton-le-Steeple quarry that can be found at Appendix B of this Planning Statement. This list is not for the whole of the Order Limits and only relates to a small part within West Burton Power Station, shared access road with Sturton-le-Steeple quarry and Wood Lane that is within the red line for a separate solar development reference 20/00117/FUL mentioned previously in paragraph 2.2.3.

2.3.4 Further to this, a cumulative long list and short list of relevant planning applications, is provided at **ES Appendix 2.3 [EN010163/APP/6.3.2]**.

2.3.5 Where relevant, cumulative assessments included within the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to 6.2.19]** technical chapters assess the environmental implications of the above planning applications in conjunction with the Proposed Development.

3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section describes the main components of the Proposed Development and the activities that would take place during the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases.

3.1.2 A full description of the proposal is provided in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]**.

3.2 Components of the Proposed Development

3.2.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of ground mounted solar PV panel arrays, BESS and supporting infrastructure.

3.2.2 The Proposed Development will be entirely located within the Order Limits and all the works that are part of the Proposed Development are listed in Schedule 1 of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**. Key infrastructure for the Proposed Development, included in **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** includes:

- Solar PV modules;
- Mounting structures;
- Field stations;
- On-Site Substation and BESS compound;
- Distribution cables;
- Grid connection cables;
- Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure;

- Access;
- Landscape and ecological enhancements; and
- Archaeological mitigation.

3.2.3 A brief summary of these components is set out below with further details set out in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**, **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**, **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, and the **Works Plans [EN010163/APP/2.2]**.

Solar PV Modules

3.2.4 The Proposed Development will consist of solar PV modules, as shown on the **Typical PV Module and Rack Details Plan [EN010163/APP/2.8]**, placed on mounting structures arranged in rows (known as 'solar PV tables'). The solar PV array is a distinct group of PV tables which are grouped together. A group of solar PV modules that are connected to one another are known as 'solar PV strings'.

3.2.5 Flexibility is requested for different configurations of solar PV modules. The final elevations of the solar PV modules will be influenced by various design factors such as local topography, selection of solar PV module type and configuration. Final design details of the solar modules are secured by a Requirement in the draft DCO.

Mounting Structures

3.2.6 The solar PV modules panels, as shown on the **Typical PV Module and Rack Details Plan [EN010163/APP/2.8]**, will be ground mounted to pile metal frames of anodized aluminium alloy or galvanised steel with a rough matte finish. The fixed structure will be orientated east to west with the panels facing south.

Invertors

3.2.7 Central Inverter details, as shown on the **Typical Invertor Detail Plan [EN010163/APP/2.33]**, are characterised by containerised units dispersed through the solar PV modules that house inverter, transformer and switchgear, although these could stand alone.

3.2.8 String inverter details, as shown on the **Typical PV Module and Rack Details Plan [EN010163/APP/2.8]**, are an alternative to Centralised Inverter Stations and are small enough to be fitted on the mounting structure beneath the solar PV modules. A string inverter is required for every solar PV string and is sited within the footprint of the solar PV table. String transformers are also required to be distributed throughout the solar modules within containers, alongside switchgears.

On-Site Substation and Energy Storage Compound

3.2.9 The on-site substation and BESS will be located towards the northern end of the Order Limits, adjacent to West Burton power station in separate compounds.

3.2.10 The Substation, as shown on the **Substation Compound and Elevation Plan [EN010163/APP/2.7]**, comprises an earthing transformer, surge arresters, earth switch, circuit breaker, 33kV intake switch room and generator transformers with the highest part of the substation standing at 12 metres high.

3.2.11 The BESS, as shown on the **Typical Battery Storage Enclosure Plan [EN010163/APP/2.10]** and **BESS Layout Detail Plan [EN010163/APP/2.26]**, includes battery containers, an auxiliary transformer, LV switchgear room, spares container, aggregation panel with LV pillar, power conversion system with single MV skid and apron slab.

3.2.12 With regards flood risk, there is a low risk of fluvial flooding affecting the Proposed Development. No mitigation measures are required to protect the Proposed Development or its occupants during a 'design' flood event, as the proposed

infrastructure will remain unaffected and safe access routes will be available for any personnel attending the Site. A residual risk exists in the event of a breach occurring in the River Trent flood defences. During this scenario, the Proposed Development will be shut down remotely with no requirement for personnel to attend the Site. The operator will be registered with the Environment Agency ('EA') to receive flood warnings so that advance warning will be available enabling any personnel in attendance to leave the Site. Flood risk is discussed further in Section 6 of this Planning Statement and **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]**.

3.2.13 With regards to health and safety, BESSs are considered inherently safe and have a very low risk of fire. In-built fire suppression systems and on-site storage of water will ensure any risk of fire will be contained. A specialised fire safety consultant has been commissioned by the Applicant who has consulted relevant fire safety consultees and health and safety experts. Further details are included in **ES Appendix 4.3 outline Fire Risk Management Plan (oFRMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.

Distribution Cables

3.2.14 Cabling between solar PV modules and inverters is low voltage and typically located above ground level, fixed to mounted structure and then trenched underground between solar PV tables and inverters. Trenching dimensions vary depending on the number of underground cables, number of ducts, method of installation and ground conditions.

3.2.15 Cables between the inverters and on-site substation are higher rated voltage cables buried underground in a trench typically 0.8 metres deep and between 0.4 and 0.8 metres wide as shown on the **Typical Cable Trench Section Plan [EN010163/APP/2.23]**.

3.2.16 Flexibility regarding electrical and other cabling locations is required to ensure the Proposed Development is implemented as efficiently as possible.

3.2.17 Existing above and below-ground utilities across the Site will remain in situ and are not proposed to be altered by the Proposed Development. Easements relating to these assets have been obtained and incorporated into the Proposed Development's design, as shown on **ES Figure 17.2 Utilities Plan [EN010163/APP/6.4.17]**.

Grid Connection Cables

3.2.18 Underground grid connection cables connect the Proposed Development to the National Grid at West Burton 400kV Substation as shown on the **Site Layout Plan (EN010163/APP/2.6]**.

3.2.19 Voltage of the underground connection cable will be up to 400kV and less than 1KM from the on-site substation and BESS to the West Burton Substation near the north of the site.

Fencing

3.2.20 As shown on the **Typical Fence Detail Plan [EN010163/APP/2.19]** three fence types are proposed. These include:

3.2.20.1 a 2.4 metre-high wooden post and plain metal mesh deer fence on the perimeter of the Proposed Development area with badger/fox/small mammal gates fitted at appropriate points to enable free access as required; and

3.2.20.2 a 3-metre high palisade fence finished green in colour is proposed around the BESS and onsite substation.

Construction Compound

3.2.21 No.2 main construction compounds are proposed, one serving the eastern part of the Site, and one serving the western part of the Site as shown on the **Proposed Site**

Layout Plan [EN010163/APP/2.6]. The **Typical Temporary Construction Compound Layout Plan [EN010163/APP/2.22]** shows that each main construction compound will contain offices, mobile welfare units, canteens, storage and waste skips, parking areas and space for storage, refuelling, download and turning area.

3.2.22 There will also be No.3 secondary construction compounds progressively established across each working area to service local works. This includes storage of materials, fuel and equipment needed for such works as well as welfare facilities, office space required to avoid unnecessary movement of site personnel over long distances.

3.2.23 Secondary construction compounds will typically be set up ahead of installation of the PV arrays, electrical components and cabling. They will be decommissioned and land restored as the relevant works in their locality progress and become completed.

3.2.24 Temporary access tracks are also required to allow access to all land within the site. Some permanent access tracks are required to serve the inverters/transformer station areas, BESS and substation compound.

CCTV

3.2.25 A 3.5 metre-high pole mounted internal facing Close Circuit Television ('CCTV') is proposed for security purposes, as shown on the **Typical Security CCTV Detail Plan [EN010163/APP/2.20]**.

External Lighting

3.2.26 During both construction and decommissioning, activities can take place during daylight hours. However, at certain times of the year when light levels are low temporary external lighting will be deployed. Temporary external lighting will be avoided as far as practical and generally limited to the compound areas. External lighting of the on-site substation and BESS will be required during operation in

accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exists.

Access

3.2.27 A total of 26 access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13].** No.2 will serve primary construction compounds and No.3 will serve secondary construction compounds. The remaining No.21 access points will serve the dedicated haul routes. No.5 construction access will be used during operation.

3.2.28 **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted as part of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads to ensure access roads are suitable for transportation of components to the site. Mitigation measures are also proposed including a Public Right of Way Management Plan, Traffic Management Measures including signage and a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit at all access junctions as an additional safety measure. The outline CTMP is secured by a Requirement in the DCO.

3.2.29 A construction worker plan is also included in the **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** setting out measures and controls for staff vehicles. This includes measures to discourage and limit access to the Order Limits by car, such as through the use of a shuttle bus from local worker accommodation and the promotion of car sharing to minimise additional vehicles on local roads.

3.2.30 During the operational phase, vehicular access will be limited to maintenance visits and vehicles are anticipated to use the proposed construction haul routes where possible.

3.2.31 Internal access tracks will be up to 6 metres wide, constructed of permeable aggregate, to enable drainage and contain passing places to enable HGVs to pass (location of passing places will be confirmed along the access track).

3.2.32 Access to existing Public Rights of Way ('PRoW') will remain through all phases of development. Whilst not anticipated, should temporary closures be required for health and safety purposes, these will be limited to short periods during construction or decommissioning.

Landscape and Ecological Enhancements

3.2.33 Existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches and ponds within the site will, on the whole, be retained. The exception being small breaks for access tracks/improved visibility, security fencing and cable routes. Any crossing will be kept to the minimum necessary to enable the Proposed Development and where cables route cross hedgerows they will be reinstated after construction.

3.2.34 Further landscape details are provided in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.

Archaeological Mitigation

3.2.35 The Proposed Development has evolved alongside an assessment of Cultural Heritage impacts to reduce potential effects to heritage assets. Proposed mitigation is set out in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.3 Archaeological Mitigation Statement [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and areas of archaeological interest are not proposed to be developed, as shown on the **Works Plans [EN010163/APP/2.2].**

3.3 Construction Period Activities

3.3.1 The Proposed Development currently has a grid connection date of October 2029. It is currently anticipated that construction work will commence in 2028. As such, the construction period for the Proposed Development is anticipated to be 24 months.

3.3.2 Activities undertaken during construction include site establishment works (ground clearance where necessary; delivery of construction materials, plant and equipment; installation of site fencing; creation of construction compounds; construction of internal access roads; setting out of infrastructure and equipment positions); construction of solar PV array, substation and BESS (installation of foundations and piling; on-site electrical infrastructure; laying cables; point of connection electrical works, installation of security lighting and CCTV; and additional fencing and gates); testing and commissioning; site clearance and compound removal; landscape planting and ecological enhancement.

3.3.3 Equipment anticipated to be used during construction include digger; tractor with trailer; tractor with hedge cutter; compactor; piling rig; mobile crane; cement mixer and 4x4 with trailer.

3.3.4 Construction activities are likely to be carried out:

- Monday to Friday: 07:00-18:00
- Saturdays: 08:00 and 13.30
- Sunday and bank holidays: No work (save for emergency works or works that do not cause noise that is audible at the boundary of the Order Limits and do not give rise to materially new or materially more adverse effects than those assessed in the ES)

3.3.5 Some activities may be required outside of these times (such as the delivery of abnormal loads, nighttime working for cable construction works in public highways or horizontal directional drill (HDD) activities). Environmental controls will be in place to mitigate any impact. Where possible, construction activities will be

coordinated to avoid HGV movements during the traditional AM peak hour (08:00-09:00) and PM peak hour (17:00-18:00).

Controls to Protect the Environment during Construction Phase

3.3.6 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted to and approved by the relevant local planning authority prior to the commencement of development as secured by a Requirement in the DCO. The CEMP for each phase will be substantially in accordance with the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** submitted as part of the DCO Application. This will detail environmental controls and best practices to ensure potential construction impacts and adverse effects of the Proposed Development are minimised.

3.3.7 A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will also be submitted to and approved by the relevant local planning authority prior to the commencement of development as secured by a Requirement in the DCO. The CTMP will build on details provided in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** submitted as part of the DCO Application. This includes management of PRoWs, regulated delivery of materials and movement of construction personnel to the Site. **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** contains further details.

Operational Phase

3.3.8 Once operational, activities on site will be limited to maintenance (such as servicing plant and equipment), vegetation management and livestock husbandry.

3.3.9 Movements within the Site will be minimal undertaken by way of quad bike or small farm utility vehicles as outlined within **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and **ES**

Appendix 4.4 outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4].

3.3.10 The Site will be grazed during the operational phase as described in **ES Appendix 15.2 outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**.

Decommissioning Phase

3.3.11 Following cessation of energy generation and export at the Site all solar PV modules, mounting structures, cabling, inverters and transformers will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market condition at that time.

3.3.12 Decommissioning of the Site is anticipated to take approximately 12 months and all site infrastructure (except underground ducting), including compounds and access tracks, will be removed and the Site remediated in accordance with the Requirement included in the DCO.

3.3.13 Underground ducting within the cable route corridor will be decommissioned and left in situ to avoid unnecessary intrusion. It is possible to remove the cable itself by extracting it at the joint bays within the ducting so that the cable can be recycled.

3.3.14 Mitigation measures for the Proposed Development's decommissioning phase are set out in **ES Appendix 4.2 outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, a detailed version of which is secured by a DCO Requirement.

4 Legislative and Policy Context

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section of the Planning Statement sets out the legislative framework, planning policy context for the Proposed Development, relationship with the PA 2008 (Section 4.2), relevant national and local planning policy (Section 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) as well as other relevant legislation and policy (Section 4.6).

4.2 Legislative context

Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008')

4.2.1 The PA 2008 provides the legislative basis and defines the application process under which consent for NSIPs is sought.

4.2.2 In this case, the Proposed Development is defined as an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the PA 2008 because it is a generation station in England, that does not generate electricity from wind and has a generating capacity over 50MW. The Proposed Development therefore requires a DCO.

4.2.3 Section 103 of the PA 2008 confirms the SoS has the function for deciding to grant a DCO and Section 104 of the PA 2008 provides the basis for deciding a DCO application if relevant NPSs apply.

4.2.4 NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5 all contain provisions that apply to the Proposed Development. NPS EN-1 is applicable as the overarching energy policy statement, NPS EN-3 includes a specific section on solar generation and NPS EN-5 applies given the presence of electrical network infrastructure and underground cabling as associated development. NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5 are therefore material considerations in the determination of the DCO Application by the SoS.

4.3 National Planning Policy

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)

4.3.1 NPS EN-1 sets out general principles and impacts to be taken into account by all energy NSIPs and, as confirmed at paragraph 1.2.1, NPS EN-1 (combined with any technology specific energy NPS) forms the primary policy for decisions on NSIPs. This is underpinned by the principle that the development of large-scale renewable energy generation infrastructure is urgently needed to ensure Government targets and commitments for the energy system are met.

4.3.2 NPS EN-1 also reflects the UK Government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions; ensuring energy security; promoting affordability; recognises the heavy reliance on fossil fuels for households and transportation; emphasises the need to decrease dependency on high-carbon fossil fuels and transition to a low-carbon energy mix.

4.3.3 Part 2 of NPS EN-1 outlines the policy framework established by the UK Government for major energy infrastructure and the framework includes various objectives.

4.3.4 Paragraph 2.3.3 of NPS EN-1 explains that the UK Government's objective is to ensure the UK's supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable and consistent with meeting the target to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. It states that "*this will require a step change in the decarbonisation of our energy system*."

4.3.5 Paragraph 2.3.4 of NPS EN-1 identifies:

> "*meeting these objectives necessitates a significant amount of new energy infrastructure, both large nationally significant developments and small-scale developments determined at a local level. This includes the infrastructure needed to convert primary sources of energy (e.g. wind, solar) into energy carriers (e.g. electricity or hydrogen), and to store (energy storage systems) and transport primary fuels and energy carriers into and around the country. The requirement for new energy infrastructure will present opportunities for the UK*

and contributes towards our ambition to support jobs in the UK's clean energy industry and local supply chains."

4.3.6 Paragraph 2.3.5 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*fossil fuels still accounted for just over 76 per cent of energy supply in 2020. We need to dramatically increase the volume of energy supplied from low carbon sources*".

4.3.7 Part 3 of NPS EN-1 emphasises the importance of considering the need for energy developments when evaluating applications.

4.3.8 Paragraph 3.1.1 of NPS EN-1 states:

"….*the government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives and why the government considers that the need for such infrastructure is urgent*."

4.3.9 However, paragraph 3.1.2 of NPS EN-1 acknowledges:

"…. *it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts. These effects will be minimised by the application of policy set out in Parts 4 and 5 of this NPS*".

4.3.10 Nevertheless the policy stresses the urgency of need for such infrastructure and consideration of need should be given significant weight by the SoS in their decision making.

4.3.11 NPS EN-1 recognises meeting energy objectives necessitates the development of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure. Paragraph 3.2.1 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*The government's objectives for the energy system are to ensure our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and consistent with net*

zero emissions in 2050 for a wide range of future scenarios, including through delivery of our carbon budgets and Nationally Determined Contributions".

4.3.12 Paragraph 3.3.14 of NPS EN-1 sets out the role of government in facilitating private sector renewable energy development. Its states:

> "*Value for money assessments are not required on applications for development consent for energy infrastructure projects. However, government will work to ensure there are market frameworks which promote effective competition and deliver an affordable, secure and reliable energy system and government support for specific technologies and projects will be dependent on clear value for money for consumers and taxpayers*".

4.3.13 With regard to the on-site BESS within the Proposed Development, paragraph 3.3.4 of NPS EN-1 acknowledges the need for different types of electrical infrastructure, including electrical storage (BESS), to ensure delivery of energy objectives. Paragraph 3.3.6 of NPS EN-1 outlines the need for these different types of electrical infrastructure. It states:

> "*Storage and interconnection can provide flexibility, meaning that less of the output of plant is wasted as it can either be stored or exported when there is excess production. They can also supply electricity when domestic demand is higher than generation, supporting security of supply. This means that the total amount of generating plant capacity required to meet peak demand is reduced, bringing significant system savings alongside demand side response (up to £12bn per year by 2050). Storage can also reduce the need for new network infrastructure. However, neither of these technologies, as with demand side response, are sufficient to meet the anticipated increase in total demand, and so cannot fully replace the need for new generating capacity*".

4.3.14 Paragraph 3.3.20 of NPS EN-1 sets out the expectation that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed primarily of

wind and solar. As well as additional generating plants, new storage and interconnectors are required to provide greater flexibility.

4.3.15 Paragraph 3.3.57 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*Government has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 under carbon budget 6. According to the Net Zero Strategy this means that by 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in demand*".

4.3.16 Paragraph 3.3.58 of NPS EN-1 recognises that:

> "*Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy*".

4.3.17 Paragraph 3.3.62 of NPS EN-1 sets out:

> "*Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure*".

4.3.18 Part 4 of NPS EN-1 provides guidance on the submission and assessment of applications relating to energy infrastructure.

4.3.19 Paragraph 4.1.3 of NPS EN-1 confirms a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused or in other limited circumstances.

4.3.20 Paragraph 4.1.5 of NPS EN-1 is clear that in considering any proposed development, and when weighing the adverse impacts against its benefits, the SoS should take into account:

- "*its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation, reducing of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits"* and

- *"its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy*".

4.3.21 Paragraph 4.1.6 of NPS EN-1 identifies that in this context, the SoS should take into account environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts at national, regional and local levels.

4.3.22 Paragraph 4.1.7 of NPS EN-1 then explains, where the SoS considers that there would still be residual adverse effects after the implementation of mitigation measures, those residual effects should be weighed against the benefits of the Proposed Development.

4.3.23 Of particular relevance:

> "*For projects which qualify as CNP Infrastructure* [which the Proposed Development does]*, it is likely that the need case will outweigh the residual effects in all but the most exceptional cases. This presumption, however, does not apply to residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or unacceptable risk to the achievement of net zero*."

4.3.24 Section 4.2 of NPS EN-1 further sets out the critical national priority for low carbon infrastructure (solar and associated development including energy storage systems form CNP Infrastructure in the examples provided at paragraph 4.2.5 of NPS EN-1) and the principles for environmental assessments of NSIPs.

4.3.25 Paragraph 4.3.2 of NPS EN-1 states that the EIA Regulations:

> "*… specifically refer to effects on population, human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them*".

4.3.26 The Applicant has set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the Proposed Development, and how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy within the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to EN010163/APP/6.2.19]**.

4.3.27 Paragraph 4.3.9 of NPS EN-1 highlights the relevance or otherwise to the decision-making process of the existence (or alleged existence) of alternatives to the Proposed Development is in the first instance a matter of law. It clarifies from a policy perspective that NPS EN-1 does not contain any general requirement to consider alternatives or to establish whether a proposed project represents the best option.

4.3.28 Information on the SoS's decision making is included in NPS EN-1 with paragraph 4.3.24 stating:

> "*The Secretary of State should not refuse an application for development on one site simply because fewer adverse impacts would result from developing similar infrastructure on another suitable site and should have regard as appropriate to the possibility that all suitable sites for energy infrastructure of the type proposed may be needed for future proposals*".

4.3.29 Section 4.4 of NPS EN-1 covers health impacts primarily relating to the release of pollutants and environmental impact. Section 4.6 of NPS EN-1 covers Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain ('BNG').

4.3.30 Of particular relevance, paragraph 4.6.6 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity and the wider environment where possible*."

4.3.31 Paragraph 4.6.15 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design (including any relevant operational aspects) of the project*".

4.3.32 BNG is not a legal requirement for NSIPs until relevant provisions of the Environment Act 2021 are brought into force. Although, there is a policy expectation that applicants will consider opportunities to provide BNG as part of the Proposed Development.

4.3.33 Section 4.7 of NPS EN-1 underscores the importance of good design in energy projects and how factors such as functionality and siting significantly influence their effectiveness.

4.3.34 Section 4.10 of NPS EN-1 addresses climate change adaptation and Section 4.11 of NPS EN-1 grid/network connection.

4.3.35 Paragraph 4.10.9 of NPS EN-1, in relation to climate change adaptation, confirms the ES should set out how the proposal takes account of the projected impacts of climate change in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

4.3.36 NPS EN-1 highlights the importance of energy projects harmonising with the surroundings and acknowledges large-scale energy projects may have landscape and visual impacts.

4.3.37 Paragraph 5.10.5 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*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*".

4.3.38 Paragraph 5.10.6 of NPS EN-1 sets out:

"*Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate*."

4.3.39 Paragraph 5.10.12 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development*".

4.3.40 Paragraph 5.10.35 of NPS EN-1 advises that it is relevant to consider whether any adverse impact in the landscape is temporary and capable of being reversed.

4.3.41 Part 5 of NPS EN-1 provides guidance on the SoS's assessment of general energy development impacts, stating impacts and mitigation measures should be considered when relevant and significant in the decision-making process. These impacts include air quality and emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity and geological conservation, aviation, coastal change, dust, pollution control, flood risk, historical environment, landscape and visual aspect, land use, noise and vibration, socioeconomics, traffic and transport, waste, water quality and resources.

4.3.42 Part 5 of NPS EN-1 also sets out recommendations for bodies that applicants should seek advice from for technical considerations and the SoS should be provided with

necessary information to determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required. Environmental impacts discussed in later sections of NPS EN-1 are thoroughly examined when evaluating the Proposed Development in accordance with NPS EN-1. Further details can be found in the DCO support documentation, in particular the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to EN010163/APP/6.2.19]** and **Report to Inform a Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]**.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3)

4.3.43 NPS EN-3 provides national planning policy in respect of renewable energy infrastructure and emphasises the UK Government's commitment to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that the UK is "*on a pathway*" that allows it to meet net zero emissions.

4.3.44 Paragraph 1.1.2 of NPS EN-3 summarises the central role that renewables play in meeting our energy objectives stating:

> "*Electricity generation from renewable sources is an essential element of the transition to net zero and meeting our statutory targets for the sixth carbon budget (CB6). Our analysis suggests that demand for electricity is likely to increase significantly over the coming years and could more than double by 2050. This could require a fourfold increase in low carbon electricity generation, with most of this likely to come from renewables*".

4.3.45 NPS EN-3 provides an assessment and technology-specific information on renewable energy technologies including solar photovoltaic generation.

4.3.46 Paragraph 1.1.3 of NPS EN-3 confirms that the Net Zero Strategy committed the UK Government to action *"so that by 2035*, all *our electricity will come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting 40-60% increase in demand*". Solar power is regarded as one of the cleanest and most cost-effective energy sources. It is imperative to provide support for the development of utility-scale solar PV projects to meet decarbonisation targets.

4.3.47 Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 explores the need for solar PV generation in greater detail, includes policies specific to solar NSIPs, how applicants consider matters of site selection, how assessments are undertaken and mitigation provided. Types of impact considered important for solar projects are also set out in Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 comprising biodiversity and nature conservation; landscape; visual and residential amenity; glint and glare; cultural heritage; construction including traffic and transport noise and vibrations.

4.3.48 Paragraph 2.10.9 states that:

> "*The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions by 2050. As such, solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector*".

4.3.49 Paragraph 2.10.10 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Solar also has an important role in delivering the government's goals for greater energy independence. The British Energy Security Strategy states that government expects a five-fold increase in combined ground and rooftop solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW). It sets out that government is supportive of solar that is "co-located with other functions (for example, agriculture, onshore wind generation, or storage) to maximise the efficiency of land use*"".

4.3.50 Paragraph 2.10.11 of NPS EN-3 sets out that the Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan further emphasises the need for larger scale ground-mounted solar development across the UK.

4.3.51 Paragraph 2.4.11 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in particular, how plant will be resilient to:*

• *increased risk of flooding; and*

• *impact of higher temperatures*".

4.3.52 Paragraph 2.10.17 of NPS EN-3 acknowledges that the scale of solar farms means that they will "*inevitable have impacts, particularly if sited in rural areas*".

4.3.53 Paragraphs 2.10.18 to 2.10.48 of NPS EN-3 contain policy on site selection. Paragraphs 2.10.18 to 2.10.27 of NPS EN-3 state that site selection needs to consider irradiance, site topography, network connection, and proximity to dwellings. Paragraph 2.10.24 of NPS EN-3 acknowledges that the financial feasibility of ground mounted solar developments is often dependent on the distance from the transmission network, connection voltage and available network capacity.

4.3.54 Paragraph 2.10.25 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*To maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs, applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity*".

4.3.55 Paragraphs 2.10.28 to 2.10.35 of NPS EN-3 provide policy on site selection with regard to agricultural land. Paragraph 2.10.29 of NPS EN-3 states "*land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location*".

4.3.56 Paragraph 2.10.30 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of "Best and Most Versatile" agricultural land where possible*."

4.3.57 Paragraph 2.10.30 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, or sites designated for their natural*

beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered".

4.3.58 Paragraph 2.10.31 of NPS EN-3 recognises:

"*…at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land*".

4.3.59 Paragraph 2.10.32 of NPS EN-3 states:

"*Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind generation, storage, hydrogen electrolysers) to maximise the efficiency of land use*".

4.3.60 Paragraphs 2.10.35 to 2.10.39 and 2.10.40 to 2.10.45 of NPS EN-3 discuss the need and potential difficulty for accessing ground mounted solar sites due to their rural location, and provides policy on PRoW.

4.3.61 General policies on environmental impacts and mitigation are provided in paragraphs 2.10.73 to 2.10.144 of NPS EN-3. They expand on information contained in NPS EN-1 and focus them to have regard for ground mounted solar PV schemes.

4.3.62 Paragraphs 2.10.145 to 2.10.162 of NPS EN-3 discuss the SoS's decision making process. Paragraph 2.10.145 of NPS EN-3 states the SoS should take into account economic and other benefits for BMV land, and that appropriate measures to minimise impacts on soils or soil resources have been put forward by the Applicant.

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)

4.3.63 NPS EN-5 provides national planning policy in respect of electricity networks infrastructure and covers above ground electricity lines whose nominal voltage is

expected to be 132kV or above and whose length is greater than 2km. Lower voltage overhead lines can also be considered if they constitute associated development for which consent is sought along with an NSIP, or if the SoS gives a direction that they should be treated as an NSIP.

4.3.64 Paragraph 1.6.4 of NPS EN-5 confirms NPS EN-5 also applies to underground cables of any voltage, and associated infrastructure such as substations and converter stations. As electricity networks infrastructure is proposed as associated development within the DCO Application, NPS EN-5 has effect in relation to the Proposed Development.

4.3.65 Paragraphs 2.2.8 and 2.2.9 of NPS EN-5 acknowledge there will be some flexibility around the location of any associated substation to account for local landscape and topography.

4.3.66 Section 2 of NPS EN-5 discusses assessment and technology-specific information. Section 2.9 of NPS EN-5 provides a steer of applicants' assessments. Noise and vibration is covered by paragraphs 2.9.26 to 2.9.43 of NPS EN-5 confirming applicants should have considered noise electricity network infrastructure, including substation, in their assessment.

4.4 National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF')

4.4.1 Although the NPPF is subordinate to the NPSs and not directly relevant to the determination of NSIPs, it can still be considered a relevant planning consideration in by the SoS in the decision-making process.

4.4.2 Paragraph 5 of the NPPF states:

> "*The Framework does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects. These are determined in accordance with the decision-making framework in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and relevant national policy statements for major infrastructure, as well as any other*

matters that are relevant (which may include the National Planning Policy Framework).”

This Planning Statement, therefore, assesses the alignment of the Proposed Development against the NPPF.

National Planning Practice Guidance (‘NPPG’)

4.4.3 The NPPG supports the NPPF and provides guidance on implementation of NPPF policies. The NPPG includes a range of topics including climate change, EIA, renewable and low carbon energy guidance, which includes guidance on large scale ground mounted solar PV farms and BESS. Information within the NPPG aligns with policies within the NPSs.

4.5 Local Planning Policy Context

4.5.1 Section 104 and 105 of the PA 2008 both include Local Impact Reports (‘LIR’) as a document the SoS must have regard to their decision-making process. LIRs are informed by local planning policy. Paragraph 4.1.12 of NPS EN-1 acknowledges policies outlined in the Development Plan documents and other Local Development Framework documents may hold significance and relevance in the decision-making process of planning. In cases where conflict arises, this paragraph stipulates that the NPSs take precedence for the purpose of SoS planning decision making.

4.5.2 The local planning policy context for the Proposed Development is set out within the:

- Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 (BLP) (Adopted 29th May 2024); and
- Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (NMLP) (Adopted March 2021)

4.5.3 Neighbourhood Plans covering part of the Order Limits comprise:

- Sturton-le-Steeple, Bole, & West Burton Neighbourhood Plan (Area Designated 08th December 2022[1].

- North Leverton with Habblesthorpe Neighbourhood Plan (Designated 08th December 2022[2].

- North and South Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan (Designated 08th December 2022[3]

- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Made following a referendum held 11th February 2016. It was the reviewed and adopted following a referendum held 11th November 2021)[4]

- Clarborough Neighbourhood Plan (Made following a referendum held 02nd February 2017)

4.5.4 Appendix D, Local Planning Policy Accordance Table, of this Planning Statement sets out the relevant adopted local planning policies in full and sets out the accordance of the Proposed Development against the policies.

[1] Whilst the new designation replaces the previous Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area, the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan remains valid until any new neighbourhood plans are produced.
[2] Whilst the new designation replaces the previous Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area, the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan remains valid until any new neighbourhood plans are produced.
[3] Whilst the new designation replaces the previous Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area, the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan remains valid until any new neighbourhood plans are produced.
[4] *In December 2022 the Bassetlaw District Council approved the designation the previously mentioned three new neighbourhood areas to replace the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. They do not change the validity of the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan, but will allow it to be replaced by the three separate neighbourhood plans in due course, one for each new neighbourhood area.*

4.6 Other Legislation and Policy

4.6.1 In comparison to previous sections, this part of the Planning Statement sets out documents that have informed or built on the NPSs, provide clear support for the Proposed Development and emphasise the critical importance for renewable energy, providing further context to the legislative and policy background of the Proposed Development.

Legislation

Energy Act 2023

4.6.2 The Energy Act 2023 sets out laws to ensure energy is affordable for households and businesses as well as making the UK more energy independent in the long-term by establishing the need to accelerate growth of low carbon technologies.

Environment Act 2021

4.6.3 The Environment Act 2021 is a framework for environmental protection and introduced a legal requirement for developments to provide BNG, however these are not currently in force for NSIPs

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

4.6.4 The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 amended the Climate Change Act 2008 by setting a new target to cut Green House Gas emissions by 100% (against the 1990 baseline) and achieve net zero by 2050.

4.6.5 The Climate Change Act 2008 set up a framework for the UK to achieve long term objectives of reducing GHG emissions and ensures steps are taken to adapt to climate change. To drive progress and set the UK on a pathway towards this target, the Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a system of carbon budgets including a target that the annual equivalent of the carbon budget for the period including 2020 is at least 34% lower than 1990. The Five Point Plan set out this would be achieved

"*through investment in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies such as renewables, nuclear and carbon capture and storage*."

4.6.6 The Climate Change Act 2008 has underpinned subsequent legislation and policy measures, notably consolidated in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009) and UK Clean Growth Strategy (2017).

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: The Paris Agreement 2015

4.6.7 The Paris Agreement's central aim was to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change achieved by keeping global temperatures below 2 degrees, and to purse efforts to limit the temperature rise to a more restricted 1.5 degrees. Additionally, it aims to strengthen countries abilities to deal with the impacts of climate change.

Policy

Net Zero – The UK's Contribution to Stopping Global Warming (May 2019)

4.6.8 The Climate Change Committee ('CCC') established under the Climate Change Act 2008 is responsible for setting interim targets over five year periods.

4.6.9 Chapter 6 of the CCC's report "*Net Zero: The UK's Contribution to Stopping Global Warming*" (May 2019) sets out actions to deliver net zero including transition to a net zero economy and what is needed to underpin net zero delivery.

4.6.10 'Part B' sets out key actions for the UK with recommendations that more rapid electrification must be accompanied by greater build rates of low carbon generation capacity, along with measures to enhance flexibility of the electricity system.

4.6.11 A new emissions target for the UK was recommended by the CCC – a 100% reduction "*net zero*" of emissions by 2050. This change in legislation mandating a 100% reduction in CO^2 emissions is now the Government's statutory carbon reduction obligation as per the 2019 Order.

Energy White Paper: Powering Our Net Zero Future (2020)

4.6.12 The Energy White Paper was published in December 2020 and outlined the UK Government's plan to support the UK in becoming a net zero GHG emitting country by 2050. It addressed transformation of our energy system, promoted high-skilled jobs and clean, and resilient economic growth as we deliver net-zero emissions by 2050.

4.6.13 The paper recognised the overall demand for electricity would double by 2050 due to electrification of different sectors including transport and heating. To meet this demand and decarbonise the countries electrical generation the paper stated on page 42 that "*a fourfold increase in clean electrical generation*" would be required and page 43 stated "*low cost net zero consistent system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar*".

4.6.14 The UK Government's aim for a fully decarbonised, reliable, low-cost power system by 2050 was identified in the paper along with the recognition that "*market conditions*" will determine "*best solutions*" for a very low emission reliable supply at low cost to consumers.

4.6.15 Thus, a particular generation mix was not target by the UK Government that was instead committed to maintaining market conditions to stimulate cost reductions seen in the renewable energy market over the last five years. Key characteristics of the future generation mix include:

> "*nuclear, gas with carbon capture and storage and flexibility provided by* ***batteries****, demand side response, interconnectors and short-term dispatchable generation providing peaking capacity, which can be flexed as required*" (emphasis added).

4.6.16 In summary this Paper highlighted the UK Government's commitment and important role solar and battery storage will play in achieving net zero targets. Furthermore the need to provide this is urgent.

National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

4.6.17 The National Infrastructure Strategy ('NIS') sets out the UK Government's plans to deliver on its ambition and transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Infrastructure underpins the economy. Transport, digital, energy and utility networks are vital for jobs, business and economic growth.

4.6.18 Within the NIS the Government acknowledges that to achieve net zero, generation of power from renewables needs to dramatically increase through the provision of greater generation capacity from onshore wind and solar. Following recommendations by the National Infrastructure Commission ('NIC'), the NIS aims to provide investors with clarity over the Government's plan so they can look at the UK with confidence, help deliver upgrades and projects needed around the country.

4.6.19 In summary, the NIS demonstrates the commitment of the UK Government and NIC to support solar generation now, including through financial incentives and protection.

Net Zero: Opportunities for the Power Sector (2020)

4.6.20 Net Zero: Opportunities for the Power Sector was published by the NIC in 2020. It sets out infrastructure requirements to meet the 2050 net-zero target. NIC recommended the energy generation mix is up to 90% renewables to meet the 2050 target and 129-137 GW of renewable capacity is operation by 2050 (including 56-121GW of solar, 18-27GW of onshore wind and 54-86GW of offshore wind).

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)

4.6.21 The Net Zero Strategy was published in October 2021, building on the commitments made in the Energy White Paper (2020), setting out policies and proposals to accord with the upcoming carbon budgets and National Determined Contributions ('NDC'). NDCs are a mechanism for countries to voluntarily impose national emission limits

under the Paris Agreement. The Net Zero Strategy seeks to realise a decarbonised economy by 2050. Key policies in the Strategy related to renewable power generation include:

> "*By 2035 the UK will be powered entirely by clean electricity, subject to security of supply; …40GW of offshore wind by 2030, with more onshore, solar and other renewables – with a new approach to onshore and offshore electricity networks to incorporate new low carbon generation and demand in the most efficient manner that takes account of the needs of local communities…..*"

British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

4.6.22 The British Energy Security Strategy set out how the UK intends to secure clean and affordable energy for the 'long-term'. It focused on expanding domestic UK energy supply alongside commitments to completely remove Russian oil and coal imports by the end of 2022, and Russian gas "*as soon as possible thereafter*" with policies that plan to further utilise North Sea reserves after realising the strategy requires 70GW of solar generation capacity by 2035, a significant increase from 13.7GW of solar as of February 2022.

4.6.23 Over the last 5 year period the UK has increased its solar capacity by only an estimated 1.8GW, highlighting the extraordinary need for a significant increase in the deployment of decentralised solar energy schemes of the Proposed Development's scale if targets are to be met. The British Energy Security Strategy offers clear support for solar development that is co-located with other functions to maximise the efficiency of land use – this includes dual solar and agricultural land use.

Powering up Britain: Energy Security Plan (2023)

4.6.24 The '*British Energy Security Strategy*' set out key actions to accelerate deliver of key actions to accelerate delivery of clean energy, recognising importance in delivering

our climate goals whilst simultaneously providing energy security and securing greater energy independence.

4.6.25 The Energy Security Plan built on ambitions set out in the British Security Strategy and the Net Zero Strategy enabling transformation of the energy system so its secure, low-cost and low carbon. The aim of DESNZ is to double Britain's electricity generation capacity by the late 2030's, to full decarbonise the power sector by 2035, subject to security of supply.

Written Ministerial Statement (2024)

4.6.26 The SoS made a Written Ministerial Statement ('WMS') in May 2024 regarding solar energy, protection of Best and Most Versatile ('BMV') agricultural land and food security.

4.6.27 This WMS noted how solar plays a crucial role in achieving energy security, net zero emissions and clean growth with reference to NPS EN-3 that emphasises the importance of solar in delivering energy independence. The WMS also noted concerns about the use of BMV land by solar farms rather than food production, with the UK Government aiming to strike a balance between energy security and food production. The WMS also clarified that solar projects are to be considered carefully in light of both energy and food priorities.

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan

4.6.28 Following the issue of the revised NPPF in December 2024, the Government also released the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity.

4.6.29 Whilst it is not legislation or policy, the Action Plan highlights that achieving clean power is now a broader goal and key to growing the economy and improving national security and standards of living. The document identifies urgency of enacting policy by "*Sprinting to clean, homegrown energy*", delivering clean power

by 2030 at the heart of one of the Prime Minister's five missions and the Plan for Change (p. 6).

4.6.30 The Action Plan follows the UK Government's commissioning of expert advice from the National Energy System Operator ('NESO') and builds on that advice, setting out the need to "*move fast and build things to deliver the once in a generation upgrade of our energy infrastructure Britain needs*" (p. 7).

4.6.31 The UK Government's summary identifies a requirement for rapid deployment of new clean energy, setting a high ambition for "*43-50 GW of offshore wind, 27-29 GW of onshore wind, and 45-47 GW of solar power, significantly reducing our fossil-fuel dependency. These will be complemented by flexible capacity, including 23-27 GW of battery capacity*" (p. 10).

4.6.32 The Action Plan outlines three major challenges are "*the need for a secure and affordable energy supply, the creation of essential new energy industries, supported by skilled workers in their thousands, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit our contribution to the damaging effects of climate change*." There is a clear link made between the steps to address energy security and climate change and the potential economic benefits from employment and investment in the energy industry, assisting the national plan for growth. The document (p. 20) refers to the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan as "*playing a key part in supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, as part of the wider transition to net zero*".

4.6.33 The UK Government has indicated that a programme of investment worth around £40 billion per year for the next 6 years is on the horizon, and battery storage plays a crucial role in meeting the growth of electricity demand and maintaining a secure energy supply.

4.6.34 The UK Government has specifically stated their ambitious target of 23-27 GW of battery capacity before 2030 within the Action Plan. It is clear from this document that the UK Government acknowledges the importance of BESS such as the

Proposed Development, and that they are going to be increasingly crucial for meeting national and international targets to reach net-zero.

4.6.35 The Action Plan also outlines the role of a clean power system in meeting net zero by 2050. In this it is noted that "*by 2050, annual electricity demand is likely to at least double as a result of electrification*".

4.6.36 In terms of the need to act immediately and take the opportunity for renewable energy where grid capacity is present, the Action Plan states:

> "*There is particular urgency to accelerate the planning process across Great Britain for energy infrastructure since we do not have long for many clean power projects to begin construction if they are to be operational for 2030*" (p. 50).

4.6.37 The Action Plan identifies that the strategy will also represent a significant area for economic growth through expanding employment opportunity in addition to ensuring energy security, affordability and price stability. The Action Plan states that "*another of the key benefits of Clean Power 2030 and the scale up of clean energy sectors is the creation of new job opportunities*". It is the UK Government's intention that the new industrial Strategy will include Clean Energy industries as a priority growth sector (pp. 43-44).

4.6.38 The Government's Action Plan looks to the planning sector to be one of the key aspects of supporting progress stating that "*Accelerating clean infrastructure projects through the planning system is critical to achieving our goal and unleashing investment to support the Prime Minister's Growth Mission. Our capacity range will ensure that planners and statutory consultees at the national and local level have a clear sense of which projects to prioritise for consideration and, where appropriate, fast-track through the process to enable decisions on consent to be taken sooner*" (p. 36).

4.6.39 The Action Plan includes addressing planning and consenting as a measure for removing roadblocks to enable consenting regimes to bring new projects through the system at pace. It is stated that "*our planning system needs to quickly change to enable government's missions to grow the economy and deliver clean power*". The Action Plan states that "*there is particular urgency to accelerate the planning process across Great Britain for energy infrastructure since we do not have long for many clean power projects to begin construction if they are to be operational for 2030, especially networks and offshore wind developments*" (pp. 49-50).

4.6.40 In relation to the electricity networks and connections, the Action Plan acknowledges that grid infrastructure requires strengthening, with a requirement for "*unprecedented expansion*." (p. 62). Whilst the process of network improvement is needed to reduce network constraints, the Action Plan confirms that "*Whenever renewables can connect to the distribution network, this should be encouraged for reasons of speed and efficiency*" (p. 63).

4.6.41 The Action Plan gives specific regard to battery storage as a key component of delivering renewable energy and short-duration flexibility in energy provision. It is confirmed that "*a significant increase in short-duration flexibility of 29-35 GW across battery storage, consumer-led flexibility and interconnection capacity from 2023 levels is possible and can play a role in achieving clean power in 2030. The opportunity is huge, as battery storage and consumer-led flexibility are scalable and could be relatively quick to deploy. Their deployment could not only cut bills for consumers but minimise the amount of more costly generation and associated network infrastructure that needs to be built, whilst maintaining security of supply*"(p. 93).

4.6.42 Further advice is provided on the role of battery storage at pp. 95-96 of the Action Plan which states:

> "*Batteries can be used to store electricity when it is plentiful and low cost, such as during low demand periods when wind and solar output is high, for use when electricity generation is less plentiful or during times of peak electricity*

demand. Batteries can reduce the amount of generation and associated network that needs to be built to meet peak demand, helping Britain reach clean power in a cost-effective way and reducing delivery risk associated with other types of energy infrastructure.

Currently, there is 4.5 GW of battery storage capacity in Great Britain, the majority of which is grid-scale. Based on NESO and DESNZ battery storage growth scenario for 2030, we expect 23-27 GW of battery storage to be needed by 2030 to support clean power, a very significant level of increase. The government expects the majority of this increase to come from grid-scale batteries, with small-scale batteries also making a contribution…. Among the specific actions required for batteries, improving the time it takes for mature grid-scale batteries to obtain grid connections and planning decisions are the most significant actions in order to deliver the huge increase in grid-scale battery capacity".

10 year Infrastructure Strategy Working Paper – Jan 2025

4.6.43 This working paper sets out the UK Government's plan for its 10 year Infrastructure Strategy for the UK's social, economic and housing strategy to support a flourishing modern economy, drive growth, deliver net zero and improved public services.

4.6.44 Recent years has seen uncertainty regarding infrastructure plans and policy, inhibited investment in programmes and supply chasing, pushing up end costs for consumers. Infrastructure investment is essential to deliver the UK Government's mission – growth, housing, clean energy and net zero as well as improved public services. The Strategy aims to reduce uncertainty by bring long-term plans for the country's social, economic and housing infrastructure; sets out an institutional framework to support implementation (setting out the role of public financial institutions such as the National Wealth Fund) and how the Strategy will support other strategies (i.e. the industrial strategy). The Strategy is at the heart of the

Governments growth mission and seeks to drive growth, productivity through providing stability and certainty to the market on long-term plan for infrastructure.

4.6.45 The overarching objective of the Strategy is to set out what the public can expect from infrastructure services and provide certainty to industry on the Governments priorities for infrastructure. Enabling resilient growth through boosting growth, removing barriers to growth, ensuring growth is resilient to future threats.

4.6.46 Delivering the UK Government's "Clean Energy Superpower" mission is also a key objective delivered via:

- *1) Clean Power by 2030 with renewable and low carbon infrastructure, battery storage, long duration storage and supporting investments in energy transmission and distribution networks that can deliver clean power by 2030 and support achieving net zero by 2050. Upgrading the grid, and ensuring projects can connect when ready is vital to delivering clean power. Growth benefits through providing green jobs and skills, supply chain opportunities in areas that need investment and reducing reliance on fossil fuels with volatile prices and providing stability for critical sectors such as advanced manufacturing.*

- 2) Accelerating to Net Zero by 2050 including supporting decarbonisation of industry by delivering grid upgrades support electrification, building additional enabling infrastructure such as EV charging points, decarbonising buildings and improving energy efficiency through use of clean heat.

4.6.47 The Strategy will be developed in parallel to Spending Review and published together in June 2025. This will ensure alignment between long-term spending and non-spending policy decisions.

Guidance

Climate Change Committee: The Sixth Budget: The UK's Path to Net Zero 2020

4.6.48 The CCC advised that the UK set its Sixth Carbon Budget (i.e. the legal limit for UK net emissions of greenhouse gasses over the years 2033-2037) to require a reduction in UK emissions of 78% by 2035 relative to 1990, a 63% reduction from 2019.

4.6.49 On announcing the adoption of the CCC's recommendations for the Sixth Budget in April 2021, the UK set the world's most ambitious national climate change target into law.

4.6.50 The UK is currently in the Fourth Carbon Budget period (2023-2027) and progress reports indicate, to date, the UK is on track to meet this carbon budget.

4.6.51 Final commissions data confirm that the UK has achieved its Third Carbon Budget, covering the period 2018 to 2020, by 15%. The UK has now achieved all three of its carbon budgets to date (first 2008-2012, second 2013-2017 and third 2018-2022), demonstrating strength in the UK's legal framework.

Climate Change Committee: The Seventh Carbon Budget (February 2025)

4.6.52 The CCC's advice on the UK's Seventh Carbon budget was published in February 2025. It is currently a recommendation intended to be translated into legislation informed by the latest science, technological developments and the UK's national circumstances. It is set for the period 2038 to 2042 and is a cap on UK GHG emissions advice by the CCC. The CCC recommends the budget be set at 535 MtCO2e, including emissions from aviation and shipping. This budget, part of the UK's commitment to reach net zero by 2050, will need to be delivered through a combination of strategies.

5 Need and Benefits

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section sets out evidence of need for the Proposed Development in designated NSPs and how the Proposed Development meets this need.

5.1.2 NPS EN-1 sets out the overarching national policy for energy infrastructure, NPS EN-3 sets out the overarching national policy for renewable energy infrastructure (and the importance of solar development in meeting UK's targets) and NPS EN-5 electrical networks.

5.1.3 The principal need for the Proposed Development is centred on the significant contribution it will make to the three important national energy policy aims of:

- *Decarbonisation* – achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050, requiring deployment of zero-carbon electricity generation at scale. The Proposed Development will generate 600MW of low carbon electricity equating to the annual energy consumption of approximately 180,000 households (roughly half of the homes in Nottinghamshire) and is anticipated to be operational by October 2029.

- *Security of supply* – The Proposed Development will contribute to security of supply due to its large scale, predictable output, ability to complement other renewables, and the efficient opportunity to integrate a BESS. Capacity of 600MW and incorporation of BESS will ensure a reliable energy output for the Proposed Development.

- *Affordability* – The Proposed Development will provide large-scale generation at low cost and relative quick timescales which will provide value for money for end-use consumers.

5.1.4 This need is also in the context that the above objectives will need to be delivered during a period where there will be an increasing level of demand for electricity.

5.1.5 Relevant sections of EN-1 and EN-3 pertaining to the need of the Proposed Development will be considered in the rest of Section 5 with full accordance table for relevant NPS sections provided in Appendix C of this Planning Statement.

Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

5.1.6 *Net Zero* – Section 2.2 of NPS EN-1 outlines the UK's net zero targets and legislative context. In the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment Order 2019), the UK legislated for a 2050 net zero Greenhouse Gases ('GHG') emission target. The Sixth carbon budget, legislated in April 2021, requires the UK to reduce to GHG emissions by 78% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

5.1.7 Paragraph 2.3.6 of NPS EN-1 sets out the need for renewables to meet the net zero target:

> "*We need to transform the energy system, tackling emissions while continuing to ensure secure and reliable supply, and affordable bills for households and businesses. This includes increasing our supply of clean energy from renewables, nuclear and hydrogen manufactured using low carbon processes (low carbon hydrogen), and, where we still emit carbon, developing the industry and infrastructure to capture, transport and store it*".

5.1.8 The Proposed Development will support the UK's net zero target by generating large-scale (450MW) of low carbon electricity and (150MW) BESS. It is anticipated to be operational by 2029.

5.1.9 *Security of Energy Supplies* – Section 2.5 of NPS EN-1 sets out the importance of domestic energy production in the context of rising energy costs, to ensure a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply.

5.1.10 Paragraph 2.5.6 of NPS EN-1 outlines the accelerated deployment of renewables as key strategy for energy security:

"*The British Energy Security Strategy emphasises the importance of addressing our underlying vulnerability to international energy prices by reducing our dependence on imported oil and gas, improving energy efficiency, remaining open minded about our onshore reserves including shale gas, and accelerating deployment of renewables, nuclear, hydrogen, CCUS, and related network infrastructure, so as to ensure a domestic supply of clean, affordable, and secure power as we transition to net zero".*

5.1.11 The Proposed Development will contribute to providing a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for the UK.

5.1.12 *Sustainable Development* – Section 2.6 of NPS EN-1 outlines how energy infrastructure contributes to sustainable development goals. The deployment of energy infrastructure can contribute to well-being of the environment, society and the economy for current and future generations, as well as addressing climate change.

5.1.13 The Proposed Development will contribute to sustainable development. The nature of the Proposed Development as renewable energy infrastructure will contribute to addressing climate change and it will be sensitively deployed to ensure sustainability in terms of wider environment, society and the economy.

Secretary of State Decision Making

5.1.14 Section 3.2 of NPS EN-1 outlines the need for a range of different types of energy infrastructure to meet the governments objectives of a secure, reliable, affordable energy supply which is consistent with net zero emissions in 2050.

5.1.15 Paragraphs 3.2.6-3.2.8 of NPS EN-1 state:

"*The Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of*

infrastructure which is urgent, as described for each of them in this Part. In addition, the Secretary of State has determined that substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Secretary of State is not required to consider separately the specific contribution of any individual project to satisfying the need established in this NPS".

5.1.16 The Proposed Development will help deliver the UK Government's objectives of secure, reliable, affordable, net zero energy supply. Furthermore the Proposed Development is a type of infrastructure covered by an NPS, which should be given substantial weight.

The Need for New Nationally Significant Electricity Infrastructure

5.1.17 *The Need for Different Types of Electricity Infrastructure* – Paragraphs 3.3.4 to 3.3.12 of NPS EN-1 set out the need for different types of electricity infrastructure (additional generating plants, electricity storage, interconnectors and electricity networks) to deliver our energy objectives, highlighting that each type has a role and cannot meet objectives in isolation

5.1.18 Paragraph 3.3.5 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*New generating plants can deliver low carbon and reliable system*".

5.1.19 Paragraph 3.3.6 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*Storage and interconnection can provide flexibility*".

5.1.20 The Proposed Development would provide new generating low carbon electricity infrastructure as well as new storage infrastructure to provide flexibility to the National Electrical Grid.

5.1.21 *Delivering Affordable Decarbonisation* – Paragraphs 3.3.13 to 3.3.19 of NPS EN-1 outline the need for a diverse mix of electricity infrastructure required to deliver the

objectives for the energy system for a wide range of demand, decarbonised and technology scenarios which would impact the needs of the electricity system during transition to net zero in 2050. The cost of transition, as set out on the Net Zero Strategy, should be fair and affordable.

5.1.22 The Proposed Development will contribute to the diverse mix of electricity infrastructure required to meet net zero by 2050 and solar is low-cost type of energy generation that contributes to the provision of affordable energy.

5.1.23 *Role of Wind and Solar* – Paragraphs 3.3.20 to 3.3.24 of NPS EN-1 outline the need for wind and solar. The Energy White Paper highlights the requirement for sustainable growth in the capacity of onshore wind and solar in the next decade.

5.1.24 Paragraph 3.3.20 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*Wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity supply (as they are not reliant on fuel for generation). Our analysis shows that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar*".

5.1.25 The Proposed Development is for large scale solar with associated BESS. This aligns with the objective of reducing carbon emissions whilst delivering secure affordable energy for consumers. Due to its size and capacity, the Proposed Development has significant potential to diversify the UK's energy generation and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This is consistent with the UK Government's strategy and recommendations from National Grid.

5.1.26 *The Role of Electrical Storage* – Paragraph 3.3.25 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*Storage has a key role to play in achieving net zero and providing flexibility to the energy system, so that high volumes of low carbon power, heat and transport can be integrated*".

5.1.27 Paragraphs 3.3.26 to 3.3.31 of NPS EN-1 further outline the critical importance of storage facilities for reducing cost, increasing reliability and producing balanced services.

5.1.28 The Proposed Development will contribute to the UK's energy objective by producing flexible, resilient and high-efficiency renewable energy. BESS will help balance electricity supply and demand, therefore increasing the security of power.

Assessment Principles

5.1.29 *General Policies* – Section 4.1 of NPS EN-1 highlights urgency of need for infrastructure.

5.1.30 Paragraph 4.1.2 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*The Energy White Paper and British Energy Security Strategy emphasises the importance of the government's net zero commitment and efforts to fight climate change, as well as the need to maintain a secure and reliable energy system. The Levelling Up White Paper calls on the Government to ensure investment in the transition to Net Zero benefits less well-performing parts of the UK, reducing emissions, facilitating economic development and the creation of jobs*".

5.1.31 Paragraph 4.1.3 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*Given the level and urgency of need for infrastructure of the types covered by the energy NPSs set out in Part 3 of this NPS, the Secretary of State will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. That presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused*" (emphasis added).

5.1.32 *Critical National Priority for Low Carbon Infrastructure* – Section 4.2 of NPS EN-1 states:

"Government has therefore concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure".

5.1.33 The need for critical national priority infrastructure, such as the Proposed Development, is of a level and urgency that the SoS will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent.

Solar Photovoltaic Generation

5.1.34 Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 outlines the need for solar photovoltaic generation.

5.1.35 Paragraph 2.10.9 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions by 2050. As such, solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector*".

5.1.36 Paragraph 2.10.13 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation*".

5.1.37 Paragraph 2.10.14 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Solar farms can be built quickly and, coupled with consistent reductions in the cost of materials and improvements in the efficiency of panels, large-scale solar is now viable in some cases to deploy subsidy-free*".

5.1.38 The Proposed Development is for a renewable low energy generation development that will contribute to the Governments carbon emissions and climate change targets. The Proposed Development will also increase the country's energy security by diversifying the grid and improving energy affordability due to being the cheapest form of electricity generation.

6 Planning Appraisal

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 In this section of the Planning Statement an appraisal of the Proposed Development will be provided demonstrating compliance with relevant policy requirements of NPS EN-1,NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5 that, as set out in Section 4 and Section 5, establishing the need for solar energy generation.

6.1.2 The Applicant considers that significant weight should be given to the Proposed Development's compliance with the Energy NPSs, due to their status in the S104 decision making framework.

6.1.3 An assessment of the Proposed Development against the provisions of the NPSs is provided at Appendix C and accordance with the relevant Local Plan set out at Appendix D to this Planning Statement.

6.1.4 This section is structured as follows:

- General Principles of Assessment (Section 6.2);
- Landscape and Visual Impact (Section 6.3);
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Section 6.4);
- Biodiversity (Section 6.5);
- Water (Section 6.6);
- Noise (Section 6.7);
- Transport, Access and Highway Safety (Section 6.8);
- Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation (Section 6.9);
- Soil and Agricultural Land (Section 6.10); and

- Mineral Safeguarding (Section 6.11).

6.1.5 Sections 6.2-6.11 take account of potential effects from construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, along with the fact that it is a temporary development that is reversible and will be removed from the site at the end of its operational life.

6.1.6 This section should be read alongside **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**.

6.2 General Principles of Assessment

6.2.1 There is a Critical National Priority ('CNP') for the provisions of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure as set out at Paragraph 3.3.62 of NPS EN-1. Underpinning this urgency is paragraph 3.3.63 of NPS EN-1 that states:

> "*Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible*".

6.2.2 As an onshore electricity generation station that does not involve fossil fuel combustion, solar projects are included under the definition of CNP at paragraph 4.2.5 of NPS EN-1.

6.2.3 Paragraph 4.2.7 of NPS EN-1 states CNP policy:

> "*….. applies following the normal consideration of the need case, the impacts of the project, and the application of the mitigation hierarchy. As such, it is relevant during Secretary of State decision making and specifically in reference to any residual impacts that have been identified. It should therefore also be*

given consideration by the Examining Authority when it is making its recommendation to the Secretary of State".

6.2.4 This confirms the Proposed Development should be considered on the basis that its need is established as CNP and the urgent need for this infrastructure should be given substantial weight in the decision making process. In order to bring forward CNP infrastructure as quickly as possible, the evidence points to the development of proven technologies such as large scale solar. It also states that such developments should be brought forwards with urgency to make tangible and essential advances in decarbonisation in the near term.

6.2.5 Paragraph 4.1.3 of NPS EN-1 states:

"*Given the level and urgency of need for infrastructure of the types covered by the energy NPSs set out in Part 3 of this NPS, the Secretary of State will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. That presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused*".

6.2.6 The need for energy infrastructure projects is such that the Proposed Development is of a level and urgency that the SoS will starts with a presumption in favour of granting consent. The Proposed Development will contribute to delivering the governments net zero commitment and need for a secure reliable energy system.

6.2.7 Paragraph 4.1.5 of NPS EN-1 confirms SoS should take into account potential benefits, including contribution to meeting the need for renewable energy, as well as adverse impacts. Measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate any adverse impacts should also be considered by SoS.

6.2.8 Benefits of the proposed development include:

- Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050;

- Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by diversifying energy production and stored energy;

- Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity;

- The Proposed Development is sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes;

- Proposed Development is sensitive to heritage assets and settings;

- Safeguards surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change;

- Proposed Development is sensitive to existing land quality; and

- Provides safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use.

6.2.9 In addition to this, paragraph 4.1.6 of NPS EN-1 directs the SoS to take account of environment, social and economic benefits as well as adverse impacts nationally, regionally and locally. More localised benefits to be delivered by the Proposed Development include economic (including through the creation of jobs and use of accommodation stock), social (including creation of two permissive paths for the operational life of the Proposed Development and creation of two surface water detention basins reducing flood risk to the village of Sturton-le-Steeple by intercepting and storing overland flow) and environmental (including in surface

water drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, 10 % biodiversity net gain and water quality management).

6.2.10 Paragraphs 4.1.12 to 4.1.14 of NPS EN-1 set out that the SoS may consider documents in the Local Development Framework that includes development plan documents considered important and relevant to their decision making. This is addressed in Appendix D to this PS.

6.2.11 However, paragraph 4.1.15 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*In the event of a conflict between these documents and an NPS, the NPS prevails for the purpose of Secretary of State decision making given the national significance of the infrastructure*".

6.2.12 Taking into account the overview of the assessment above, the Applicant is of the opinion that the Proposed Development complies with the general principles of assessment set out in NPS EN-1.

6.3 Landscape and Visual Assessment

6.3.1 Section 5.10 of NPS EN-1 discusses landscape and visual impacts. Paragraph 5.10.5 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*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*".

6.3.2 Paragraph 5.10.13 of NPS EN-1 acknowledges all proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have a visual impact on receptors around proposed sites and for these reasons, as outlined in paragraph 5.10.16 of NPS EN-1, a landscape and visual impact assessment should be undertaken.

6.3.3 NPS EN-3 provides guidance on a number of landscape factors. Paragraph 2.10.43 and 2.10.44 of NPS EN-3 concern Public Rights of Way in terms of minimising views

of development, enhancing existing and creating new public rights of way. Other landscape factors are discussed at Paragraph 2.10.89 of NPS EN-3 including how solar PV developments have the potential to increase site biodiversity.

6.3.4 Paragraph 2.10.95 of NPS EN-3 notes that despite the vast size of some ground-mounted solar PV developments the area of a zone of visual influence could be minimised with effective screening and appropriate land topography. Paragraph 2.10.131 of NPS EN-3 echoes this approach explaining how impacts should be mitigated through screening with native hedges, trees and woodland.

6.3.5 **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** considers the landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development with reference to relevant landscape character assessments and significant effects. A range of factors have been considered including visibility, views, visual amenity, light pollution, local amenity, tranquillity and nature conservation.

6.3.6 The landscape and visual assessment that has been undertaken is in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3). Landscape and visual effects are addressed separately in the assessment in accordance with GLVIA3. Landscape effects relate to both the effect on physical features of the Site and landscape character of the Site and surrounding area. Visual effects relate to the experience of views of the Proposed Development by visual receptors from publicly accessible vantage points in the study area. Residential receptors, where appropriate, have also been assessed.

6.3.7 There are no National Parks, the Broads or National Landscapes within the Order limits or wider study area to assess landscape and visual effects. The Proposed Development, therefore, is policy compliant in terms of avoiding impacts on National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes.

6.3.8 There are also no areas of local landscape value within the Order limits.

6.3.9 With regard to effects on landscape features, the construction of the Proposed Development would result in notable short-term impacts from the construction activity, including the movement of vehicles and plant, construction of temporary compounds and the construction of the Proposed Development. However, with regard to the trees, woodland and hedgerows with the Site, all vegetation would be retained except very minor removals of hedgerows to facilitate fencing, cables, access tracks or improved visibility splays of existing vehicular access points, with existing gaps utilised where possible. This therefore would not result in any significant adverse effects on the most sensitive landscape features at the Site.

6.3.10 Once construction is completed there would be no further adverse effects on the landscape features of the Site. The Proposed Development includes notable planting of new trees, woodland and hedgerows, as well as species rich planting across the majority of the Site.

6.3.11 With regard to effects on landscape character, the construction phase would cause notable, but temporary effects upon the Landscape Character of the Site, due to the extent and size of the Proposed Development. Such effects would be significant given the duration and nature of the construction work.

6.3.12 The operational phase would also cause notable effects upon the Landscape Character of the Site, due to the extent and size of the Proposed Development, along with highly localised effects upon the 'Mid Notts Farmlands' and 'Trent Washlands' Character Areas. Such effects would be significant although temporary.

6.3.13 In terms of visual receptors, there would be significant visual effects on a small number of the properties in the village of Sturton-le-Steeple, the small cluster of properties at Fenton and a small number of other individual properties which lie outside of the closest settlements. This applies to those properties which have clear, open views across part of the Site, which are not blocked by other properties or vegetation. For the majority of residential properties however the magnitude of

impact would be no greater than low, resulting in moderate to minor (not significant) effects.

6.3.14 At the outset of the Proposed Development, it was determined that an appropriate offset would be required from the Trent Valley Way which passes through the Site, and this has been included as part of the final layout proposals. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that there would be significant visual effects on users of small sections of the route, plus several other Public Rights of Way which pass through or close to the Site. This would apply to those sections which have clear, open views across part of the Site, which are not blocked by existing hedgerows or other vegetation. For the majority of the routes, however the magnitude of impact would be no greater than low, resulting in moderate to minor effects.

6.3.15 Regarding road users, there would be no significant effects on users of any of the A or B Roads within the study area, however for a number of minor roads which pass within close proximity of the Site, there would be significant visual effects on users of some sections. This would apply to those sections which have clear, open views across part of the Site, which are not blocked by existing hedgerows or other vegetation. Mitigation has been included as part of the final layout proposals, which includes further offsetting of the Proposed Development from these roads and new vegetation planting to help minimise impacts.

6.3.16 The primary mitigation adopted in relation to landscape and visual matters is embedded within the design of the Proposed Development and comprises the consideration given to avoiding and minimising landscape and visual effects during the evolution of the Proposed Development layout. This is sometimes referred to as ‘mitigation by design’. In addition, a series of landscape mitigation and enhancement measures are proposed to be included as part of the Proposed Development, include planting of new hedgerows, trees, woodland and species rich grassland.

6.3.17 An assessment of potential cumulative effects has been undertaken. No significant cumulative effects would arise.

6.3.18 Despite the fact introduction of new energy generation infrastructure into the landscape will inevitably result in some visual effects, the Proposed Development has been designed to minimise visual effects as far as possible.

6.3.19 Following the application of embedded mitigation measures and the implementation of best practice measures in accordance with **ES Appendix 4.1 outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.2 outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and planting proposals in accordance with **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are not anticipated to result in any significant adverse effects on landscape and visual receptors. Benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh less than significant impacts that have been minimised and mitigated.

6.3.20 **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** contains full details regarding landscape and visual impact and how the development is consistent with relevant policy.

6.4 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

6.4.1 Section 5.9 of NPS EN-1 discusses cultural heritage and archaeology. It acknowledges the potential for construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning activities to result in adverse impacts to the historic environment. Where a development site includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets, or where development has the potential to affect the setting of a heritage asset, appropriate assessments should be carried out to demonstrate the significance of impacts on those assets.

6.4.2 Paragraphs 2.10.107 to 2.10.119 of NPS EN-3 contain specific considerations for solar projects, their lifespan and potential impact on heritage assets and setting. Paragraph 2.10.160 of NPS EN-3 discusses the importance of the time limited nature of proposed schemes, such as the Proposed Development, when considering impacts of any indirect effect of solar schemes on the historic environment.

6.4.3 Details of designated and non-designated heritage assets are contained within **Section 9.6 of ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.1 – Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**.

6.4.4 There are no designated heritage assets within the Order Limits. The 3km study area surrounding the site contains No.6 Scheduled Monuments; No.9 Grade I Listed Buildings; No.8 Grade II* Listed Building; No.123 three Grade II Listed Buildings; and No.2 Conservation Areas. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or World Heritage Sites located within the 3km study area. However, only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development:

- Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse);
- Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse);
- Grade I Listed Church of St Martin (minor adverse);
- Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse);
- Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and,
- Grade II Listed Manor Farmhouse (minor adverse).

6.4.5 The construction phase would not result in any direct, physical impacts to any designated assets. There is potential for below ground impacts associated with development, such as piling ground works for infrastructure, cable trenching, plant

movement, environmental works etc. to impact upon buried archaeological remains. This includes identified remains in the east of the Site, adjacent the Segelocum Scheduled Monument, and also discrete areas of archaeology across the wider Site. With mitigation, although the magnitude of impact may be medium to assets of low value, implementation of mitigation measures would reduce the significance of effect to minor adverse (not significant).

6.4.6 Construction effects could arise from a short-term, temporary increase in vehicle movements, construction noise and activity. The offset of development from the Scheduled Monument Segelocum, and the Grade II Listed Littleborough Cottage has ensured that this increase would result in a significant level of impact to the heritage significance or value of any of these or any other heritage assets, resulting in a neutral effect (not significant).

6.4.7 During operation, only indirect effects would result from the operational phase of the Proposed Development as there would be no below-ground activity within the Site. During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, infrastructure has been assessed as causing minor and/or moderate adverse (not significant) effects during its operational lifetime.

6.4.8 During decommissioning the Proposed Development would not result in any physical effects to heritage assets. Following appropriate mitigation, based on the results of the trial trench evaluation, it is anticipated that areas of significant archaeological potential will not require any intrusive works to remove the infrastructure of the Proposed Development, given the above-ground nature of all of the elements within, or the potential avoidance of areas of significance. Therefore, no impacts either direct or indirect are anticipated during this phase.

6.4.9 Should the below-ground cabling within the Site be removed as part of decommissioning, this would also not result in any physical impacts to below-ground archaeology given the archaeological deposits disturbed by the insertion of

the cable would have been removed and recorded via an Archaeological Watching Brief, if appropriate, during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

6.4.10 There is likely to be a beneficial effect upon the significance of the heritage assets during decommissioning due to the removal of the Proposed Development infrastructure which has been assessed as causing minor and/or moderate adverse effects during its operational lifetime. These beneficial effects will arise from the removal of the Proposed Development and the restoration of the Site for agricultural use. The level of impact will correspond to level of impacts resulting from the operational phase and the levels of effect will be minor and/or moderate beneficial (not significant).

6.4.11 Assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on non-designated heritage assets are stated in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** summarised as archaeology records, extant buildings focussed within the nearby settlements and/or associated with farmsteads. Exceptions comprise the site of a former ferry crossing at Littleborough, east of the Site and the remains of a floor and wall recorded during drainage works at South Wheatley to the north-west. Only a single element of modern heritage is recorded within the Site, comprising the site of a Second World War bomb crater located adjacent to an anomaly recorded as an agricultural spread/drain by the geophysical survey. Modern heritage in the wider study area is almost entirely represented by built form within the nearby settlements, and/or associated with surrounding farms. However also included is a 20th century power station north of the Site, along with other isolated features in the wider vicinity including a wharf, windmills and another possible bomb crater.

6.4.12 The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet.

6.4.13 An assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Heritage Assets, including a description of the heritage assets significance, is included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** in accordance with NPS EN-1 paragraphs 5.9.9 to 5.9.12 and NPS EN-3 paragraphs 2.10.107 to 2.10.119.

6.4.14 Residual impacts upon the setting of designated assets are limited to 6 designated heritage assets and are less than substantial see **ES Chapter 9 : Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** . In the case of the Proposed Development, which is time limited (NPS EN-3 2.10.160), the significant public benefits of the Proposed Development in terms of renewable energy generation and climate change benefits clearly outweigh the reversible less than substantial harm to the No.6 identified designated heritage assets and low level less than substantial residual harm to non-designated heritage assets.

6.5 Ecology and Biodiversity

6.5.1 Paragraph 5.4.17 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*Where the development is subject to EIA, the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance (including those outside England), on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats*."

6.5.2 Paragraph 5.4.18 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*The applicant should provide environmental information proportionate to the infrastructure where EIA is not required to help the Secretary of State consider thoroughly the potential effects of a proposed project*."

6.5.3 Both paragraphs 5.4.17 and 5.4.18 of NPS EN-1 set out that the effects on internal, national and local designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, protected species, habitat and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity should be clearly set out in the ES.

6.5.4 Furthermore, paragraphs 5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.4.12, 5.4.13 and 5.4.48 of NPS EN-1 expect the SoS to attach appropriate weight to ecological receptors. The most important are identified through international conventions or European legislation. Those proposed for designation should also be considered.

6.5.5 Section 4 of NPS EN-1 requires developments to avoid these ecological interests through mitigation and consideration of alternatives. Where this cannot be avoided, applicants should seek to provide appropriate compensation measures.

6.5.6 In addition to biodiversity requirements set out in NPS EN-1, paragraphs 2.10.128 to 2.10.130 of NPS EN-3 state:

> "*In England, proposed enhancements should take account of the above factors and as set out in Sections 4.6 and 5.4 of EN-1 aim to achieve environmental and biodiversity net gain in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.*
>
> *This might include maintaining or extending existing habitats and potentially creating new important habitats, for example by installing cultivated strips/plots for rare arable plants, rough grassland margins, bumble bee plant mixes, and wild bird seed mixes.*
>
> *Applicants are advised to develop an ecological monitoring programme to monitor impacts upon the flora of the site and upon any particular ecological receptors (such as bats and wintering birds). Results of the monitoring will then*

inform any changes needed to the land management of the site, including, if appropriate, any livestock grazing regime."

6.5.7 Paragraphs 2.10.128 to 2.10.130 of NPS EN-3 and paragraph 5.4.39 of NPS EN-1 are clear that proposed biodiversity enhancements incorporated within a solar farm development should achieve a BNG. The SoS should also have regard to the aims and goals of the Governments 25 Year Environment Plan when making their decision and acknowledge that the benefits of significant low carbon infrastructure may include biodiversity improvements and enhancements. These benefits may outweigh other harm to biodiversity interests.

6.5.8 **ES Chapter 7: Ecology & Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** includes an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on ecological receptors supported by extensive survey work to confirm the ecological habitats and species that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The **Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Plans [EN010163/APP/2.29]** identify their location and confirm sites of ecological and geological conservation importance are not located within the Order Limits. Consequently they have not been identified as receptors requiring assessment.

6.5.9 The nearest internationally designated site within the 30km search area is Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC which is 17 km southwest from the Site. Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is 19.5 km northwest from Site. Hatfield Moor SAC is also 19.5 km northwest at its closest point. The Humber Estuary Ramsar and Humber Estuary SAC are both 25.5 km north from the Site. Thorne Moor SAC is more than 28 km north from the Site.

6.5.10 Due to the nature of the Proposed Development and its separation from internationally designated sites, direct impacts for example as a result of land-take will not arise. Indirect impacts from lighting or from pollution, are also unlikely to arise.

6.5.11 The breeding and wintering bird surveys undertaken in 2023 / 24 have not identified any significant activity at the Site from qualifying bird species of SPA and Ramsar sites. Given the separation distance from these sites, the Site is not functionally linked, i.e. it is not likely to provide an important role in maintaining or restoring the population of qualifying species at favourable conservation status. It is therefore not likely that significant adverse impacts on the bird interest of internationally designated sites arising from habitat modification or loss, or the introduction of a solar development will result from the Proposed Development.

6.5.12 In addition to bird interests, no likely significant effects on other qualifying species of Ramsar or SAC sites have been identified, primarily due to the separation distance between the designated sites and the Site.

6.5.13 There are no cumulative effects in relation to internationally designated sites.

6.5.14 The closest nationally designated site is the Clarborough Tunnel SSSI, which is 40 m west of the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area of the Proposed Development. This means that a small area of the Proposed Development (0.01 ha) falls within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of the SSSI.

6.5.15 Clarborough Tunnel SSSI is adjacent to the Site's southern boundary and the part of the Site adjoining the SSSI has been identified for enhancement to species-rich grassland as part of the designed-in measures. The nearest area of development is over 750 m from the SSSI. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development and the separating distance from any areas of development within the Site, no direct or indirect impacts on the interest of Clarborough Tunnel SSSI are anticipated. **ES Chapter 14: Air Quality [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** provides additional information on potential impact pathways regarding construction dust and traffic to Clarborough Tunnel SSSI and also concludes that there will be no likely direct or indirect impacts.

6.5.16 All other nationally designated sites are over 1.6 km from the Site, and there would be no direct or indirect impacts upon them.

6.5.17 There are No.30 non-statutory designated sites, No.1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland ('ASNW'), and No.1 Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) within the 2 km search area.

6.5.18 Of the No.30 identified, No.5 non-statutory designated LWS are either wholly or partially within the Site, and No.2 within 100 m. These include terrestrial and wetland habitats. No direct impacts in terms of habitat loss are anticipated as these will be retained and buffered by an appropriate stand-off where they are within or adjacent to development areas, as part of the designed in measures of the Proposed Development.

6.5.19 With regard to protected species skylark territories were recorded across the Site at a relatively consistent density, primarily within arable fields and occasionally in grassland fields. This comprised peak counts of 105 territories within the Proposed Solar Areas in 2023 (90 in 2024), 17 in the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area (in both 2023 and 2024) and 13 in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area in 2024 (11 in 2023 but in a slightly smaller survey area). Given the area of land covered by the Site and the number of likely breeding territories present, the Site is considered to be of District level importance for breeding skylark.

6.5.20 Wet ditches / drains within the Site that have been designated as LWS for their aquatic invertebrate interest are evaluated as important at the County level.

6.5.21 The Site is considered to be of local level importance for barn owl, wintering birds, breeding birds, bats and otters. Water vole, great crested newt, reptile species, fish and terrestrial invertebrates are of site level importance

6.5.22 Dormouse are not evaluated at this stage because the Site has poor habitat connectivity to known dormouse populations, which were extinct in the county until reintroduction attempts in three woodlands in the 1990s and 2000s. The closest

such woodland is 2.6 km south (Treswell Woods). The site is located over 2.6 km from Treswell Woods, with poor habitat connectivity, dormouse are assumed to be absent but with potential to colonise the Site as time passes. This approach has been agreed in principle with Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council.

6.5.23 A range of 'designed-in' primary ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are part of the design of the Proposed Development. Biodiversity features have been considered iteratively as the detail of the Proposed Development has evolved, and the incorporated biodiversity measures form an integral part of the Proposed Development, designed specifically to avoid or reduce biodiversity effects wherever possible, and to build biodiversity enhancement into the Proposed Development.

6.5.24 These designed-in measures are identified on the basis of the baseline and post-development conditions and include:

- Within the Proposed Solar Areas, priority habitats (such as hedgerows, trees, arable field margins, woodland, watercourses, ponds and scrub) will be retained and incorporated into semi-natural habitat buffers. A schedule of proposed buffers to these habitats is provided in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology & Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**. This will retain habitat for protected / notable species, and ensure retention of habitat connectivity through the Proposed Development and the local landscape;

- Arable habitats where the solar arrays will be placed will be converted to modified grassland. Field margins around the solar arrays will be retained / created to neutral grassland with appropriate wildflower mixes used if necessary to increase floristic diversity;

- Clarborough Tunnel SSSI is adjacent to the Site's southern boundary and the part of the Site adjoining the SSSI will be excluded from development and incorporated into the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area for enhancement to species-rich grassland. This create / enhance existing habitats that would complement the SSSI and improve ecological connectivity;

- Buildings and trees with bat and barn owl suitability will be retained, thereby avoiding direct impacts upon potential bat roosts;

- All badger setts will be retained safeguarded by a suitable buffer during construction, operation and decommissioning phases;

- Protective fencing will be installed around sensitive important ecological features;

- Mammal gaps will be incorporated into security fencing within the Proposed Solar Areas to allow access by badger and other SPI mammals; and

- Directional drilling will be employed for cabling beneath watercourses and hedgerows during construction, to avoid damage to linear habitats.

6.5.25 Additional mitigation, the detail of which will be informed by the final design layout and construction programme, includes:

- Where access crossing points on ditches / drains are required, these will be clear span structures unless otherwise stated;

- Production of an appropriate lighting strategy for all phases of development;

- Standard measures for pollution prevention and dust management incorporated into **ES Appendix 4.1 - outline Construction**

Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] for the construction and **ES Appendix 4.2 – outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** for the decommissioning phase;

- Appropriate timing of certain works to avoid impacts on features, for example favouring vegetation clearance outside of the bird nesting period;
- Precautionary methods of working to avoid disturbance, damage, killing / injury, such as precautionary vegetation clearance methods in areas suitable for reptiles;
- Securing and implementing protected species licences, such as for badgers, where impacts to avoid an offence under the relevant legislation cannot be avoided;
- Precautionary pre-works checks for great crested newts on suitable terrestrial habitat being impacted within 250 m of Ponds 15 and 18. Note – no likelihood of an offence in respect of great crested newts is anticipated and there is no likelihood of a licence being required; and
- Measures in the Western and Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Areas that will mitigate impacts on ground nesting birds; primarily skylark.

6.5.26 Enhancement measures include:

- Habitat creation in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area will include wildflower grassland, species-rich hedgerows, scrub, ponds and ditches;
- Habitat improvements such as infilling of gaps in hedgerows, and improvements to plant species diversity by additional planting/seeding in retained habitats;

- Improved management of retained habitats, such as grasslands within the LWS within the Site, management of hedgerows to favour breeding birds and to increase their potential for dormouse, and management of woodlands to improve their biodiversity value; and

- Installation of other wildlife features such as bat and bird boxes.

6.5.27 Details of work necessary to retain, create and manage retained and new ecological features during and after construction are provided in **ES Appendix 4.1 - outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** for the Proposed Development.

6.5.28 A skylark mitigation strategy is presented **in ES Appendix 7.13 [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**, which shows further details and the locations of the measures at the Site which include:

- Skylark plots within large arable fields;

- Enhanced arable field margins to create wildflower grassland of increased width; and

- Beetle banks within large arable fields.

6.5.29 It is estimated that the further mitigation measures could increase the skylark nesting densities in the Eastern and Western Biodiversity Mitigation Areas by 50 territories; this will mitigate approximately 48% (against the 2023 total of 105 territories) to 55% (against the 2024 total of 90 territories) of the territories likely to be displaced from the Proposed Solar Areas.

6.5.30 The proposed mitigation is anticipated to reduce adverse effects, although up to half (40 to 55 territories) of the baseline territories at the Site could be displaced (it is not possible to be absolute given the other non-arable habitats that will be

created, and that will also provide habitat for nesting skylark, but with less certainty about numbers of territories).

6.5.31 The Proposed Development will minimise impacts on protected species and habitats in line with national policy. A high-quality ecological habitat will be provided during operation of the Proposed Development impact to protected species identified mitigated through mitigation, compensation and enhancement.

6.5.32 There are no designated ancient woodlands or Tree Preservation Orders ('TPOs') within the Order Limits. The closest ancient woodland is 1.3km to the east of the Site (known as Burton Wood) and no ancient woodlands have direct habitat connectivity with the Site, via hedgerows, other semi-natural habitat corridors, or footpaths. No veteran trees will be adversely impacted by the Proposed Development. On the whole existing field boundary hedgerows will be retained and enhanced where possible. Whilst the loss of some vegetation will be required, this loss will be kept to a minimum and is vastly outweighed by proposed additional planting and mitigation measures.

6.5.33 Existing hedgerows, trees and woodland to be retained will be buffered from the development and habitat diversity will be managed as set out in the **ES Appendix 7.12 outline Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. Widths of the buffers vary according to the value of trees and hedgerows, possible bat roosts etc.

6.5.34 Substantial new tree and hedgerow planting is also proposed, which will provide new linear habitat linkages with existing isolated trees and nearby woodland. Any trees subject to development impacts during construction will be subject to further inspection, survey and necessary steps to avoid or minimise impact.

6.5.35 As discussed in Section 5 of this Planning Statement, the Environment Act 2021, will make it mandatory for NSIPs to deliver 10% BNG, but this is yet to come into force.

6.5.36 **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** sets out the results of the Proposed Development's BNG assessment and concludes an overall net gain of 10%.

6.5.37 A fundamental part of the Proposed Development's design are the principles of BNG with significant areas identified for habitat creation and enhancement. In addition to the above, land below and between the PV arrays will also be managed to enhance biodiversity.

6.5.38 After decommissioning, land will be restored back to open farmland. This is considered beneficial to some species of farmland birds and plant species with arable margins although the biodiversity value that is anticipated to have developed in the preceding 40 years of the Proposed Development's operational life will be lost along with habitat for a variety of other species.

6.5.39 Certain parts of the Proposed Development, such as the defined ecological mitigation areas, could realistically be retained at the decommissioning stage depending on their wildlife value.

6.5.40 An appropriately qualified ecologist will visit the site and identify ecological constraints from decommissioning activities no more than twelve months prior to decommissioning commencing. As a minimum an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (or equivalent) is considered likely to be required to identify potential presence of protected species and important habitats that exist at that time. Further surveys, mitigation and compensation measures may be required in line with statutory or relevant guidance just before/at decommissioning stage.

6.6 Water

6.6.1 Section 5.8 of NPS EN-1 discusses flood risk and this section sets out generic impacts, considerations and requirements associated with flood risk, requiring all energy projects located in medium-risk Flood Zone 2 and high-risk Flood Zone 3 to

be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment ('FRA'), with development in high-risk Flood Zone 3 required to satisfy the Sequential and Exception Tests.

6.6.2 FRAs are required to make appropriate arrangements to manage surface water, including appropriate use of Sustainable Drainage Systems ('SuDS'), ensuring there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere and account for predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of a development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage, and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the Site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.

6.6.3 Paragraph 5.8.13 of NPS EN-1 provides further guidance on flood mitigation, relevant to climate change, noting in paragraph 4.10.22 of NPS EN-1 that applicants should demonstrate high level climate change resilience built-in from the outset, demonstrating how proposals can be adapted over time to remain resilient to a credible maximum climate change scenario.

6.6.4 NPS EN-3 provides specific guidance relevant to solar PV farms. Paragraph 2.10.84 of NPS EN-3 states:

> *"Where a Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out this must be submitted alongside the applicant's ES. This will need to consider the impact of drainage. As solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant".*

6.6.5 NPS EN-3 goes on to further say that given the temporary nature of solar PV farms, sites could be configured or selected to avoid the need to impact on existing drainage systems or watercourses. With regards to water management and sites previously subject to intensive agricultural practise, paragraph 2.10.154 of NPS EN-3 recognises solar sites can deliver significant ecosystem benefits in the form of drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitats and water quality management.

6.6.6 Roughly 50% of the Order Limits lie within low-risk Flood Zone 1, approximately 5% lies within medium risk Flood Zone 2 and around 45% of the site lies with high-risk Flood Zone 3a.

6.6.7 **A Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been carried out in accordance with the previously mentioned policy requirements included in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**. In addition to the FRA a **Sequential and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** have also been undertaken because part of the Site includes development in high-risk Flood Zone 3a.

6.6.8 The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development.

6.6.9 A summary of flood risk from all sources is contained within **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology**, **Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8] Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Flood Risk Sequential Assessment and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** that confirm the Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat, ecology and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are.

6.6.10 Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test.

6.6.11 In terms of design, the Proposed Development has embedded a response to the Site's flood risk. This includes:

- 8m easements to all watercourses and 9 metres from IDB assets;
- Substations and BESS located outside of high-risk Flood Zone 3;
- Conversion units, where possible located in low-risk Flood Zone 1. If this is not possible conversion units will be raised 200mm above 0.1% AEP flood level;
- Non-flood sensitive infrastructure (PV arrays, cabling etc) sequentially located outside 1 in 100 plus climate change annual probability extent or where this is not possible restricted to areas which experience less than 1m depth of flooding during same event;
- Sensitive and electrical equipment on solar panels elevated by legs so it's not less than 0.6m above surrounding flood level; and
- Flood defences protecting the Proposed Development can be inspected and maintained by the operator statutory undertaker ensuring their functionality through the Proposed Development's operational lifetime.

6.6.12 In terms of attenuation to maintain existing runoff rates, permeable surfacing will be provided for the Site access and a gravel filled trench will be installed along parts of the access track where there is a potential for concentration of excess flows. These trenches will act as attenuation and treatment prior to infiltration. A filter drain is proposed running along the centre of the Site, directing flows into an attenuation basin in the south-western corner. This filter drain will collect runoff from the hardstanding electrical equipment area. Grass and wildflower planting at

the leeward edge of solar panels is also proposed. Finally, two large detention basins have been strategically placed within the Site on land to the west (up-gradient) of Sturton-le-Steeple. Their locations and sizes have been carefully designed to intercept overland flows, with water held in the basins before being released at a controlled rate to the existing drainage ditches after the peak of the rainfall event. The two basins combined would provide an attenuation capacity of approximately 4300m^3 to potentially address the flooding issue reported by the local residents. As it is a grassland area infiltration and evapotranspiration are likely to occur.

6.6.13 A Surface Water Drainage Strategy is proposed for the Proposed Development in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** detailing appropriate use of a Sustainable Drainage System on site. This includes:

- Free draining through perimeter gaps around all panels, meaning no increase in surface water flood risk elsewhere;
- Wildflower and grassland planting below solar panels will be plated to prevent soil erosion;
- Water will be allowed to drip onto the ground below the panels in several locations rather than a concentrated runoff, again prevent soil erosion;
- Access tracks will be of a permeable construction allowing surface water runoff to percolate into the ground; and
- Associated electrical infrastructure with the panels (and some solar panel parcels) will be sited on concrete pads surrounded by gravel filled filter trenches, constructed to limit lateral water flow, replacing loss of natural infiltration caused by concrete bases by storing surface water in the gravel sub-base prior to infiltration into the ground as currently takes place.

6.6.14 Bearing in mind surface water falling on the Site is not attenuated, the Proposed Development is concluded to provide an overall betterment to surface water drainage in comparison to the existing surface water runoff regime.

6.6.15 Measures employed to mitigate impacts related to flood risk, drainage, groundwater and surface water during both the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.4 outline Operational Management Plan (oOMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.

6.6.16 The detailed CEMP, to be secured by a DCO Requirement should consent be granted, will detail compliance with relevant Guidance for Pollution Prevention ('GPP'), and Water Management Plan ('WMP') of pre-, during and post construction water quality monitoring based on a combination of visual observations and reviews of the Environment Agency's automatic water quality monitoring network.

6.6.17 Methods for safe storage of materials, plans to deal with accidental pollution and spills and pollution control measures incorporated into the construction and decommissioning phase. Drainage and flood risk are also committed to the outline CEMP and DP, with detailed management plans secured by a DCO Requirement.

6.6.18 Taking into account embedded and additional mitigation measures the residual significance of the effect of the construction, operational, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on flood risk and surface water drainage is not considered significant. Risks of accidental pollution incidents affecting water quality of surface water and groundwater bodies are minimised to an acceptable level.

6.7 Noise and Vibrations

6.7.1 Section 5.12 of NPS EN-1 discusses Noise and Vibration where guidance is provided on the methodological approach to assessing noise impacts which may arise from a proposed scheme.

6.7.2 Paragraph 2.4.2 of NPS EN-3 further states that proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in a manner that mitigates impacts such as noise. Paragraph 5.12.4 of NPS EN-3 echoes the requirement for noise impacts to be assessed and consider mitigation in reducing its impact.

6.7.3 **ES Chapter 11: Noise [EN010163/APP/5.4]** has assessed noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development through a combination of consultation, background noise survey and computer modelling.

6.7.4 The noise assessments consider operational noise as well as noise and vibration from construction activities and construction traffic on noise sensitive receptors ('NSR').

6.7.5 Background noise monitoring was carried out at a large number of locations representing nearest sensitive existing receptors surrounding potential development areas.

6.7.6 Noise emissions from plant within the Proposed Development including solar PV arrays, energy storage and electrical substations have been predicted at the nearest NSRs.

6.7.7 The local planning authority has been consulted on and agreed to the appropriateness of methodology adopted to assess operational noise; a reflection of industry best practice in such circumstances where existing background levels surrounding a development are low.

6.7.8 In such instances BS 4142 contains a clause that alternative guidance WHO/BS 8233 and IEMA guidance should be considered and used to inform the assessment.

6.7.9 When assessed against the criteria, noise emissions during operation do not result in a significant impact at any NSR and no further mitigation measures are required.

6.7.10 Likely change in noise levels due to the contribution of noise emissions from the Proposed Development at each NSR during operation has been considered via a further assessment. When the predicted noise contribution from the Proposed Development is combined with existing noise climate at each receptor, the change in noise level is insignificant and no mitigation measures are required.

6.7.11 Construction and decommissioning sound and vibration from the introduction and removal of the Proposed Development could be significant in the absence of standard mitigation measures which would incorporate the adoption of a CEMP and the use of 'best practicable means' ('BPM') to reduce and mitigate construction sound and vibration levels as far as reasonably possible. However, provided that the appropriate mitigation measures are adopted as a matter of due course and that particular attention is paid to potentially sensitive locations, levels are unlikely to exceed typical limiting criteria at nearby properties. This aspect is therefore considered to consequently have a low overall impact, with the corresponding significance of effect being moderate/minor. Therefore, construction and decommissioning impacts are also not considered significant.

6.7.12 BMP to minimise noise during construction and decommissioning are included within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. No mitigation beyond implementation of construction and decommission BPM is required.

6.7.13 The **Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010163/APP/5.4]** considers whether, amongst other matters, noise and vibration impacts will give rise to a statutory

nuisance. That statement concludes the Proposed Development is not likely to give rise to a statutory noise or vibration nuisance, or any other statutory nuisance.

6.8 Transport and Access

6.8.1 Section 5.14 of NPS EN-1 discusses the requirements for considering the potential of transport and traffic related impacts and mitigation of NSIPs.

6.8.2 Paragraph 5.14.4 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*The consideration and mitigation of transport impacts is an essential part of Government's wider policy objectives for sustainable development*".

6.8.3 It goes on to state the SoS should only consider preventing or refusing development on highway grounds if there is an unacceptable impact on highway safety or severe residual cumulative impact on the road network.

6.8.4 NPS EN-3 provides guidance on the construction and operation of solar projects. It acknowledges that traffic volumes associated with solar farm developments will be highest during construction. As solar farms are well suited to sites in areas served by minor road networks and their general modular construction, they are likely to result in smaller vehicles than typical onshore energy infrastructure but maybe more voluminous.

6.8.5 Paragraph 2.10.123 of NPS EN-3 goes further, stating an application should assess various potential routes to the Site for the delivery of materials and components, in order to select the most appropriate route, taking into consideration the quality and capacity of existing road infrastructure.

6.8.6 Paragraph 2.10.125 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Applicants should ensure all sections of roads and bridges on the proposed delivery route can accommodate the weight and volume of the loads and width*

of vehicles. Although unlikely, where modifications to roads and/or bridges are required, these should be identified, and potential effects addressed in the ES."

6.8.7 Paragraph 2.10.126 of NPS EN-3 states:

"*Where a cumulative impact is likely because multiple energy infrastructure developments are proposing to use a common port and/or access route and pass through the same towns and villages, applicants should include a cumulative transport assessment as part of the ES. This should consider the impacts of abnormal traffic movements relating to the project in question in combination with those from any other relevant development. Consultation with the relevant local highways authorities is likely to be necessary.*"

6.8.8 A Transport Assessment has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development at **ES Appendix 13.1 [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**. Consultation has been undertaken with Nottinghamshire County Council (as well as National Highways and Doncaster Council) Highway Officers to seek agreement in terms of the assessment approach and mitigation measures.

6.8.9 The Site is located in a rural area with good access to the Strategic Road network and seeks to use the same transport route as the neighbouring West Burton Power Station and Sturton-le-Steeple quarry.

6.8.10 A total of 26 access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. No.2 of the accesses will serve primary construction compounds and No.3 will serve the secondary construction compounds. The remaining No.21 access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and No.5 construction accesses will be used during operation.

6.8.11 Traffic flows are expected to take place over 730 working days (construction period) and during a peak construction phase day traffic vehicle trips will consist of staff car, shuttle bus, LGV and HGV movements.

6.8.12 It is estimated that the construction of the Proposed Development would result in around 12,887 one-way (25,774 two-way) delivery construction vehicle movements, and 42,000 one-way (84,000 two-way) workforce construction vehicle movements over the full 24-month (730 days) construction period. This equates to an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) value of 152 vehicles (comprising 36 delivery trips and 116 workforce trips) based on 109,774 trips divided by 730 days (equivalent of 24 months construction period).

6.8.13 **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Proposed Development in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay; pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. There are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access receptors. Significant cumulative effects are also not expected to arise.

6.8.14 **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads to ensure access roads are suitable for transportation of components to the site. The oCTMP is secured by a DCO Requirement and also includes a construction worker plan that sets out measures and controls for staff vehicles. This includes measures to discourage and limit access to the Order Limits by car, and instead promotes the use of a shuttle bus from local worker accommodation and car sharing to minimise additional vehicles on local roads.

6.8.15 The potential use of water-borne and rail transport instead of road transport for all phases of the Proposed Development has been considered. Whilst use of both alternative is possible in the supply of the Proposed Development, the final leg of deliveries during construction will be undertaken by roads set out in the study area.

For example, larger equipment, such as transformers or batteries, will be transported to the Humber docks by sea (Hull, Immingham, Goole) but the final delivery will be via the strategic and local highway network as set out in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**.

6.8.16 In total there are 25 PRoWs that traverse or abut the Order Limits, which are set out in **Table 13.7 of ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. PRoWs within the Site will remain open for the duration of construction period and diversions are not proposed unless required for short durations to protect public health and safety. When this is necessary, work could be undertaken when the relevant PRoW is unlikely to be used, such as during the night time, and opened during the daytime when the PRoW is more likely to be used so far as practicable to do so.

6.8.17 **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has also assessed the operational phase of the Proposed Development. During operation, staff will not be permanently based on the site. There will be approximately seven trips per day by engineers for maintenance typically by 7.5t van or 4x4 vehicles. Should large replacement parts be required, this may require an ad hoc HGV delivery.

6.8.18 In light of this, effects on accidents and highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay and amenity and hazardous loads during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible, not significant and no cumulative impacts anticipated.

6.8.19 Existing PRoWs will remain open during the operational phase of the Proposed Development and two new permissive paths will be created to improve connectivity within the Site, as well as active travel through the promotion of pedestrian and cycle access. These enhancements are set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.

6.8.20 Traffic during the decommissioning phase is currently proposed to egress the Site using the inverse of the construction route(s) but this will be agreed in advance of the decommissioning phase following the 40-year lifetime of the Proposed Development.

6.8.21 Vehicle trips are not expected to exceed the number set out in the construction phase. Effects will be short term, temporary, equivalent to or no worse than negligible or minor construction phase impacts; they are not significant in EIA terms. In light of this, effects on accidents and highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay, amenity and hazardous loads during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible, not significant and no cumulative impacts anticipated.

6.8.22 Mitigation measures for decommissioning are the same as for the construction phase. This includes a PRoW Management Plan as well as Traffic Management Measures including signage and a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit at all access junctions.

6.8.23 A Decommissioning Plan based on measures in **ES Appendix 4.2 outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to decommissioning as secured by DCO Requirement.

6.8.24 PRoW will be managed in a similar way to the construction phase ensuring user safety and continued access for PRoW users.

6.9 Socio-economics

6.9.2 Section 13 of NPS EN-1 recognises that the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of energy infrastructure may have socio-economic impacts at local and regional levels. Paragraph 5.13.4 of NPS EN-1 recognises the construction of energy infrastructure projects has the potential to change local population dynamics, shifting demand for services and facilities in

settlements nearest the construction work and can also have an effect on social cohesion.

6.9.3 Paragraph 2.10.69 of NPS EN-3 states:

> "*Applicants should set out what would be decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station, considering instances where it may be less harmful for the ecology of the site to keep or retain certain types of infrastructure, for example underground cabling, and where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation*".

6.9.4 **ES Chapter 10: Socio Economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** assesses socio-economic effects upon employment, local economy, development land, public rights of way, local amenities and land use.

6.9.5 It sets out the Proposed Development's impact on employment and its predicted effects on the local economy through the three phases of the Proposed Development. During construction, significant benefits in terms of access to employment and education have been identified through the creation of 382 net direct jobs per annum during the construction period. Of these, 289 jobs per annum are expected to be taken up by residents in the Bassetlaw District. Prior to construction, a Skills, Supply Chaina and Employment Plan, which accords with the outline plan submitted as part of the DCO Application, will be prepared setting out the measures the Applicant will use to advertise and promote employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development locally.

6.9.6 Gross Value Added ('GVA') to the economy from workers is expected to be a £29.5 million benefit to the local economy within Bassetlaw District. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is likely to generate around 50% of GVA per annum as

the construction phase with adjustments made for inflation between construction and decommissioning.

6.9.7 During operation of the Proposed Development, staff will not be permanently based on site with frequent visits made by off-site workers whose remit includes this Site to ensure the Proposed Development is maintained appropriately and remains operational. Therefore, there will be little to no GVA supported by the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

6.9.8 Nevertheless, during both the construction and decommissioning phases there would be a significant medium and major beneficial effects upon the local accommodation sector employment and accommodation stock.

6.9.9 The estimated two-year construction period will have a degree of impact on tourism attractions in the immediate locality. Potential changes to landscape views, temporary during construction and long-term during operation, as well as impacts from construction traffic, may impact desirability and accessibility of tourism and recreation routes and attractions, potentially negatively impacting the local tourism economy. To present the worst-case scenario, construction phase effects on tourism, whilst temporary, are significant for this phase of the Proposed Development.

6.9.10 The construction phase may have direct impacts on a number of PRoWs and long distance recreational routes as a result of temporary diversions and closures for safety reasons, should these be necessary. Secondary temporary impacts will result from the movement of construction goods and employee vehicles. Mitigation measures are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**. Residual impacts upon long distance recreational routes are assessed as significant for this temporary period. However. the creation of two permissive paths will improve

permeability and access to PRoW during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

6.9.11 Waterways and waterbodies used for recreational use are not anticipated to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development, including the River Trent. Neither are formal recreational activities such as golf, cricket, or flying within 5km of the site or other attractions.

6.9.12 The Proposed Development supports social economic growth, existing and future land uses and community infrastructure including PRoWs. The Proposed Development will result in significant beneficial socio-economic effects due to the employment and educational opportunities during construction and decommissioning phase, benefits to the use of accommodation stock and through creation of two permissive paths. There may be significant adverse effects to local tourism, that will be limited to a small number of locations, and on long distance recreational routes during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Cumulative effects have been assessed and no significant cumulative effects are expected to arise. The identified significant effects are limited, short term and outweighed by the significant public and other benefits of the Proposed Development.

6.10 Soil and Agricultural Land

6.10.2 Paragraph 5.11.12 of NPS EN-1 advises that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV agricultural land (land in Grades 1, 2 and 3a of the agricultural land classification ('ALC')) and preferably use land in areas of poorer agricultural quality (land in Grades 3b, 4 and 5) or brownfield land. It also advises that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on soil quality, taking account of any mitigation measures proposed.

6.10.3 With regards solar schemes, NPS EN-3 provides clarification and guidance on how BMV guidance should be interpretated. Paragraph 2.10.30 of NPS EN-3 clarifies:

"*…..development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land or sites designated for their natural beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.73 – 92 and 2.10.107 – 2.10.126.*"

6.10.4 Further guidance is provided at paragraph 2.10.31 of NPS EN-3:

"*It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land.*"

6.10.5 Paragraph 2.10.32 of NPS EN-3 also encourages co-location of other functions to maximise efficient land use:

"*Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind generation, storage, hydrogen electrolysers) to maximise the efficiency of land use.*"

6.10.6 **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** detail the process the Applicant has followed for site election and design review, including the consideration given to the use of brownfield land.

6.10.7 As set out therein, there are no preferable sites that are of sufficient scale to enable the construction of the Proposed Development on non-agricultural land, or land that is of a lower ALC grade without constraint.

6.10.8 **ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** has had regard to agricultural land quality and identified the grade of land within the Order Limits. **ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report**

[EN010163/APP/6.3.15] provides more detail of the land classification within the Order Limits and **ES Appendix 15.2 outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** details how soil within the Order Limits will be managed for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

6.10.9 Approximately 72.1% of the land within the Order Limits forms BMV land. The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on BMV land through the design of the Proposed Development and ALC ratings as well as agricultural land productivity. This includes through discussions with landowners and minimising the impact of the Proposed Development on the landowners' wider land holdings.

6.10.10 It is necessary to distinguish between agricultural land as a long-term resource, agricultural production and arable management. Long term, the Proposed Development would not affect the agricultural resource or continued agricultural production if the land continued to be grazed with only the arable use of the Site ceasing during the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

6.10.11 Effectively the Proposed Development minimises impacts on agricultural land, retaining the ability to reinstate arable agricultural land after decommissioning and facilitating continued agricultural use through biodiversity management grazing throughout the operational life of the Proposed Development, together with allowing the soils to rest.

6.10.12 In accordance with NPS EN-1 the Applicant has demonstrated that the Proposed Development minimises impacts upon BMV land and there are insufficient areas of available non-BMV land without constraints on which to accommodate the whole Proposed Development. Furthermore, in accordance with Paragraph 5.11.34 of NPS EN-1 the Proposed Development will not lead to any permanent loss of BMV land within the Site.

6.10.13 Use of BMV land within the Site is justified by NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.11.34 due to factors related to site location and context within the Proposed Development, wider

landholding and in relation to adjacent and surrounding land. The reason for retaining some areas of BMV land in general is because it forms part of larger fields of lower grade land and would not be practical to remove this from the Proposed Development in terms of layout or continue to farm as small, isolated land parcels.

6.10.14 At the start of construction arable management of land within the development limits will cease for the duration of the temporary development.

6.10.15 During operation, grass below and between the panels will need to be managed such as through grazing by livestock where appropriate. The proposal will result in farming diversification and a new stream of income for the landowners independent from variations in profitability of arable production.

6.10.16 Upon decommissioning, above ground physical infrastructure will be removed, the Site will be returned to its current state and BMV grade, and the land returned to the landowners. It is assumed hedgerows, trees and woodland will be retained.

6.10.17 Significant public benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh the reversible use of 72.1% BMV agricultural land for the duration of the Proposed Development, particularly noting NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.10.29 that states land type should not be the predominant factor in determining suitability of a site for solar development.

6.11 Mineral Safeguarding

6.11.2 Paragraph 5.11.19 of NPS EN-1 states:

> " *Applicants should safeguard any mineral resources on the proposed site as far as possible, taking into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place.*"

6.11.3 The impact of the Proposed Development on safeguarding minerals has been considered by the Applicant and no sterilisation of minerals within the Order Limits would result and there will be no impediment to mineral extraction after the Proposed Development has been decommissioned.

6.11.4 Paragraph 5.11.28 of NPS EN-1 states:

> "*Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources.*"

6.11.5 In terms of Mineral Safeguarding Areas ('MSA'), the Proposed Development affects a relatively small area of sand and gravel deposits, with the majority of the Order Limits falling outside an MSA. It is therefore very unlikely that these small areas would be required for mineral extraction during the temporary operational life of the Proposed Development, such that paragraph 5.11.28 of NPS EN-1 is not engaged.

6.11.6 The Proposed Development is unlikely to sterilise any significant volumes of safeguarded mineral due to the limited amount of ground disturbance at depth.

6.11.7 At the end of its operational life, the Proposed Development will be decommissioned, ground structures removed and the site restored. Deep foundations or excavations are not required by the Proposed Development. Therefore disturbance is limited to surface layers rather than underlying deposits, thus underlying mineral deposits would not be permanently sterilised and available to exploit if required at a future date.

6.11.8 The Site, along with large areas of Nottingham fall within Petroleum Exploration and Development License ('PEDAL') areas.

6.11.9 Oil and gas deposits are found at much greater depths than other minerals and therefore surface development has less potential impact in terms of exploiting the resource. There are no safeguarding areas for hydrocarbons. Existing oil fields are identified and safeguarded with mineral consultation zone around each one. The Proposed Development does not affect an existing oil field or come within a mineral consultation zone. Therefore, the Proposed Development is not considered to have

any implications for existing or proposed exploration and eventual exploration of oil and gas resource.

6.11.10 Sterilisation of mineral resources have been demonstrated not to occur and part of the Proposed Development within the defined MSA will be available for future extraction should this be necessary.

7 Conclusion and Planning Balance

7.1 The Proposed Development will be determined pursuant to Section 104 of the PA 2008 with the SoS having regard to a) any national policy statement that has an effect in relation to development of the description to which the application relates; b) any local impact report; c) matters prescribed in relation to development of the description to which the application relates; and d) any other matters the SoS considers important and relevant to the SoS decision.

7.2 This Planning Statement provides evidence that the Proposed Development is compliant with relevant prescribed matters and relevant planning policy, together with other matters the Applicant considers likely to be important and relevant to inform SoS decision to grant consent for the Proposed Development.

7.3 The DCO Application is for the installation of ground mounted solar array and co-located associated BESS to provide a renewable energy scheme totalling 600MW equating to the annual energy consumption of approximately 180,000 households (roughly half of homes in Nottinghamshire county).

7.4 Applications for solar NSIPs are required to be determined in accordance with NPS EN-1, EN-3 an EN-5.

7.5 These NPSs and other national energy policy set out the UK Government's aim for a secure, long term, reliable, resilient, affordable and low cost energy supply generated in the UK whilst, at the same time, decarbonising the energy system. The UK is legally bound and committed to reducing its carbon emissions and achieving net zero by 2050. A shift in energy generation to renewable sources is a driving force behind meeting this target. Furthermore, the UK Government recognises the immediate urgent need to deliver its aims and commitments, including large scale solar (and associated development such as BESS) projects, which are Critical National Priority ('CNP') infrastructure.

7.6 The Proposed Development will deliver on these policy aims, generate a significant amount of low carbon electricity over its operational lifetime due its scale and, along with the co-located BESS, it will provide resilience, security and affordability of supplies.

7.7 The Proposed Development is a key contributor towards the government achieving its aims and legal commitments as well as a critical component of the national renewable energy generation and energy mix portfolio required to decarbonise the country's national energy supply quickly.

7.8 The Proposed Development will also deliver national economic and social benefits in line with the Government's wider objectives of sustainable development. The pressing need for the Proposed Development is compelling and supported by its status as CNP infrastructure.

7.9 Localised economic (including through the creation of jobs and use of accommodation stock), social (including creation of two permissive paths for the operational life of the Proposed Development and creation of two surface water detention basins reducing flood risk to the village of Sturton-le-Steeple by intercepting and storing overland flow) and environmental benefits (including in surface water drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, 10 % biodiversity net gain and water quality management) will also be delivered by the Proposed Development.

7.10 There is a presumption in favour of granting consent the Proposed Development as set out at paragraphs 4.1.2, 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 of NPS EN-1.

7.11 Paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of NPS EN-1 also acknowledge it is not possible to develop necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts on the environment.

7.12 Furthermore, Section 4.2 of EN-1 applies a policy presumption that, subject to any legal requirements (including under Section 104 of the PlA 2008), the urgent need for

CNP Infrastructure, such as the Proposed Development, to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by the application of the mitigation hierarchy.

7.13 Analysis of planning policy compliance demonstrates that the need for the Proposed Development is supported by national and local planning policy. Relevant national and local policies are addressed through the Proposed Development's design, avoiding and minimising adverse impacts where possible.

7.14 With proposed mitigation, the ES demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not have any significant or adverse effects in relation to hydrology, hydrogeology, flood risk and drainage; noise; transport and access; air quality; glint and glare. In relation to climate change, land use and agriculture the proposal will result in a beneficial effect. A temporary residual significant adverse effect in EIA terms will, however, be created upon landscape and visual impact, residential amenity, ecology and biodiversity, and cultural heritage. However, all of these effects are limited to the lifetime of the Proposed Development and it is not considered that those impacts are so great as to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.

7.15 As an additional enhancement measure for community benefit, two surface water detention basins are proposed as part of the Proposed Development. These will provide flood risk reduction to the village of Sturton-le-Steeple by intercepting and storing overland flow that currently represents a risk of flooding within the village centre. It is considered that a minor beneficial significant effect on flood risk will be achieved.

7.16 Landscape and Visual Amenity has been carefully considered by the Applicant with the main landscape and visual impacts minimised through sensitive siting of the largest components (BESS and substation) nearest the West Burton Power station and grid connection point. The Proposed Development also benefits from a green infrastructure led landscape and ecological design. Adverse effects are localised and

will be reversed following decommissioning at the end of the Proposed Development's operational life. As previously mentioned, NPS EN-1 acknowledges adverse effects are likely given the scale of energy NSIPs, and in accordance with paragraph 5.10.35 of NPS EN-1 significant residual visual effects of the Proposed Development are outweighed by the Proposed Development's benefits set out in Section 5 of the Planning Statement.

7.17 The use of BMV land has been unavoidable, due to several factors, not least natural environment and existing surrounding development that includes significant energy production facilities. The DCO Application provides a robust justification for the use of BMV land within the Site on the basis of its grid connection proximity and maximising the amount of low carbon electricity generated by the Proposed Development. Impacts on BMV land have been carefully minimised through appropriate mitigation measures including management of soil resource during the operational life of the Proposed Development, enabling BMV land to be reinstated post-decommissioning.

7.18 The Proposed Development accords with relevant policies and specific policy tests in NPS and the benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh its impacts such that the Proposed Development benefits from the presumption in favour of its consent as CNP infrastructure and consent by way of a DCO should be granted by the SoS.

Appendix A – Glossary

Term/Acronym	Description
Applicant	Steeple Solar Farm Limited.
Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 (BLP)	A document setting out all of the local planning policies adopted by Bassetlaw District Council which all planning applications must adhere to.
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	Rechargeable battery energy storage system consisting of batteries, battery chargers, controls, power conditioning systems and associated electrical equipment designed to provide electrical power to a building or to provide electrical grid-related services.
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television system, used as a security measure.
Climate Change Act 2008	The Climate Change Act 2008 set up a framework for the UK to achieve long term objectives of reducing GHG emissions and ensures steps are taken to adapt to climate change. The Act makes it a legally binding target to ensure the net UK carbon account for all GHG emissions by the year 2050 is at least 80% (initially 100%) lower than the 1990 baseline levels.
Climate Change Act 2008 Order 2019	The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 amended the Climate Change Act 2008 by setting a new target to cut Green House Gas emissions by 100% (against the 1990 baseline) and achieve net zero by 2050.
Conservation Area	Nearly always applies to an area (usually urban or the core of a village) considered worthy of preservation or enhancement because of its special architectural or historic interest.
Construction Compound	A compound including offices, welfare facilities, accommodation facilities, storage and parking for construction of the authorised development and other associated facilities.

DCO Application	The application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be submitted by the Applicant for the Proposed Development.
Design Parameters	The principles and assessments set out in Chapter 4: Proposed Development of the ES.
Designated heritage asset	A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation
Development Consent Order (DCO)	The means of obtaining permission for development categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)	Process for identifying the likely significance of environmental effects (beneficial or adverse) arising from a Proposed Development, by comparing the existing environmental conditions prior to development (the baseline) with the environmental conditions during/following the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of a development should it proceed.
EIA Regulations	Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)
EIA Scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an EIA. It is a method of ensuring that an EIA focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be less significant.
Energy White Paper 2020	This document was published in December 2020 and outlines the Government's plan to support the UK in becoming a net zero GHG emitting country by 2050.
Environmental Statement	Document setting out the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Environmental Statement (ES)	Document setting out the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Flood Zone 1	Low Probability – Land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.
Flood Zone 2	Medium Probability – Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.
Flood Zone 3a	High Probability – Land having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding.
Flood Zone 3b	The Functional Floodplain – This zone comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood.
FRA (Flood Risk Assessment)	An assessment as to the current and future flood risk of an area where development is proposed.
Listed Building	Marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest and also brings into consideration the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.
Mitigation	Measures include any process, activity, or design to avoid, reduce, or remedy for negative environmental impacts or effects of a development.
National Infrastructure Strategy (NIS) 2020	A document that sets out the Governments' plans to deliver on its ambition and transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	Document setting out the UK Government's planning policies for England and instruction on how they are expected to be applied. It serves as a framework for local plans to ensure sustainable development and provides guidance for planning decision-making. Latest version published in February 2025.
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)	Online resource to support the implementation of the NPPF. The NPPG provides context and practical details and is intended to be read alongside the NPPF, offering further explanation and guidance on how to apply the framework's principles in everyday planning practice. It replaces a large volume of

	previous planning guidance documents and is designed to be easily updated and readily accessible online.
National Policy Statement (NPS)	National Policy Statements are produced by the UK Government. They provide planning guidance for developers of NSIPs. They provide a framework for decision-making on applications for development consent, outlining the need for development, relevant government policies, and guidance on assessing impacts and mitigation measures.
Non-designated heritage asset	A building, monument, site or landscape that has been identified as having significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but does not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets.
Order limits	The land shown edged red on the Order Limits plan within which the Proposed Development can be carried out.
Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)	A site or project specific plan designed to ensure best practice and/or appropriate environmental management practices are applied throughout the construction, operation and/or demolition phases of the Proposed Development.
Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)	A site or project specific plan detailing construction logistics, construction worker travel that includes information to guide the delivery of material, plant, equipment and staff during the construction phase.
Outline Decommissioning Plan (oDP)	A site or project specific plan developed to ensure that appropriate environmental management practices are followed during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development.
Outline Fire Risk Management Plan (oFRMP)	A site or project specific plan identifying the measures required to avoid and reduce the risk of fire from battery energy storage systems within the Proposed Development, as well as how to effectively manage a fire should the event occur.

Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP)	A site or project specific plan setting out the landscape and ecological management actions for the Proposed Development, outlining how mitigation measures, identified within the Environmental Statement, will be delivered through future landscape works and management.
Outline Operational Management Plan (oOMP)	A site or project specific plan setting out specific environmental management and monitoring during the operational phase of the Proposed Development
Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP)	A site or project specific plan identifying the importance and sensitivity of the soil resource at the Proposed Development and to provide specific guidance to ensure that there is no significant adverse effect on the soil resource as a result of the Proposed Development. Measures proposed will be considered prior to the commencement of construction works
Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (oWSI)	A site or project specific plan detailing the proposed archeological work during the construction phase of the Proposed Development
Permissive Path	New recreational informal path that the landowner allows the public to use for the operational life of the Proposed Development.
Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)	A UK law that established a new regime for granting planning permission for major infrastructure projects (NSIPs).
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	An executive agency of the UK Government that deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England. The Planning Inspectorate acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for examining NSIP applications and making recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Preliminary Environmental Information	Preliminary Environmental Information is defined in the EIA Regulations as: 'information referred to in regulation 14(2) which – (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Proposed Development was produced in January 2025.
Proposed Development	A NSIP for areas within the Order limits that are proposed for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation station with a capacity of over 50 Megawatts (MW) and associated development comprising of energy storage and grid connection infrastructure on land at Sturton le Steeple, Nottinghamshire. The Proposed Development encompasses all areas within the Order limits.
Public Right of Way (PRoW)	Footpath, bridleway or byways over which members of the public have a right to use.
Registered Park and Garden	Parks and gardens of particular historic significance.
Scheduled Monument	"Nationally important" archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.
Solar PV Modules	A panel comprising a grouping of photovoltaic cells connected to each other and set within a single physical frame. The PV Panel is attached to a Mounting Structure. Also referred to as a PV Module.
Solar PV Modules	A panel comprising a grouping of photovoltaic cells connected to each other and set within a single physical frame. The PV Panel is attached to a Mounting Structure. Also referred to as a PV Module.

Surface water runoff	Rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) which is on the surface of the ground and has not entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer.
Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS)	Management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion, mimicking natural processes.
Works Plan	The plans submitted with the Application known as the Works Plans and which delineate the work areas for the Proposed Development.
DAS (Design and Access Statement)	A report accompanying and supporting a planning application. They provide a framework for applicants to explain how a proposed development is a suitable response to the site and its setting and demonstrate that it can be adequately accessed by prospective users. It must explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the development and demonstrate how the proposed development's context has influenced the design.
NDG (National Design Guide) 2021	The NDG is a comprehensive document published by the UK Government that outlines principles and practice of creating well-designed, response environments. It sets out characteristics of well-designed places and demonstrates what good design means in practice. The guide is based on NPS, practice guide, and objectives for good design in the NPPF.

PLANNING SITE HISTORY Date: 20 February 2025

Location: Renewable Project Land Littleborough Road Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

UPRN: 010096459758

Planning History from within Order Limits Provided by Bassetlaw District Council

Module:	Reference:	Status:	Start Date:	Decision Date:	Description:
DA	24/00509/PREAPP	PCO	23.04.2024		Proposed National Strategic Infrastructure Project Consultation from The Planning Inspectorate on Behalf of the Secretary of State for a Scoping Opinion - Proposed development of a Solar Farm located in Bassetlaw comprising up to 400MW of solar energy generation and a 200MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Related Planning History from Bassetlaw District Council

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/07/00001/R, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 11-APR-07, Proposal: ERECT EXTENSION TO EXISTING 400Kv SWITCH ROOM AT SUBSTATION (RESUBMISSION OF 52/06/02), Address: Substation At West Burton Power Station, West Burton, Retford

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/06/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 19-DEC-06, Proposal: EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SUBSTATION., Address: Substation At, West Burton Power Station, West Burton, Retford

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 16/00354/CDM, Application Status: RNO, Decision Issued: 23-MAR-16, Proposal: Vary Conditions 8 and 11 of Planning Permission 46/11/00002/R to enable the Quarry Access Road to be Constructed in Two Stages. The Initial Stage Incorporates the Construction of 500m Section of Bound Surface adjacent to Gainsborough Road which shall be used for the Removal of the Remaining Mineral in the Permitted Reserve., Address: Gravel Pit At Cowpasture Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/00047/CDM, Application Status: RNO, Decision Issued: 25-JAN-22, Proposal: Variation of the trigger date of conditions 67 and 68 to 31 December 2024 to afford sufficient time for additional surveys, to secure all necessary approvals under non-planning regimes and implementation works to take place prior to extraction recommencing, Address: Land To The South Of West Burton Power Station Gainsborough Road Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/00057/CDM, Application Status: APPRET, Decision Issued: , Proposal: Provision of a Screening Opinion (forms part of 22/00047/CDM) , Address: Land To The South Of West Burton Power Station Gainsborough Road Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/75/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 10-DEC-75, Proposal: DISPOSAL OF POWER STATION ASH AND RESTORATION OF LAND TO, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/88/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 23-SEP-88, Proposal: ERECT WORKSHOP BUILDING, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/84/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 13-NOV-84, Proposal: CONSTRUCT NEW SECURITY OFFICE, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/00/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 17-AUG-00, Proposal: CONSTRUCTION OF ASH PROCESSING PLANT, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/87/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 07-OCT-87, Proposal: ERECT TEMPORARY SITE OFFICE, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/95/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 03-MAR-95, Proposal: ERECT TWO SILOS AND ASSOCIATED PLANT FOR PROCESSING OF ASH RESIDUE, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/78/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 04-AUG-78, Proposal: ERECT LIGHTING TOWER, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/86/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 30-JUL-86, Proposal: ERECT SINGLE STOREY WATER TEST LABORATORY, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/94/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 29-DEC-94, Proposal: EXTENSION TO EXISTING SUBSTATION AND CABLE SEALING END COMPOUND, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 16/01262/HAZ, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 22-DEC-16, Proposal: Hazardous Substances Consent for the Storage of Various Hazardous Substances, Address: West Burton Power Station North Road West Burton Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 19/01236/HAZ, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 29-OCT-19, Proposal: Hazardous Substances Consent for the Storage of Various Hazardous Substances - Propane and Oxygen Bottle Store to be Relocated, Address: West Burton Power Station North Road West Burton Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 23/00485/DEM, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 26-OCT-23, Proposal: Prior Notification of Proposed Site Clearance of West Burton A Power Station, Address: West Burton Power Station North Road West Burton

	Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/01219/SCR, Application Status: EIAN, Decision Issued: 14-OCT-22, Proposal: Screening Opinion - Demolition of Power Station, Address: Land And Buildings At West Burton Power Station North Road West Burton Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/09/00001/V, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 02-JUL-09, Proposal: VARY CONDITION 17 OF PA 52/06/1 TO REVISE THE MAXIMUM NOISE LIMITS ALLOWED, Address: West Burton CCGT, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Notts, DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/06/00001, Application Status: RNO, Decision Issued: 19-JUL-06, Proposal: CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER STATION, Address: Land Adjacent To Existing West Burton Power Station, West Burton

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 51/80/00001, Application Status: RNO, Decision Issued: 19-FEB-80, Proposal: _INSTALLATION OF OIL PIPELINE, Address: Land In The Parish Of, Sturton-Le-Steeple, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/88/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 23-MAR-90, Proposal: CONSTRUCT A COAL FIRED GENERATING STATION (WEST BURTON B), Address: Land In The Parish Of, West Burton, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/09/00001, Application Status: APPRET, Decision Issued: , Proposal: ALTER EXISTING ACCESS AND FORMATION OF OVER SPILL CAR PARK, Address: West Burton Power Station, North Road, West Burton, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/74/00023, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 09-JUL-74, Proposal: , Address: West Burton Power Station, North Road, West Burton, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/74/00022, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 03-JUN-74, Proposal: , Address: West Burton Power Station, North Road, West Burton, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/05/00003, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 09-DEC-05, Proposal: HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES PLANNING CONSENT, Address: Edf Energy Ltd, West Burton Power Station

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/74/00024, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 03-DEC-74, Proposal: , Address: West Burton Power Station, North Road, West Burton, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 9BL

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/03/00004, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 30-JUN-03, Proposal: ERECT TWO STOREY EXTENSION, Address: Keeper's Cottage, Leverton Road, Sturton-Le-Steeple, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 35/01/00003, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 14-OCT-02, Proposal: RESTORATION OF EXISTING HOUSE, ERECT 3 DETACHED DWELLINGS AND ALTER EXISTING ACCESS, Address: Manor House Main Street, North Leverton, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 0AW

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 35/01/00004/L, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 14-OCT-02, Proposal: PARTIAL DEMOLITION AND ALTERATIONS TO PROPERTY, Address: Manor House Main Street North Leverton Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 0AW

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 35/90/00007, Application Status: REF, Decision Issued: 24-JUL-90, Proposal: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCT ACCESS, Address: Land Adjacent To The Croft,, Main Street, North Leverton, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 35/03/00014, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 10-NOV-03, Proposal: CHANGE OF USE OF SCRUB LAND TO DOMESTIC GARDEN AND ERECT FENCING, Address: Land Adjoining, 2 Manor Grove, Main Street, North Leverton, Retford

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 35/76/00007, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 09-JUL-76, Proposal: EXTENSION TO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, Address: Site To Rear Of The Manor House,, Retford Road, North Leverton, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/01346/OUT, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 21-AUG-23, Proposal: Outline Planning Application with Some Matters Reserved (Approval Sought for Access and Layout) to Erect 8 Single Storey Bungalows with Associated Garages and Roadway, Address: Land To West Of Mill Close North Leverton Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 35/99/00016, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 05-APR-00, Proposal: PERMISSION TO DRILL AND PRODUCE HYDROCARBONS FROM TWO EXPLORATORY BOREHOLES, Address: Land At, Thornhill Lane, North Leverton, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/11/00014/L, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 29-JUN-11, Proposal: DEMOLISH EXISTING OUTBUILDING AND ENTRANCE PORCH, ERECT SINGLE STOREY

	EXTENSION & GARAGE/OUTBUILDING, Address: Toll Bar Cottage, Littleborough, Retford, Notts, DN22 0HB

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/11/00008/L, Application Status: WDN, Decision Issued: 11-APR-11, Proposal: DEMOLISH EXISTING OUTBUILDING AND ENTRANCE PORCH, ERECT SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AND DETACHED GARAGE/OUTBUILDING, Address: Toll Bar Cottage, Littleborough, Retford, Notts, DN22 0HB

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/11/00013, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 29-JUN-11, Proposal: CHANGE OF USE OF BUILDING FROM C3 RESIDENTIAL TO HOLIDAY LET, ERECT SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION & GARAGE/STORE, CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR USE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOLIDAY LET AND CONSTRUCT NEW ACCESS, Address: Toll Bar Cottage, Littleborough, Retford, Notts, DN22 0HB

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/11/00007, Application Status: WDN, Decision Issued: 11-APR-11, Proposal: CHANGE OF USE OF BUILDING FROM C3 RESIDENTIAL TO HOLIDAY LET, ERECT SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AND DETACHED OUTBUILDING/GARAGE, CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR USE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOLIDAY LET AND CONSTRUCT NEW ACCESS, Address: Toll Bar Cottage, Littleborough, Retford, Notts, DN22 0HB

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 19/00661/COND, Application Status: DET, Decision Issued: 19-JUL-19, Proposal: Discharge of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 46/11/00013 - Change Of Use Of Building From C3 Residential To Holiday Let, Erect Single Storey Extension & Garage/Store, Change Of Use Of Agricultural Land For Use Associated With The Holiday Let And Construct New Access, Address: Toll Bar Cottage Littleborough Road Sturton Le Steeple Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 0HB

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/80/00005, Application Status: PDV, Decision Issued: 28-JUL-80, Proposal: ALTERATIONS TO FRONT ELEVATION AND PROPOSED REAR CONSERVATORY, Address: Ivy House,, Littleborough, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 23/00523/COND, Application Status: DET, Decision Issued: 20-JUN-23, Proposal: Discharge of Conditions 6, 8, 12, 13 and 15 of P.A. 21/01552/VOC - Variation of Condition 2 on P. A 20/00117/FUL - Extend the Temporary Period of Permission to 40 Years from When the Site Becomes Operational, Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 21/01453/COND, Application Status: DET, Decision Issued: 22-DEC-21, Proposal: Discharge of Condition 8 of P.A. 20/00117/FUL - Installation and Operation of a Solar Farm Comprising an Array of Ground Mounted Solar PV Panels with Associated Infrastructure Including Housing for Inverters a Substation Compound, Point of Connection Mast, Fencing, Security Cameras, Cabling, Access Tracks and a Temporary

	Construction Compound., Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 23/00828/COND, Application Status: DET, Decision Issued: 18-JUL-23, Proposal: Application to Discharge Condition 5 Attached to Variation of Condition Application 21/01522/VOC Extend the Temporary Period of Permission to 40 Years from When the Site Becomes Operational, Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 20/00117/FUL, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 27-AUG-20, Proposal: Installation and Operation of a Solar Farm Comprising an Array of Ground Mounted Solar PV Panels with Associated Infrastructure Including Housing for Inverters a Substation Compound, Point of Connection Mast, Fencing, Security Cameras, Cabling, Access Tracks and a Temporary Construction Compound., Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 23/00827/VOC, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 19-OCT-23, Proposal: Variation of Conditions 4, 8 and 16 of PA 21/01552/VOC Condition 4 New Wording to Reflect New Planning Drawings Condition 8 Amendments to Landscape and Environment Management Plan (LEMP) Condition 16 Amendments to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 21/01411/COND, Application Status: DET, Decision Issued: 08-FEB-22, Proposal: Discharge of Condition 10 and 11 of P.A 20/00117/FUL - Installation and Operation of a Solar Farm Comprising an Array of Ground Mounted Solar PV Panels with Associated Infrastructure, Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 21/01552/VOC, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 22-FEB-22, Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 on P. A 20/00117/FUL - Extend the Temporary Period of Permission to 40 Years from When the Site Becomes Operational., Address: Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/11/00035, Application Status: REF, Decision Issued: 28-FEB-13, Proposal: ERECT NINE 115mtr TIP HEIGHT WIND TURBINES, A 70m PERMANENT METEOROLOGICAL MAST AND ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE, Address: Maumhill Wind Farm, Land South West Of, Wheatley Road, Sturton Le Steeple, Retford, Notts

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 14/00734/SCO, Application Status: WDN, Decision Issued: 07-SEP-15, Proposal: Erect Seven Wind Turbines, Address: Maumhill Wind Farm South West Of Wheatley Road Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 46/11/00006/P, Application Status: CLO, Decision Issued: , Proposal: PROPOSED WIND FARM, Address: Land South East Of A620, Wheatley Road, Sturton Le Steeple, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 23/01202/COU, Application Status: WDN, Decision Issued: 05-MAR-24, Proposal: Change of Use of Land for Caravan Storage, Address: St Ives Gainsborough Road Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire DN22 9HT

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 20/00605/CDM, Application Status: RNO, Decision Issued: 15-JUL-20, Proposal: Planning Application for non Compliance with Condition 68 of Planning Consent 1/16/00354/CDM to Defer the Submission of a Revised Restoration Scheme for a Period of Two Years to 15th April 2022., Address: Sturton Le Steeple Quarry Gainsborough Road Retford Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/91/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 07-NOV-91, Proposal: DIVERT OVERHEAD POWER LINES, Address: Land On South Boundary Of, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/00831/SCR, Application Status: EIA, Decision Issued: 08-JUL-22, Proposal: Screening Opinion - Demolition of Power Station, Address: Land And Buildings At West Burton Power Station North Road West Burton Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/93/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 25-AUG-93, Proposal: CHANGE SUB-STATION ROOF FROM FLAT TO SHALLOW PITCH PROFILED STEEL SHEET ROOF, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/78/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 16-JAN-79, Proposal: EXTENSION TO STORES BUILDING, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/99/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 19-AUG-99, Proposal: EXTEND WEST BURTON COAL-

	FIRED POWER STATION, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/89/00001, Application Status: PNR, Decision Issued: 04-JAN-90, Proposal: CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING CLUB, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/96/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 19-NOV-96, Proposal: ERECT OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/94/00003, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 31-JAN-95, Proposal: ERECT SINGLE STOREY OFFICES, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/81/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 13-NOV-81, Proposal: ERECT STORAGE SILO FOR PULVERISED FUEL ASH, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/75/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 13-MAY-75, Proposal: TEMPORARY STOREAGE FACILITY, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/97/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 26-NOV-97, Proposal: ERECT NEW GATEHOUSE AND WEIGHBRIDGE, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/99/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 03-JUN-99, Proposal: DEMOLISH EXISTING PORTABLE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCT NEW STUDY CENTRE, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/76/00001, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 14-DEC-76, Proposal: ASH GRADING PLANT, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 52/05/00002, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 07-NOV-05, Proposal: CONSTRUCT A BIOMASS FUEL MATERIAL HANDLING FACILITY, COMPRISING OF STORAGE BUILDING AND CONVERYING SYSTEM TO EXISTING COAL CONVERYORS, Address: Land And Buildings At, West Burton Power Station, Retford

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/01713/FUL, Application Status: GTD, Decision Issued: 05-SEP-24, Proposal: Construction and Operation of a Battery Energy Storage System with an Electrical Output Capacity of up to 500MW and Associated Development Including Power Inverter Systems, Electrical Banking Station, Electrical Cabling including Below Ground

	Cabling to 400KV Switchyard, Welfare Facilities, Internal Access Roads, Site Security Infrastructure, Lighting, Boundary Treatments, and Landscaping., Address: Land East Of Gainsborough Road Bole Nottinghamshire

Development Control Related History	Related Planning Application: 22/01095/SCO, Application Status: DET, Decision Issued: 29-SEP-22, Proposal: Scoping Opinion - West Burton C Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an Electrical Generating Capacity up to 500 Megawatts (MW) and Associated Development Including Connections, Access, and Planting, Address: Land And Buildings At West Burton Power Station North Road West Burton Nottinghamshire

Relate Planning History from Nottinghamshire County Council

Sturton Le Steeple Quarry Planning Permissions:

Development Control Related History	NMA/4664 - consent to vary the approved details for previously submitted plans and schemes in relation to condition 7 (Access Road), 10 (Road Surface), 36 (Crossing Points) and 40 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme) – Dated 20.09.2024.

Development Control Related History	1/22/00047/CDM - Variation of the trigger date of conditions 67 and 68 to 31 December 2024 to afford sufficient time for additional surveys, to secure all necessary approvals under non-planning regimes and implementation works to take place prior to extraction recommencing – Dated 20/04/2022.

Development Control Related History	1/20/00605/CDM – Variation of condition to defer the obligations imposed under Condition 68 of planning permission 1/16/00354/CDM to delay the submission of a revised restoration scheme for the quarry until after the 15th April 2022 - dated 30 June 2020. Details amended by non-material amendment reference NMA/4664 regarding the access road locations.

Development Control Related History	1/16/00354/CDM – Planning permission to enable the quarry access road to be constructed in two stages: A. The initial stage of developing the quarry access road relates to the construction of a 500m section of bound surface adjacent to Gainsborough Road (and the remainder of the haul road laid with stone) and for the use of this road for the removal of the first 100,000 tonnes of mineral from the site. B. The second stage, which has not yet been constructed, includes the full surfacing of the haul road along its entire length. dated 31st May 2016. Details amended by non-material amendment application reference NMA/3725 regarding re-alignment of access road in vicinity of gas pipeline

Development Control Related History	1/46/11/00002/R - To extend the implementation deadline set out within the original consent to 8 March 2017 - Dated 8 March 2012.

Development Control Related History	1/46/11/00002/R - To extend the implementation deadline set out within the original consent to 8 March 2017 - Dated 8 March 2012.

Development Control Related History	1/46/06/00014/ - Development of a sand and gravel quarry including the construction of a new access road and erection of processing plant, ancillary buildings and a wharf facility with restoration to agriculture, woodland and water areas for amenity and nature conservation after-uses - Dated 1 October 2008.

West Burton (Bole Ings Ash site) that adjoining's West Burton Power Station to the North East.

Development Control Related History	1/19/01556/CDM - Variations of conditions 11, 13, 37 and 53 of planning permission 1/18/00234/CDM to enable full ash recovery from phase 1B/2 and revisions to method statement, restoration, landscaping and aftercare – Dated 16th July 2020.

Development Control Related History	1/16/01441/CDM - Use of Ash Processing Plant Equipment – Dated 13 July 2017.

Appendix C: National Policy Accordance Table

The following provides a view over relevant National planning policy applicable to the Proposed Development. Where policy is absent from the list it is deemed to not relate to the Proposed Development.

NPS relevant Paragraph	NPS Relevant Detail	NPS Assessment and Proposed Development compliance
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)		
Paragraph 2.1.3	To produce the energy required for the UK and ensure it can be transported to where it is needed, a significant amount of infrastructure is needed at both local and national scale. High quality infrastructure is crucial for economic growth, boosting productivity and competitiveness. Part 3 of this NPS provides further details on the need for - and importance of - energy to economic prosperity and social well-being.	The proposal DCO Application is for the installation of ground mounted solar array and co-located associated BESS to provide a renewable energy scheme totalling 600MW equating to the annual energy consumption of approximately 180,000 households (roughly half of the homes in Nottinghamshire County). The Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which

		if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020s and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of generation in the resource-rich, well-connected and technically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency. The Proposed Development would contribute to an adequate and dependable UK energy generation mix, through enabling the generation of more low-carbon power from indigenous and renewable resources. This is a significant increase in electricity generation with the recognition that more electricity generation is needed to meet demand.
Design		

Paragraph 2.2.1	In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy to legislate for a 2050 net zero Greenhouse Gases ('GHG') emissions target through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. In December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce GHG emissions by at least 68 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. In April 2021, the government legislated for the sixth carbon budget (CB6), which requires the UK to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards in the fight against the global climate emergency. Compared to other forms of renewable energy generation, the Scheme will deliver significant carbon savings as set out in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**. Overall, the Proposed Development is expected to have a total energy generation figure of around 16,100,000 MWh over an estimated 40-year lifetime with a GHG

		intensity range estimated to be 6.7 to 10.7gCO2e/kWh – a favourable comparison with fossil fuel electricity generation. Over the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, this would result in total GHG emissions saving of 1,380,000 tCO2e. Furthermore, in comparison with other low carbon energy developments, only onshore wind would provide a comparable GHG intensity in the range of 7-20GCO2e/kWh. The GHG impact during construction, operation and decommissioning is assessed as being minor adverse and not significant. It is considered that the overall GHG impact of the Proposed Development is beneficial and significant, as it will play a part in achieving the rate of transition required by nationally set policy commitments and supporting the trajectory towards net zero.
Paragraph 2.3.3	Our objectives for the energy system are to	Section 5 of the Planning Statement

	ensure our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and consistent with meeting our target to cut GHG emissions to net zero by 2050, including through delivery of our carbon budgets and Nationally Determined Contribution. This will require a step change in the decarbonisation of our energy system.	explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards in the fight against the global climate emergency. The Proposed Development, as a leading large-scale solar (and BESS) scheme in the UK and is an essential stepping stone towards the future of efficient decarbonisation through the deployment of large-scale, technologically and geographically diverse low-carbon generation assets. **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]** has taken account of emissions used to create

		products used by and to construct the scheme as well as annual emission from water use, replacement products and energy consumption on site whilst in operation. Over a 40-year operational lifetime the Proposed Development would result in a reduction of up to 1,380,000 tCO2e compared to a scenario where the development does not go ahead – a significant contribution towards cutting greenhouse gas emissions, delivering carbon budgets and achieving net zero by 2050 (objectives set out at paragraph 2.3.3 of NPS EN-1).
Paragraph 2.3.4	Meeting these objectives necessitates a significant amount of new energy infrastructure, both large nationally significant developments and small-scale developments determined at a local level. This includes the infrastructure needed to convert primary sources of energy (e.g. wind) into energy carriers (e.g. electricity or hydrogen), and to store and transport primary fuels and energy carriers into and	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well

	around the country. It also includes the infrastructure needed to capture, transport and store carbon dioxide. The requirement for new energy infrastructure will present opportunities for the UK and contributes towards our ambition to support jobs in the UK's clean energy industry and local supply chains.	connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards in the fight against the global climate emergency. **ES Chapter 10: Socio Economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** sets out the proposals impact on employment and effect on the local economy through the three phases of the Proposed Development. During construction significant benefits in terms of access to employment and education have been identified as a result of the Proposed Development through the support of 382 net direct jobs per annum during the construction period. Of these, 289 jobs per annum are expected to be taken up by residents in Bassetlaw District. Prior to construction, a local skills and employment plan will be prepared setting out measures the Applicant will use to advertise and promote

		employment opportunities associated with construction and operation of the Proposed Development locally. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector, specifically relating to solar installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain. As such, they will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition to net zero by 2050 (as required by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment Order) 2019 and described within the Net Zero Strategy: Building Back Greener.
Paragraph 2.3.5	The sources of energy we use are changing. Since the industrial revolution, our energy system has been dominated by fossil fuels. That remains the case today. Although representing a record low, fossil fuels still accounted for just over 76 per cent of energy supply in 2020. We need to dramatically increase the volume of energy supplied from low carbon sources.	This policy notes the need to dramatically increase the volume of energy supplies from low carbon sources, requiring a large amount of low-carbon electricity generation as proposed as part of the Proposed Development.

Paragraph 2.3.6	We need to transform the energy system, tackling emissions while continuing to ensure secure and reliable supply, and affordable bills for households and businesses. This includes increasing our supply of clean energy from renewables, nuclear and hydrogen manufactured using low carbon processes (low carbon hydrogen), and, where we still emit carbon, developing the industry and infrastructure to capture, transport and store it.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency.
Paragraph 2.3.7	Decarbonisation means we are likely to become more dependent on some forms of energy compared to others. Using electrification to reduce emissions in large parts of transport, heating and industry could lead to more than half of final energy demand being met by electricity in 2050, up from 17 per cent in 2019, representing a doubling in demand for electricity. Low carbon hydrogen is also likely to play an increasingly significant role.	This policy emphasises that in addition to the need to decarbonise existing electricity supplies, a substantial increase in the total electricity generated to enable decarbonisation across all sectors, is needed. This again emphasises the scale of low carbon electricity generation necessary to meet these targets. The Proposed Development will generate a

		large amount of low carbon electricity to contribute to meeting this need.
Paragraph 3.1.1	This Part of the NPS explains why the government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives and why the government considers that the need for such infrastructure is urgent.	Paragraph 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the NPS recognise that there are expected to be significant residual impacts associated with large scale energy infrastructure. A summary of environmental effects is found within **ES Chapter 18: Summary [EN010163/APP/6.2.18]**. Overall, with appropriate mitigation implemented, this identifies a relatively limited number of residual effects of the Proposed Development. When considered relative to the large-scale nature of the Proposed Development, these effects are considered to be relatively limited and outweighed by the significant national benefits that the Proposed Development will provide by providing much needed large scale renewable energy generation. The Applicant notes that, in
Paragraph 3.1.2	However, it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts. These effects will be minimised by the application of policy set out in Parts 4 and 5 of this NPS. See also Part 2 of each technology specific NPS.	

		accordance with this policy, the need for infrastructure such as the Proposed Development is urgent and the SoS should give substantial weight to this need in decision-making on the Application.
Paragraph 3.2.3	It is not the role of the planning system to deliver specific amounts or limit any form of infrastructure covered by this NPS. It is for industry to propose new energy infrastructure projects that they assess to be viable within the strategic framework set by government. This is the nature of a market-based energy system. With the exception of new coal or large-scale oil-fired electricity generation, the government does not consider it appropriate for planning policy to set limits on different technologies but planning policy can be used to support the government's ambitions in energy policy and other policy areas.	With regards to Paragraphs 3.2.3 to 3.2.5 it should be noted that NPS EN-1 emphasises that there are no policy limits set for different technologies. Presence of additional low carbon Proposed Development in the area or elsewhere should not, therefore, affect the demonstrable need for the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 3.2.4	It is not the government's intention in presenting any of the figures or targets in this NPS to propose limits on any new infrastructure that can be consented in accordance with the energy NPSs. A large number of consented	

	projects can help deliver an affordable electricity system, by driving competition and reducing costs within and amongst different technology and infrastructure types. Consenting new projects also enables projects utilising more advanced technology and greater efficiency to come forward. The delivery of an affordable energy system does not always mean picking the least cost technologies. A diversity of supply can aid in ensuring affordability for the system overall and relative costs can change over time, particularly for new and emerging technologies. It is not the role of the planning system to compare the costs of individual developments or technology types.	
Paragraph 3.2.5	The government has other mechanisms to influence the delivery of its energy objectives and imposing limits on the consenting of different types of energy infrastructure would reduce competition, increase costs, and disincentivise newer, more efficient solutions coming forward. This does not reduce the need for individual projects to demonstrate compliance with planning and environmental requirements or mean that everything that	

	obtains development consent will get built.	
Paragraph 3.2.6	**The Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent, as described for each of them in this Part.** [Bold formatted in the NPS].	The Applicant notes that, in accordance with this policy, the need for infrastructure such as the Proposed Development is acknowledged and is urgent.
Paragraph 3.2.7	**In addition, the Secretary of State has determined that substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.** [Bold formatted in the NPS].	This Policy further emphasises that the SoS should give substantial weight to the need for new energy infrastructure when determining applications for development consent.
Paragraph 3.2.8	**The Secretary of State is not required to consider separately the specific contribution of any individual project to satisfying the need established in this NPS.** [Bold formatted in the NPS].	Section 5 of the Planning Statement sets out the need for the Proposed Development. It is considered to be an important and relevant matter.
Paragraph 3.3.3	To ensure that there is sufficient electricity to meet demand, new electricity infrastructure will have to be built to replace output from retiring plants and to ensure we can meet increased	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will help meet the demand for energy which is expected to rise substantially

	demand. Our analysis suggests that even with major improvements in overall energy efficiency, and increased flexibility in the energy system, demand for electricity is likely to increase significantly over the coming years and could more than double by 2050 as large parts of transport, heating and industry decarbonise by switching from fossil fuels to low carbon electricity. The Impact Assessment for CB6 shows an illustrative range of 465515TWh in 2035 and 610-800TWh in 2050.	in the future.
Paragraph 3.3.12	Decentralised and community energy systems such as micro-generation contribute to our targets on reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy security. These technologies could also lead to some reduction in demand on the main generation and transmission system. However, the government does not believe they will replace the need for new large-scale electricity infrastructure to meet our energy objectives. This is because connection of large-scale, centralised electricity generating facilities via a high voltage transmission system enables the pooling of both generation and demand, which in turn offers a number of	This policy clearly sets out that while decentralised and community energy schemes such as rooftop solar, can contribute to targets, it will not replace the need for new large-scale electricity infrastructure. This policy acknowledges that large scale electricity generation facilities are needed. The Scheme would connect directly to the NETS; to enable the transfer of the electricity it generates over a wide geographical area, as per this policy.

	economic and other benefits, such as more efficient bulk transfer of power and enabling surplus generation capacity in one area to be used to cover shortfalls elsewhere.	The Proposed Development should be considered on the basis that its need is established, and this established and urgent need should be given substantial weight in the decision.
Paragraph 3.3.13	The Net Zero Strategy sets out the government's ambition for increasing the deployment of low carbon energy infrastructure consistent with delivering our carbon budgets and the 2050 net zero target. This made clear the commitment that the cost of the transition to net zero should be fair and affordable.	As set out in Section 5 of the Planning Statement, large-scale solar power decarbonises the electricity system. This lowers the market price of electricity by generating power so that expensive and more carbon intensive forms of generation do not need to generate as much. In doing so, solar power delivers national decarbonisation benefits and supports consumer affordability aims, to the benefit of electricity consumers. Furthermore, due to technological advances, solar facilities are already among the cheapest form of electricity generation in the UK and Government forecasts indicate that costs will continue to reduce in the future. Solar power is economically

		attractive in the UK against many other forms of conventional and renewable generation.
Paragraph 3.3.16	If demand for electricity doubles by 2050, we will need a fourfold increase in low carbon generation and significant expansion of the networks that transport power to where it is needed. In addition, we committed in the Net Zero Strategy43 to take action so that by 2035, all our electricity will come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in electricity demand. This means that the majority of new generating capacity needs to be low carbon.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains that the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020s and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of generation in the resource-rich, well-connected and technically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency.
Paragraph 3.3.19	Given the changing nature of the energy landscape, we need a diverse mix of electricity infrastructure to come forward, so that we can deliver a secure, reliable, affordable, and net zero consistent system during the transition to 2050 for a wide range of demand,	As explained in Section 5 of the Planning Statement, large scale solar is expected to be an important part of the diverse energy mix that this policy sets out is needed.

	decarbonisation, and technology scenarios.	
Paragraph 3.3.20	Wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity supply (as they are not reliant on fuel for generation). Our analysis shows that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar.	This policy emphasises that solar is also one of the lowest cost ways of generating electricity and that solar is one of the predominant technologies anticipated to produce electricity by 2050. The Proposed Development is therefore strongly supported by both the need for decarbonised grid and affordable energy supplies. The cost of solar generation is already super- competitive against the cost of other forms of conventional and low-carbon generation, both locally and more widely. Internationally there is the ongoing trend of solar generation assets becoming larger and more affordable, each subsequent project providing a real-life demonstration that solar schemes of similar size and scale as the Proposed Development can be developed locally. The development of such Proposed Developments will provide decarbonisation and commercial

		benefits to consumers. Single large-scale solar schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward carbon reductions and more affordable electricity, in line with government policy.
Paragraph 3.3.57	Government has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 under carbon budget 6.61 According to the Net Zero Strategy this means that by 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in demand.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards the fight against the global climate emergency.
Paragraph	Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for	The Proposed Development has great potential to deliver a substantial

3.3.58	electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy.	amount of low carbon electricity in a short timescale, with the potential to be operational by October 2029. Therefore, consent on low carbon schemes, like that proposed at Steeple Renewables Project, that are compliant with policy and can be delivered urgently should be granted without delay.
Paragraph 3.3.59	All the generating technologies mentioned above are urgently needed to meet the government's energy objectives by: • providing security of supply (by reducing reliance on imported oil and gas, avoiding concentration risk and not relying on one fuel or generation type); • providing an affordable, reliable system (through the deployment of technologies with complementary characteristics); • ensuring the system is net zero consistent (by remaining in line with our carbon budgets and maintaining the options required to deliver for a wide range of demand, decarbonisation and technology scenarios, including where there are	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards the fight against the global climate emergency. As part of a diverse generation mix,

	difficulties with delivering any technology).	solar generation contributes to improve the stability of capacity utilisations among renewable generators. When developed alongside other renewable technologies, large-scale solar (especially when co-located with BESS) will smooth out seasonal variations in total GB renewable generation, more closely matching anticipated seasonal levels of demand. Other conventional low-carbon generation (e.g. tidal, nuclear or conventional carbon with CCUS) remain important contributors to achieving the 2050 Net Zero obligation, but their contributions in the important 2020s and 2030's will be very low. As per paragraph 3.2.7, the Proposed Development should be considered on the basis that its need is established, and this urgent need should be given substantial weight in the decision.
Paragraph	Known generation technologies that are included within the scope of this NPS (and	This confirms that solar PV generation facilities, such as the Proposed

3.3.60	would be classed as an NSIP if above the relevant capacity thresholds set out under the Planning Act 2008) include:..... Solar PV	Development, are covered by the published suite of Energy NPSs and are urgently required.
Paragraph 3.3.61	The need for all these types of infrastructure is established by this NPS and a combination of many or all of them is urgently required for both energy security and Net Zero, as set out above.	As per paragraph 3.2.7, the Proposed Development should be considered on the basis that its need is established, and this urgent need should be given substantial weight in the decision on the Application.
Paragraph 3.3.62	Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure. Section 4.2 states which energy generating technologies are low carbon and are therefore CNP infrastructure.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards the fight against the global climate emergency.

Paragraph 3.3.63	Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency.
Paragraph 3.3.65	There is an urgent need for new electricity network infrastructure to be brought forward at pace to meet our energy objectives.	This policy confirms the urgent need for the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development has great potential to deliver a substantial amount of low carbon electricity (and electricity storage) in a short timescale, with the potential to be operational by October 2029.
Paragraph	Government has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 under CB6.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains the Proposed Development

3.3.82	According to the Net Zero Strategy this means that by 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in demand.	will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020's and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of the generation in resource-rich, well connected and technologically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and commercially rational step towards the fight against the global climate emergency.
Paragraph 3.3.83	Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy.	This policy again emphasises the urgent need for the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development has great potential to deliver a substantial amount of low carbon electricity (and energy storage) in a short timescale, with the potential to be operational by October 2029.
Assessment Principles		
Paragraph 4.1.5	In considering any proposed development, in	The Applicant has produced a suite of

	particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Secretary of State should take into account: • its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation, reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits; • its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy	documents that are submitted with this Application, that have assessed the adverse impacts of the Scheme, as well as the benefits it will bring. Section 5, 6 and 7 of the Planning Statement sets out the benefits of the scheme. Along with contributing to a sufficient, reliable and affordable energy system whilst helping the government decarbonise, and meet national climate change targets and budgets, the Scheme provides a number of other benefits which are set out below. **Electricity Generation** – Over the 40-year lifetime of the Proposed Development, the DCO Application will provide a renewable energy scheme totalling 600MW, equating to the annual energy consumption of approximately 180,000 households (roughly half of the homes in Nottinghamshire County). This is a significant increase in electricity generation with recognition that more

		electricity generation is needed to meet demand. **Decarbonisation – ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]** has also taken account of emissions used to create products used by and to construct the scheme as well as annual emission from water use, replacement products and energy consumption on site whilst in operation. Over a 40-year operational lifetime the Scheme would result in a reduction of up to 1,380,000 tCO2e compared to a scenario where the development does not go ahead – a significant contribution towards cutting greenhouse gas emissions, delivering carbon budgets and achieving net zero by 2050 (objectives set out at paragraph 2.3.3 of NPS EN-1). **Environmental Benefits** – The Proposed Development would provide a number of environmental and ecological enhancements and has

		been designed to avoid key nature conservation and ecological features present within or adjacent to the Order limits. These measures are set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. In addition to avoidance measures, existing vegetation and habitats will be retained and enhanced, to protect existing wildlife corridors and retain and improve connectivity and valuable habitats. The Proposed Development will meet 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site.

		The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy. **Permissive Paths** – Two new permissive paths would be included within the Scheme, offering recreational access in an area where PRoWs are limited, having a beneficial impact on health and wellbeing. **Economic Benefits** - **ES Chapter 10: Socio Economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** sets out the proposals impact on employment and effect on the local economy through the three phases of the Proposed Development. During construction significant benefits in terms of access to employment and education have been identified as a result of the Proposed Development through the support of 382 net direct jobs per annum during the construction period. Of these, 289 jobs per annum are

		expected to be taken up by residents in Bassetlaw District. Prior to construction, a local skills and employment plan will be prepared setting out measures the Applicant will use to advertise and promote employment opportunities associated with construction and operation of the Proposed Development locally. Gross Value Added (GVA) to the economy from workers is expected to be £29.5 million of benefit to the local economy all retained within Bassetlaw District. Decommissioning of the Scheme is likely to generate around 50% of GVA per annum as the construction phase with adjustments made for inflation between construction and decommissioning. The adverse impacts of the Proposed Development are set out in the relevant **chapters, appendices and figures of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4].** A summary of environmental effects is

		found within **ES Chapter 18: Summary [EN010163/APP/6.2.18]**. Overall, with appropriate mitigation implemented, this identifies a relatively limited number of temporary significant adverse effects on landscape and visual, transport, and noise. When considered relative to the large-scale nature of the Proposed Development these effects are considered to be relatively limited and outweighed by the significant national benefits that the Proposed Development will provide by providing much needed large scale renewable energy generation, and more localised benefits as set out above.
Paragraph 4.1.6	In this context, the Secretary of State should take into account environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels. These may be identified in this NPS, the relevant technology specific NPS, in the application or elsewhere (including in local impact reports, marine plans, and other material considerations as outlined in	The environmental, social and economic benefits of the Proposed Development are set out in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Planning Statement. The adverse impacts of the Proposed Development are set out in relevant chapter, appendices and figures of the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]**. These

	Section 1.1).	take account of impacts and benefits at national, regional and local levels.
Paragraph 4.1.7	Where this NPS or the relevant technology specific NPSs require an applicant to mitigate a particular impact as far as possible, but the Secretary of State considers that there would still be residual adverse effects after the implementation of such mitigation measures, the Secretary of State should weigh those residual effects against the benefits of the proposed development. For projects which qualify as CNP Infrastructure, it is likely that the need case will outweigh the residual effects in all but the most exceptional cases. This presumption, however, does not apply to residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or unacceptable risk to the achievement of net zero. Further, the same exception applies to this presumption for residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference offshore to navigation, or onshore to flood and coastal erosion risk.	The adverse impacts of the Proposed Development are set out in relevant chapter, appendices and figures of the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]**. These take account of impacts and benefits at national, regional and local levels.

Paragraph 4.1.12	Other matters that the Secretary of State may consider both important and relevant to their decision-making may include Development Plan documents or other documents in the Local Development Framework.	Other matters that the SoS may consider both important and relevant to their decision-making including Development Plan documents or other documents in the Local Development Framework has been considered in the Planning Statement which provides an assessment of the Proposed Developments compliance with the policies within these documents. The Proposed Development has taken account of the stage which the Development Plan document in England has reached. These are also set out within Appendix D of this Planning Statement.
Paragraph 4.1.13	Where the project conflicts with a proposal in a draft Development Plan, the Secretary of State should take account of the stage which the Development Plan document in England or Local Development Plan in Wales has reached in deciding what weight to give to the plan for the purposes of determining the planning significance of what is replaced, prevented, or precluded.	
Paragraph 4.1.14	The closer the Development Plan document in England or Local Development Plan in Wales is to being adopted by the LPA, the greater weight which can be attached to it.	
Paragraph 4.1.15	In the event of a conflict between these documents and an NPS, the NPS prevails for the purpose of Secretary of State decision making given the national significance of the infrastructure.	The Applicant notes that in the event of a conflict between these documents and an NPS, the NPS prevails for the purpose of SoS decision making given the national significance of the infrastructure.

Paragraph 4.2.4	Government has therefore concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure.	This confirms low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure, such as the Proposed Development, is a CNP, and is urgently needed to help meet the Governments energy objectives. The Planning Statement concludes that in order to meet these objectives, and bring forward CNP infrastructure as quickly as possible, the evidence points to the development of proven technologies such as large scale solar. It also states that such developments should be brought forwards with urgency to make tangible and essential advances in decarbonisation in the near term.
Paragraph 4.2.5	This does not extend the definition of what counts as nationally significant infrastructure: the scope remains as set out in the Planning Act 2008. Low carbon infrastructure for the purposes of this policy means: • for electricity generation, all onshore and offshore generation that does not involve fossil	This policy confirms that the solar PV generation facilities, such as the Proposed Development, are covered by the definition of "CNP" and as set out in Section 5 of this Planning Statement are urgently required.

	fuel combustion (that is, renewable generation, including anaerobic digestion and other plants that convert residual waste into energy, including combustion, provided they meet existing definitions of low carbon; and nuclear generation), as well as natural gas fired generation which is carbon capture ready; • for electricity grid infrastructure, all power lines in scope of EN-5 including network reinforcement and upgrade works, and associated infrastructure such as substations. This is not limited to those associated specifically with a particular generation technology, as all new grid projects will contribute towards greater efficiency in constructing, operating and connecting low carbon infrastructure to the National Electricity Transmission System; • for other energy infrastructure, fuels, pipelines and storage infrastructure, which fits within the normal definition of "low carbon", such as hydrogen distribution, and carbon dioxide distribution; • for energy infrastructure which is directed into	

	the NSIP regime under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008, and fit within the normal definition of "low carbon", such as interconnectors, Multi-Purpose Interconnectors, or 'bootstraps' to support the onshore network which are routed offshore; • Lifetime extensions of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure, and repowering of projects.	
Paragraph 4.2.6	The overarching need case for each type of energy infrastructure and the substantial weight which should be given to this need in assessing applications, as set out in paragraphs 3.2.6 to 3.2.8 of EN-1, is the starting point for all assessments of energy infrastructure applications.	This confirms the Proposed Development should be considered on the basis that its need is established as a Critical National Priority (CNP) and the urgent need for this infrastructure should be given substantial weight in the decision-making process. Section 5 of the Planning Statement set out the Need for the Proposed Development. In order to meet these objectives, and bring forward CNP infrastructure as quickly as possible, the evidence points to the development of proven technologies such as large scale solar.
Paragraph 4.2.7	The CNP policy **does not** create an additional or cumulative need case or weighting to that which is already outlined for each type of energy infrastructure. The policy applies following the normal consideration of the need case, the impacts of the project, and the application of the mitigation hierarchy. As such, it is relevant during Secretary of State decision	

	making and specifically in reference to any residual impacts that have been identified. It should therefore also be given consideration by the Examining Authority when it is making its recommendation to the Secretary of State.	Proposed Developments should be brought forwards with urgency to make tangible and essential advances in decarbonisation in the near term.
Paragraph 4.2.8	During decision making, the CNP policy will influence how non-HRA and nonMCZ residual impacts are considered in the planning balance. The policy will therefore also influence how the Secretary of State considers whether tests requiring clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality, or very special circumstances have been met by a CNP Infrastructure application. Further detail is provided in paragraphs 4.2.15 to 4.2.17, and Figure 2.	This paragraph makes it clear that when consenting a CNP project, consideration should be given to CNP policy when considering whether tests are met by the application.
Paragraph 4.2.9	During decision making, the CNP policy also explains the Secretary of State's approach to HRA derogations and MCZ assessments. Specifically, the policy explains how the alternative solutions and IROPI tests are considered by the Secretary of State. Further detail is provided in paragraphs 4.2.18 to 4.2.22, and Figure 3.	This paragraph makes it clear that when consenting a CNP project, consideration should be given to CNP policy when considering whether tests are met by the application.
Paragraph	Applicants for CNP infrastructure must	This Planning Statement sets out how

4.2.10	continue to show how their application meets the requirements in this NPS and the relevant technology specific NPS, applying the mitigation hierarchy, as well as any other legal and regulatory requirements.	the application meets the requirements of the designated NPSs including EN-1, EN-2 and EN-5. The mitigation hierarchy has been applied throughout the design and development of the Proposed Development and has resulted in a project with limited significant residual effects. The **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]** sets out that any residual effects are those that cannot be avoided, reduced or mitigated. With appropriate mitigation implemented, a relatively limited number of temporary significant adverse effects on landscape and visual, transport, and noise are anticipated. When considered relative to the large-scale nature of the Proposed Development these effects are considered to be relatively limited and outweighed by the significant national benefits that the Proposed Development will provide by providing
Paragraph 4.2.11	Applicants must apply the mitigation hierarchy and demonstrate that it has been applied. They should also seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB or other relevant statutory body when undertaking this process. Applicants should demonstrate that all residual impacts are those that cannot be avoided, reduced or mitigated.	
Paragraph 4.2.12	Applicants should set out how residual impacts will be compensated for as far as possible. Applicants should also set out how any mitigation or compensation measures will be monitored and reporting agreed to ensure success and that action is taken. Changes to measures may be needed e.g. adaptive management. The cumulative impacts of multiple developments with residual impacts should also be considered.	

		much needed large scale renewable energy generation, and more localised benefits as set out above. The Proposed Development results in residual significant beneficial effects on the climate due to a reduction in GHG emissions. The **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]** sets out cumulative impacts of the development and details how the Applicant has taken these into account through the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 4.2.14	The Secretary of State will continue to consider the impacts and benefits of all CNP Infrastructure applications on a case-by-case basis. The Secretary of State must be satisfied that the applicant's assessment demonstrates that the requirements set out above have been met. Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that they have been met, the CNP presumptions set out below apply.	The Applicant's assessment within the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]** demonstrates that the requirements of this policy have been met.
Paragraph 4.2.15	Where residual non-HRA or non-MCZ impacts remain after the mitigation hierarchy has been	It is acknowledged in these paragraphs that residual non HRA or non MCZ

	applied, these residual impacts are unlikely to outweigh the urgent need for this type of infrastructure. Therefore, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that consent will be refused on the basis of these residual impacts. The exception to this presumption of consent are residual impacts onshore and offshore which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or unacceptable risk to the achievement of net zero. Further, the same exception applies to this presumption for residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference offshore to navigation, or onshore to flood and coastal erosion risk.	impacts are unlikely to outweigh the urgent need for this type of infrastructure. As demonstrated in Section 6 of the Planning Statement and above, the key adverse impacts of the Proposed Development relate to significant effects upon landscape character due to the change in use of the land, localised landscape and visual impacts being relatively limited and local in nature, and less than substantial harm at the lower end of the spectrum to designated heritage assets. These impacts are non HRA and non MCZ. The design development of the Proposed Development has followed the mitigation hierarchy, and all residual effects have been reduced as far as practicable. It is very clear that the extent and nature of the residual impacts do not trigger exceptional circumstances to refuse consent with the presumption firmly engaged in favour of granting development
Paragraph 4.2.16	As a result, the Secretary of State will take as the starting point for decision-making that such infrastructure is to be treated as if it has met any tests which are set out within the NPSs, or any other planning policy, which requires a clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality or very special circumstances.	
Paragraph	This means that the Secretary of State will take	

4.2.17	as a starting point that CNP Infrastructure will meet the following, non-exhaustive, list of tests: • where development within a Green Belt requires very special circumstances to justify development; • where development within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) requires the benefits (including need) of the development in the location proposed to clearly outweigh both the likely impact on features of the site that make it a SSSI, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs; • where development in nationally designated landscapes requires exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated; and • where substantial harm to or loss of significance to heritage assets should be exceptional or wholly exceptional.	consent to deliver CNP infrastructure, as set out in paragraph 4.2.15 of NPS EN-1 which states that "*in all but the most exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that consent will be refused on the basis of these residual impacts*". The limited and localised impacts resulting from the Scheme do not come anywhere near the tests set out in paragraph 4.2.16, with no impact on nationally designated landscapes or substantial harm or loss to significance of heritage assets. By contrast, the benefits of the Proposed Development are very substantial (in terms of climate change) and significant (in terms of ecology and nature conservation) at both a national, regional and local level, leading to an overwhelming balance in favour of granting development consent for the Proposed Development. In terms of S104(7), the benefits of the Proposed Development

		clearly and decisively outweigh its limited and localised adverse impacts.
Paragraph 4.3.1	All proposals for projects that are subject to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project.	An **Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010163/APP/6.2] with accompanying Appendices [EN010163/APP/6.3], Figures [EN010163/APP/6.4]** and **Non-technical Summary [EN010163/APP/6.1]** have been submitted with this DCO Application. These describe the aspects of the environmental likely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 4.3.5	For the purposes of this NPS and the technology specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from preconstruction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.	The **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]** covers the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 4.3.10	The applicant must provide information proportionate to the scale of the project, ensuring the information is sufficient to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations.	The **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2/6.3/6.4]** meets the requirements of the EIA Regulations, and provides information proportionate to the scale of the

		Proposed Development.
Alternatives		
Paragraph 4.3.9	As in any planning case, the relevance or otherwise to the decision making process of the existence (or alleged existence) of alternatives to the proposed development is, in the first instance, a matter of law. This NPS does not contain any general requirement to consider alternatives or to establish whether the proposed project represents the best option from a policy perspective. Although there are specific requirements in relation to compulsory acquisition and habitats sites, the NPS does not change requirements in relation to compulsory acquisition and habitats sites.	There is no general requirement from a policy perspective to consider alternatives or to establish whether the Proposed Development represents the 'best option'. This Planning Statement and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** set out how the Proposed Development accords with policies and legislation where consideration of alternatives may be relevant, such as flood risk and explains how the Proposed Development has taken account of the locational criteria for solar farms that is set out in relevant policies. In addition, **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** sets out information in relation to alternatives that is requires by the Infrastructure

		Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and, as a matter of fact, includes information about the main alternatives studied. Due to the location of the development and limited impacts, there is no potential for impacts to sites protected under the Habitats Directive, no requirement to consider alternatives due to biodiversity effects (there are no likely significant adverse effects on biodiversity) and no potential for development within nationally designated landscapes. The Order limits are located partially within the Environment Agency's (EA) medium-risk Flood Zone 2 and high-risk Flood Zone 3 with some small areas of medium to high risk of surface water flooding. Therefore, a consideration of alternatives to meet the flood risk sequential test (and Exception Test) policy requirement is set out in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and**

		Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3], **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]**. These documents further set out how the Proposed Development has considered alternatives in relation to flood risk and provides further information on how flood risk is managed. Therefore, the Application satisfies all requirements to consider alternatives in relation to flood risk.
Paragraph 4.3.15	Applicants are obliged to include in their ES, information about the reasonable alternatives they have studied. This should include an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental, social and economic effects and including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility.	There is no general requirement from a policy perspective to consider alternatives or to establish whether the Proposed Development represents the 'best option'. This Planning Statement and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** sets out how the Proposed Development accords with policies and legislation where consideration of alternatives may be relevant, such as flood risk and
Paragraph 4.3.17	Where there is a policy or legal requirement to consider alternatives, the applicant should describe the alternatives considered in compliance with these requirements.	

Paragraph 4.3.20	The Government has set 13 legally binding targets for England under the Environment Act 2021, covering the areas of: biodiversity; air quality; water; resource efficiency and waste reduction; tree and woodland cover; and Marine Protected Areas. Meeting the legally binding targets will be a shared endeavour that will require a whole of government approach to delivery. The Secretary of State have regard to the ambitions, goals and targets set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 for improving the natural environment and heritage. This includes having regard to the achievement of statutory targets set under the Environment Act.	explains how the Proposed Development has taken account of the locational criteria for solar farms that is set out in relevant policies. **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**, sets out information in relation to alternatives that is required by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and, as a matter of fact, includes information about the main alternatives studied. The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** confirms there are no significant effects to biodiversity from construction, operation of decommissioning of the Proposed Development and therefore no requirement to consider alternatives due to biodiversity effects.
Paragraph 4.3.22	Given the level and urgency of need for new energy infrastructure, the Secretary of State should, subject to any relevant legal requirements (e.g. under the Habitats Regulations) which indicate otherwise, be guided by the following principles when deciding what weight should be given to alternatives: • the consideration of alternatives in order to comply with policy requirements should be	

	carried out in a proportionate manner; and • only alternatives that can meet the objectives of the proposed development need to be considered.	The Order limits are located partially within the Environment Agency's (EA) medium-risk Flood Zone 2 and high-risk Flood Zone 3 with some small areas medium to high risk of surface water flooding. Therefore, a consideration of alternatives to meet the flood risk sequential test (and Exception Test) policy requirement is set out in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3], Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3] and Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]**. These documents further sets out how the Proposed Development has considered alternatives in relation to flood risk and provides further information on how flood risk is managed. Therefore, the Application satisfies all requirements to consider alternatives in relation to flood risk.
Paragraph 4.3.23	The Secretary of State should be guided in considering alternative proposals by whether there is a realistic prospect of the alternative delivering the same infrastructure capacity (including energy security, climate change, and other environmental benefits) in the same timescale as the proposed development.	
Paragraph 4.3.24	The Secretary of State should not refuse an application for development on one site simply because fewer adverse impacts would result from developing similar infrastructure on another suitable site, and should have regard as appropriate to the possibility that all suitable sites for energy infrastructure of the type proposed may be needed for future proposals.	
Paragraph 4.3.25	Alternatives not among the main alternatives studied by the applicant (as reflected in the ES) should only be considered to the extent that the Secretary of State thinks they are both	

	important and relevant to the decision.	
Paragraph 4.3.27	Alternative proposals which mean the necessary development could not proceed, for example because the alternative proposals are not commercially viable or alternative proposals for sites would not be physically suitable, can be excluded on the grounds that they are not important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision.	
Paragraph 4.3.28	Alternative proposals which are vague or immature can be excluded on the grounds that they are not important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision.	
Paragraph 4.3.29	It is intended that potential alternatives to a proposed development should, wherever possible, be identified before an application is made to the Secretary of State (so as to allow appropriate consultation and the development of a suitable evidence base in relation to any alternatives which are particularly relevant). Therefore, where an alternative is first put forward by a third party after an application has been made, the Secretary of State may place the onus on the person proposing the	

	alternative to provide the evidence for its suitability as such and the Secretary of State should not necessarily expect the applicant to have assessed it.	
Health		
Paragraph 4.4.4	As described in the relevant sections of this NPS and in the technology specific NPSs, where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess these effects for each element of the project, identifying any potential adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate.	A **Health Impact Assessment [EN010163/APP/7.2]** presents an assessment of the likely significant effects on human health as a result of the Proposed using IEMA guidance on health. The assessment includes transport, employment and income, air quality, noise and vibration, climate change and landscape and visual amenity. It also considers impacts on access and connections, including: community connectivity such as access to services, facilities and open space, prioritisation of walking and cycling; and road and route safety. As a result of site selection and design, no significant adverse effects are anticipated on health as a result of the
Paragraph 4.4.5	The impacts of more than one development may affect people simultaneously, so the applicant should consider the cumulative impact on health in the ES where appropriate.	
Paragraph 4.4.6	Opportunities should be taken to mitigate indirect impacts, by promoting local improvements to encourage health and wellbeing, this includes potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society and impacts on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, i.e. those groups which	

	may be differentially impacted by a development compared to wider society as a whole.	Proposed Development.
Paragraph 4.4.7	Generally, those aspects of energy infrastructure which are most likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on health are subject to separate regulation (for example for air pollution) which will constitute effective mitigation of them, so that it is unlikely that health concerns will either by themselves constitute a reason to refuse consent or require specific mitigation under the Planning Act 2008.	
Paragraph 4.4.8	However, not all potential sources of health impacts will be mitigated in this way and the Secretary of State may want to take account of health concerns when setting requirements relating to a range of impacts such as noise.	
Biodiversity Net Gain		
Paragraph 4.6.1	Environmental net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. Projects should therefore not only avoid, mitigate and compensate harms,	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** explains that the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid all sites statutorily designated

	following the mitigation hierarchy, but also consider whether there are opportunities for enhancements.	for their biodiversity importance and to avoid or minimise impacts on sites that are non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance. Measures embedded within the Proposed Developments design will ensure that no significant effects are anticipated on designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning e.g., through siting construction routes away from designated sites, incorporating suitable buffer zones and erection of temporary construction fencing to avoid incursion into exclusion zones. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out the Proposed Development has been designed from the outset to avoid key nature conservation and ecological features present within, or adjacent to the Order limits. Accordingly, the following buffers from key habitat features has been applied:
Paragraph 4.6.2	Biodiversity net gain is an essential component of environmental net gain. Projects in England should consider and seek to incorporate improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver when planning how to deliver biodiversity net gain.	

		a. All woodland – at least 15m b. All trees and hedgerows with individual trees – protected by clearly defined root protection areas, concordant with the requirements of each individual tree c. Watercourses (where practicable) – at least 10m from bank-top of the watercourses d. Standing water – at least 20m e. Hedgerows (where practicable) – at least 5m The Proposed Development would provide extensive woodland planting (also referred to as buffers) and native tree belts will be established to reinforce the retained existing woodland and tree belts. New hedgerows with trees will be established to supplement the existing, retained hedgerows with trees. These will provide both a valuable habitat, forming important

		wildlife corridors and re- enforcing existing ones. A range of artificial bird and bat boxes will be installed in existing woodland areas, on retained individual trees and existing trees in hedgerows to increase the availability of nesting and roosting features and enhance the value of these habitats for these species groups **ES Appendix 7.14 Outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** contains details of all ecological mitigation and enhancements. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed

		Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Paragraph 4.6.6	Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible.	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of the **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site.
Paragraph 4.6.7	In England applicants for onshore elements of any development are encouraged to use the	The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES**

	latest version of the biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and present planned biodiversity net gain outcomes. This calculation data should be presented in full as part of their application.	**Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site.
Paragraph 4.6.8	Where possible, this data should be shared, alongside a completed biodiversity metric calculation, with the Local Authority and Natural England for discussion at the pre-application stage as it can help to highlight biodiversity and wider environmental issues which may later cause delays if not addressed.	
Paragraph 4.6.10	Biodiversity net gain should be applied after compliance with the mitigation hierarchy and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations, although compliance with those obligations will be relevant to the question of the baseline for assessing net gain and if they deliver an additional enhancement beyond meeting the existing obligation, that enhancement will count towards net gain.	
Paragraph 4.6.13	In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains and benefits to	The Proposed Development will deliver significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over its lifetime, as

	communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities, such as: • reductions in GHG emissions, • reduced flood risk, • improvements to air or water quality, • climate adaptation, • landscape enhancement • increased access to natural greenspace, or • the enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of specific projects. Applicants should look for a holistic approach to delivering wider environmental gains and benefits through the use of nature-based solutions and Green Infrastructure.	detailed in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**. As the Proposed Development contributes to the delivery of low carbon, it will lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and the need for fossils fuels which may result in an indirect improvement in air quality. The Proposed Developments climate adaption measures are set out in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**, **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** and **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**, as well as **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.

		Landscape enhancement measures are set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site.
Paragraph 4.6.15	Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design (including any relevant operational aspects) of the project.	The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix**

		7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7] demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. Opportunities to enhance other environmental gains are outlined by topic in the relevant Chapters of the **ES [EN010163/APP/6.2],** the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and how these have been implemented as part of good design is set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement.
Paragraph 4.6.16	Applicants should make use of available guidance and tools for measuring natural capital assets and ecosystem services, such as the Natural Capital Committee's 'How to Do it: natural capital workbook', the government's guidance on Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (ENCA), and other tools that aim to	**ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and **ES Appendix 15.2 outline Soil Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** set out the management strategy for the Site.

	enable wider benefits for people and nature.	
Paragraph 4.6.17	Where environmental net gain considerations have featured as part of the strategic options appraisal process to select a project, applicants should reference that information to supplement the site-specific details.	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** details how alternative options for the Proposed Development were considered during design development.
Paragraph 4.6.18	Opportunities for environmental, social, and economic enhancements, protection and mitigation measures are identified in a number of sections in Part 5 of this NPS, which provides guidance on the impacts of new energy infrastructure.	The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site.
Paragraph 4.6.2	The biodiversity gain objective will be set out in a biodiversity gain statement (as defined under the Environment Act 2021). Normally these statements would be included within an NPS, but the Act allows for the statement to be published separately where a review of an NPS has begun before the provisions are commenced, as is the case with these energy NPSs. Under the provision of the Environment Act 2021, any such separate biodiversity gain	

	statement will be regarded as being contained within these NPSs.	
Paragraph 4.6.3	The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to environmental and biodiversity net gain, although any weight given to gains provided to meet a legal requirement (for example under the Environment Act 2021) is likely to be limited.	
Design		
Paragraph 4.7.1	The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object – be it a building or other type of infrastructure – including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the
Paragraph 4.7.2	Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and	

	operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.	Proposed Developments design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Paragraph 4.7.3	Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. Projects should look to use modern methods of construction and sustainable design practices such as use of sustainable timber and low carbon concrete. Where possible, projects should include the reuse of material.	
Paragraph 4.7.4	Given the benefits of good design in mitigating the adverse impacts of a project, applicants should consider how good design can be applied to a project during the early stages of the project lifecycle.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process. Design decisions have been informed by outcomes of statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement, ongoing

		environmental assessments, engineering and design considerations, and collaboration with other developers. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Scheme's design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Scheme, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050; • Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by diversifying energy production and stored energy; • Contribution towards strategy

		improvements to local ecology and biodiversity; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to heritage assets and settings; • Safeguard surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to existing land quality; and • Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use.

		The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Scheme's design is summarised in in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Paragraph 4.7.5	To ensure good design is embedded within the project development, a project board level design champion could be appointed, and a representative design panel used to maximise the value provided by the infrastructure. Design principles should be established from the outset of the project to guide the development from conception to operation. Applicants should consider how their design principles can be applied post-consent.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Developments design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site**

		Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3] and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The Proposed Developments design and project team have worked collaboratively to produce a cohesive and responsive design for the Site which has been informed by statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement, ongoing environmental assessments, engineering and design considerations, and in collaboration with other developers bringing forward solar DCO projects within proximity to the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 4.7.6	Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, land form and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large

	development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process.	amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Developments design is set out in **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**.
Paragraph 4.7.7	Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected.	The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Developments design are set out in **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**.
Paragraph 4.7.8	Applicants should consider taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal. In particular, the Design Council can	The Proposed Development has undertaken meaningful engagement throughout the process which has

	be asked to provide design review for nationally significant infrastructure projects and applicants are encouraged to use this service. Applicants should also consider any design guidance developed by the local planning authority.	resulted in improvements and iteration of the Proposal to address comments made in the interests of good design and positive engagement. The Applicant has sought feedback from a wide range of stakeholders and had regard to the relevant responses received in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008 and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance. The Applicant has had continued engagement with key stakeholders throughout the pre-application process including but not limited to heritage, landscape, highway, ecology, fire and rescue, planning and tree officers on behalf Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council, Natural England, Historic England, National Highways and the Environment Agency.
Paragraph 4.7.10	In the light of the above and given the importance which the Planning Act 2008 places on good design and sustainability, the Secretary	The location and design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection

	of State needs to be satisfied that energy infrastructure developments are sustainable and, having regard to regulatory and other constraints, are as attractive, durable, and adaptable (including taking account of natural hazards such as flooding) as they can be.	process to avoid and minimise impacts as early as possible. Following this, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using solar PV arrays, whilst also being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** explains how the Applicant has undertaken site selection and design in a proportionate way, in accordance with paragraphs 2.10.19 to 2.10.48 of NPS EN-3. **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design**

		Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3] and **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** detail how the Proposed Development meets the technical considerations of paragraphs 2.10.49 to 2.10.69 of NPS EN-3. **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]** sets out mitigation measures that will ensure that the Proposed Development is sustainable and adaptable including taking account of natural hazards such as flooding.
Paragraph 4.7.11	In doing so, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has considered both functionality (including fitness for purpose and sustainability) and aesthetics (including its contribution to the quality of the area in which it would be located, any potential amenity benefits, and visual impacts on the landscape or seascape) as far as possible.	While the appearance of solar PV is largely set by its function, the site layout, landscaping and access design have all been designed to reflect good design principles. Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The LVIA has informed the iterative design process, as detailed in the **Design and Access Statement**
Paragraph 4.7.12	In considering applications, the Secretary of State should take into account the ultimate	

	purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy. Many of the wider impacts of a development, such as landscape and environmental impacts, will be important factors in the design process.	**[EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The design and layout of the Proposed Development has been informed and developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment guidance. Design mitigation has been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity as set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. The landscape design principles incorporate the following: a. Careful siting in the landscape responding sensitively to its proximity to dwellings, settlements and PRoW b. Conserving the existing vegetation patterns including reinstatement and/or improvement of field boundaries c. Creating new green infrastructure including areas for woodland belts and screening

		d. Sensitive design in relation to form and materials
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience		
Paragraph 4.10.5	In certain circumstances, measures implemented to ensure a scheme can adapt to climate change may give rise to additional impacts, for example as a result of protecting against flood risk, there may be consequential impacts on coastal change. In preparing measures to support climate change adaptation applicants should take reasonable steps to maximise the use of nature-based solutions alongside other conventional techniques.	Consideration has been given to incorporating nature-based climate change adaption into the Scheme, and proposals for SuDS have been included. Details of climate change adaptation measures are set out in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12], ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** and **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8],** as well as **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], outline ES Appendix 4.4 OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.
Paragraph 4.10.6	Integrated approaches, such as looking across the water cycle, considering coordinated management of water storage, supply, demand, wastewater, and flood risk can provide further benefits to address multiple infrastructure needs, as well as carbon sequestration benefits.	
Paragraph 4.10.7	In addition to avoiding further GHG emissions when compared with more traditional adaptation approaches, nature-based solutions can also result in biodiversity benefits and net	

	gain, as well as increasing absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.	
Paragraph 4.10.8	New energy infrastructure will typically need to remain operational over many decades, in the face of a changing climate. Consequently, applicants must consider the direct (e.g. site flooding, limited water availability, storms, heatwave and wildfire threats to infrastructure and operations) and indirect (e.g. access roads or other critical dependencies impacted by flooding, storms, heatwaves or wildfires) impacts of climate change when planning the location, design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of new energy infrastructure.	**ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12], ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8**] and **ES Chapter 17: Other Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** consider the direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development on flooding, storms, major accidents and disasters and climate change. The have been considered in the design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 4.10.9	The ES should set out how the proposal will take account of the projected impacts of climate change, using government guidance and industry standard benchmarks such as the Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments, Climate Impacts Tool, and British Standards for climate change adaptation, in accordance with the EIA Regulations.	As outlined in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12],** the effects of climate change have been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development, and when considering how it will be constructed, operated and decommissioned. Measures embedded into the design

Paragraph 4.10.11	Applicants should demonstrate that proposals have a high level of climate resilience built-in from the outset and should also demonstrate how proposals can be adapted over their predicted lifetimes to remain resilient to a credible maximum climate change scenario. These results should be considered alongside relevant research which is based on the climate change projections.	of the Proposed Development include (but not limited to): a. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction/decommissioning waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable; b. Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; c. Reusing suitable infrastructure and resources where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements); d. Liaising with construction/decommissioning
Paragraph 4.10.13	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that applicants for new energy infrastructure have taken into account the potential impacts of climate change using the latest UK Climate Projections and associated research and expert guidance (such as the EA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments or the Welsh Government's Climate change allowances and flood consequence assessments) available at the time the ES was prepared to ensure they have identified appropriate mitigation or adaptation measures. This should cover the estimated lifetime of the new infrastructure, including any decommissioning period.	

		personnel for the potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options e. Implementing a Travel Plan in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** to reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Proposed Development; f. Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring construction vehicles conform to current emissions standards; and g. Conducting regular planning maintenance of the construction/decommissioning plant and machinery to optimise efficiency. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], outline ES Appendix 4.4 OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES**

		Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] will be developed into a detailed CEMP, OEMP and DP prior to the commencement of the construction phase as a means to secure the embedded mitigation measures. Further climate change resilience measures embedded into the Proposed Development, including measures associated with flood risk are included in the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. Further detail on the specific flood impacts and mitigation measures are discussed in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8].**
Paragraph 4.11.4	Transmission network infrastructure, and related network reinforcement and upgrade works, associated with nationally significant low carbon infrastructure is considered as CNP Infrastructure. Further guidance can be found in Section 4.2 of this NPS and EN-5.	Section 5 of this Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development is considered to be CNP infrastructure.

Paragraph 4.11.12	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that appropriate network connection arrangements are/will be in place for a given project regardless of whether one or multiple (linked) applications are submitted.	The **Grid Connection Statement [EN010163/APP/5.8]** confirms that the Applicant has received a grid connection offer from National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO) to connect the Proposed Development to the NETS. The Applicant has accepted this offer and plans for the DCO application to be operational in October 2029. NGET has confirmed that an existing spare bay within the National Grid West Burton Substation is currently available. The **Grid Connection Statement [EN010163/APP/5.8]** also confirms that the Applicant has, or will have, the ability to procure the necessary land and rights in order to connect to the National Grid West Burton Substation.
Paragraph 4.12.9	In considering an application for development consent the Secretary of State should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land or sea, and the	An **Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010163/APP/6.2]** and accompanying **ES Appendices [EN010163/APP/6.3], ES Figures**

	impact of that use, rather than the control of processes, emissions or discharges themselves.1	**[EN010163/APP/6.4]** and **ES Non-technical Summary [EN010163/APP/6.1]** have been submitted with this Application. These describe the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development. The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not have likely significant effects either alone or in combination with other projects, due to the distance of designated sites and absence of impact pathways. This demonstrates that the land is suitable for the Proposed Development with the presumption in favour of CNP infrastructure remaining. **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** outlines pollution controls for the

		construction and operation phases of the development**. ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** is also included. The **Details of Other Consents and Licenses Document [EN010163/APP/5.9]** also sets out other permits and consents that will be required post consent to ensure the implementation of protection measures to protect the water environment. **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** explains how the Applicant has undertaken site selection and design in a considered way to minimise environmental effects and again demonstrates the that the Proposed Development is suitable for the land.
Paragraph	Applicants should consult with the HSE on	The Applicant team has consulted with

4.13.5	matters relating to safety.	the HSE.
Paragraph 4.13.6	Applicants seeking to develop infrastructure subject to the COMAH regulations should make early contact with the Competent Authority.	The Proposed Development is not subject to the COMAH regulations.
Paragraph 4.13.7	If a safety report is required it is important to discuss with the Competent Authority the type of information that should be provided at the design and development stage, and what form this should take. This will enable the Competent Authority to review as much information as possible before construction begins, in order to assess whether the inherent features of the design are sufficient to prevent, control and mitigate major accidents.	The Proposed Development is not subject to the COMAH regulations, and a safety report is not required.
Paragraph 4.13.8	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a safety assessment has been prepared, where required, and that the Competent Authority has raised no safety objections.	
Paragraph 4.14.5	Applicants must consult the HSA and HSE at pre-application stage if the project is likely to need hazardous substances consent. Hazardous substances consents are a part of the planning regime which contributes to public	The Applicant team has consulted with the HSE. The Proposed Development is not subject to the COMAH regulations.

	safety.	
Common Law Nuisance and Statutory Nuisance		
Paragraph 4.15.5	At the application stage of an energy NSIP, possible sources of nuisance under section 79(1) of the EPA 1990 and how they may be mitigated or limited should be identified by the applicant so that appropriate requirements can be included in any subsequent order granting development consent (see Section 5.7 on dust, odour, artificial light etc. and Section 5.12 on noise and vibration).	**A Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010163/APP/5.4]** has been included with the application to assess any possible sources of nuisance under section 79(1) of the EPA 1990.
Air Quality and Emissions		
Paragraph 5.2.7	Proximity to emission sources can have significant impacts on sensitive receptor sites for air quality, such as education or healthcare sites, residential use or sensitive or protected ecosystems. Projects near a sensitive receptor site for air quality should only be proposed in exceptional circumstances if no viable alternative site is available. In these instances, substantial mitigation of any expected emissions will be required (see paragraph 5.2.12 below).	**ES Chapter 14: Air Quality of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** assess the construction and decommissioning impacts of the Proposed Development on local air quality. This is assessed as being negligible and as such it is concluded there would be no significant impact on sensitive receptor sites for air quality. The assessment is in accordance with paragraph 5.2.9.

Paragraph 5.2.8	Where the project is likely to have adverse effects on air quality the applicant should undertake an assessment of the impacts of the proposed project as part of the ES.	
Paragraph 5.2.9	The ES should describe: • existing air quality concentrations and the relative change in air quality from existing levels; • any significant air quality effects, mitigation action taken and any residual effects, distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project; • the predicted absolute emissions, concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and • any potential eutrophication impacts.	
Paragraph 5.2.12	Where a proposed development is likely to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets, or affect the ability of a noncompliant area to achieve compliance	The Proposed Development would not lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality thresholds or affect the ability of a non-compliant

	within the timescales set out in the most recent relevant air quality plan/strategy at the time of the decision, the applicant should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that those statutory limits, objectives or targets are not breached.	area to achieve compliance.
Paragraph 5.2.13	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction emissions over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at this stage. In doing so the Secretary of State should have regard to the Air Quality Strategy in England, or the Clean Air Plan for Wales in Wales, or any successors to these and should consider relevant advice within Local Air Quality Management guidance and PM2.5 targets guidance.	**ES Chapter 14: Air Quality of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** concludes that there are no anticipated significant effects on air quality as a result of the Proposed Development. Mitigation measures following IAQM guidance are discussed and presented in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** submitted with the DCO Application.
Paragraph 5.2.15	Many activities involving air emissions are subject to pollution control. The considerations set out in Section 4.12 on the interface between planning and pollution control therefore apply. The Secretary of State must also consider	

	duties under other legislation including duties under the Environment Act 2021 in relation to environmental targets and have regard to policies set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.	
Paragraph 5.2.16	The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality. This could for example include where an area breaches any national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives. However, air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of statutory limits, objectives or targets.	**ES Chapter 14: Air Quality of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** concludes that there are no anticipated significant effects on air quality as a result of the Proposed Development. Mitigation measures following IAQM guidance are discussed and presented in the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** submitted with the DCO Application.
Paragraph 5.2.17	The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project is proposed near a sensitive receptor site, such as an education or healthcare facility, residential use or a sensitive or protected habitat.	**ES Chapter 14: Air Quality of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** concludes that construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect on air quality. The predicted volume of traffic and pollutant concentrations would have a

		negligible effect on human health.
Paragraph 5.2.18	Where a project is proposed near to a sensitive receptor site for air quality, if the applicant cannot provide justification for this location, and a suitable mitigation plan, the Secretary of State should refuse consent.	The Site is located in a rural area but close to a number of settlements and as a consequence there are a large number of high sensitivity receptors in proximity to the Site, such as residential properties, that may be impacted by works associated with the Proposed Development. The implementation of mitigation measures identified within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** is expected to prevent any significant impacts on dust deposition and human health from occurring. Residual effects are therefore assessed as being not significant.
Paragraph 5.2.19	In all cases, the Secretary of State must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives and targets. If a project will lead to non-compliance with a statutory limit,	The Proposed Development would not lead to non-compliance with any statutory air quality limit, objective or target.

	objective or target the Secretary of State should refuse consent.	
Paragraph 5.7.5	The applicant should assess the potential for insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke, and artificial light to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the ES.	**ES Chapter 14: Air Quality of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** assesses the effects of the Proposed Development on emissions of odour and dust. The Proposed Development will not emit any odour. Construction and decommissioning activities will be undertaken with the use of best practice measures applied, as set out in the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.
Paragraph 5.7.11	A construction management plan may help clarify and secure mitigation.	The DCO application includes **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. To secure embedded mitigation measures and best practice, **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be further developed into a detailed CEMP prior to commencement of the construction phase secured by a Requirement to the DCO.

Paragraph 5.7.12	The Secretary of State should satisfy itself that: • an assessment of the potential for artificial light, dust, odour, smoke, steam and insect infestation to have a detrimental impact on amenity has been carried out • that all reasonable steps have been taken, and will be taken, to minimise any such detrimental impacts	The Proposed Development will not emit any odour. Construction and decommissioning activities will be undertaken with the use of best practice measures applied, as set out in the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		
Paragraph 5.3.4	All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.3). This should include: • A whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts, including impacts from change of land use. • An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages. • Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage. • How reduction in energy demand and	**ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**. Overall, the Proposed Development is expected to have a total energy generation figure of around 16,100,000 MWh over an estimated 40-year lifetime with a GHG intensity range estimated to be 6.7 to 10.7gCO2e/kWh – a favourable comparison with fossil fuel electricity generation. Over the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, this would result in total GHG emissions saving of 1,380,000 tCO2e. The GHG impact during construction,

	consumption during operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures. • How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of best available techniques for that type of technology. • Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions. • Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework. • Where there are residual emissions, the level of emissions and the impact of those on national and international efforts to limit climate change, both alone and where relevant in combination with other developments at a regional or national level, or sector level, if sectoral targets are developed.	operation and decommissioning is assessed as being minor adverse and not significant. It is considered that the overall GHG impact of the Proposed Development is beneficial and significant, as it will play a part in achieving the rate of transition required by nationally set policy commitments and supporting the trajectory towards net zero GHG mitigation measures are outlined in Embedded Mitigation of **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** have been prepared to accompany the DCO application. These identify a range of mitigation measures that have been embedded into the Scheme to limit the GHG impact.
Paragraph 5.3.5	A GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the	

	overall objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero.	
Paragraph 5.3.6	Applicants should look for opportunities within the proposed development to embed nature-based or technological solutions to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning.	
Paragraph 5.3.7	Steps taken to minimise and offset emissions should be set out in a GHG Reduction Strategy, secured under the Development Consent Order. The GHG Reduction Strategy should consider the creation and preservation of carbon stores and sinks including through woodland creation, hedgerow creation and restoration, peatland restoration and through other natural habitats.	
Paragraph 5.3.8	The Secretary of State must be satisfied that the applicant has as far as possible assessed the GHG emissions of all stages of the development.	**ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**. Overall, the Proposed Development is expected to have a total energy generation figure of around 16,100,000 MWh over an estimated 40-year lifetime with a GHG intensity range estimated to be 6.7 to
Paragraph 5.3.9	The Secretary of State should be content that the applicant has taken all reasonable steps to reduce the GHG emissions of the construction	

	and decommissioning stage of the development.	10.7gCO2e/kWh – a favourable comparison with fossil fuel electricity generation. Over the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, this would result in total GHG emissions saving of 1,380,000 tCO2e. The GHG impact during construction, operation and decommissioning is assessed as being minor adverse and not significant. It is considered that the overall GHG impact of the Scheme is beneficial and significant, as it will play a part in achieving the rate of transition required by nationally set policy commitments and supporting the trajectory towards net zero.
Paragraph 5.3.10	The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to projects that embed nature-based or technological processes to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning within the proposed development. However, in light of the vital role energy infrastructure plays in the process of economy wide decarbonisation, the Secretary of State must accept that there are likely to be some residual emissions from construction and decommissioning of energy infrastructure.	
Biodiversity and Geological Conservation		
Paragraph 5.4.4	The highest level of biodiversity protection is afforded to sites identified through international conventions. The Habitats Regulations set out sites for which an HRA will assess the implications of a plan or project, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.	The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** has been prepared and submitted with this Application. Natural England were consulted on the scope and extent of the HRA.

Paragraph 5.4.5	As a matter of policy, the following should be given the same protection as sites covered by the Habitats Regulations and an HRA will also be required: (a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; (b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and (c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of the other sites covered by this paragraph.	The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** concludes that the Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of a European Site and does not risk having a significant effect on a European Site on its own or in combination with other proposals.
Paragraph 5.4.8	Development on land within or outside a SSSI, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits (including need) of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out that there are no internationally designated sites for nature conservation within the Site, and the Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of a European Site and does not risk having a significant adverse effect on a European Site on its own or in combination with other proposals.

		The closest nationally designated site is the Clarborough Tunnel SSSI, which is 40 m west of the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area of the Proposed Development. This means that a small area of the Steeple Renewables Project (0.01 ha) falls within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of the SSSI. Clarborough Tunnel SSSI is adjacent to the Site's southern boundary and the part of the Site adjoining the SSSI has been identified for enhancement to species-rich grassland as part of the designed-in measures. The nearest area of development is over 750 m from the SSSI. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development and the separating distance from any areas of development within the Site, no direct or indirect impacts on the interest of Clarborough Tunnel SSSI are anticipated. **ES Chapter 14 - Air Quality [reference EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** provides

		additional information on potential impact pathways regarding construction dust and traffic to Clarborough Tunnel SSSI and also concludes that there will be no likely direct or indirect impacts. All other nationally designated sites are over 1.6 km from the Site, and there would be no direct or indirect impacts upon them.
Paragraph 5.4.12	Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include Regionally Important Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, are areas of substantive nature conservation value and make an important contribution to ecological networks and nature's recovery. They can also provide wider benefits including public access (where agreed), climate mitigation and helping to tackle air pollution.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out there are 30 non-statutory designated sites within the 2 km search area. Five non-statutory designated LWS are either wholly or partially within the Site, and two within 100 m. These include terrestrial and wetland habitats. No direct impacts in terms of habitat loss are anticipated as these will be retained and buffered by an appropriate stand-off where they are within or adjacent to development
Paragraph 5.4.13	National planning policy expects plans to identify and map Local Wildlife Sites, and to include policies that not only secure their protection from harm or loss but also help to	

	enhance them and their connection to wider ecological networks.	areas, as part of the designed in measures of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.4.15	Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Keepers of Time, the government's policy for ancient and native trees and woodlands in England sets out the government's commitment to maintain and enhance the existing area of ancient woodland, maintain and enhance the existing resource of known ancient and veteran trees, excluding natural losses from disease and death, and to increase the percentage of ancient woodland in active management. Ancient and veteran trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable. Other types of irreplaceable habitats include blanket bog, limestone pavement, coastal sand dunes, spartina salt marsh swards, mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, and lowland fen.	There is no ancient woodland within or immediately adjacent to the Order limits. Within the wider area there is one Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), and one Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) within the 2 km search area. **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]** has been produced setting out the likely direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on trees. This concludes there will be no tree loss to facilitate the Proposed Development. Measures to protect retained trees and hedgerows will be put in place and secured through a detailed CEMP, DEMP and LEMP as requirements of the DCO. These measures will need to

		be substantially in accordance with the measures set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], outline ES Appendix 4.4 OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** to ensure that impacts are minimised and that the Proposed Development is implemented in accordance with the detailed management plans.
Paragraph 5.4.17	Where the development is subject to EIA, the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance (including those outside England), on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out all the designated sites of ecological conservation importance; habitats; protected and notable species; and important ecological features, within an identified Study Area for the Proposed Development. They are also shown on the **plans of statutory/ non-statutory nature conservation [EN010163/APP/2.29]**.
Paragraph	The applicant should provide environmental	

5.4.18	information proportionate to the infrastructure where EIA is not required to help the Secretary of State consider thoroughly the potential effects of a proposed project.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** goes on to set out the potential impacts on the above receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Following the application of mitigation measures. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out no significant adverse effects have been identified during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.4.19	The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** explains that the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid all sites statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance and to avoid or minimise impacts on sites that are non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance. Measures embedded within the
Paragraph 5.4.20	Applicants should consider wider ecosystem services and benefits of natural capital when designing enhancement measures.	
Paragraph	As set out in Section 4.7, the design process should embed opportunities for nature	

5.4.21	inclusive design. Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains (see Section 4.6 on Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain). The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of each project.	Proposed Developments design will ensure that designated sites are not adversely impacted during construction, operation or decommissioning e.g., through siting construction routes away from designated sites, incorporating suitable buffer zones and erection of temporary construction fencing (were necessary) to avoid incursion into exclusion zones. In addition to the above, **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out that the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid key nature conservation and ecological features present within or adjacent to the Order limits. Accordingly, minimum buffers have been applied where practicable. The Proposed Development would provide extensive Woodland planting (also referred to as buffers) and native tree belts will be established to

		reinforce the retained existing woodland and tree belts. New hedgerows with trees will be established to supplement the existing, retained hedgerows with trees. These will provide both a valuable habitat, forming important wildlife corridors and re-enforcing existing ones. A range of artificial bird and bat boxes will be installed in existing woodland areas, on retained individual trees and existing trees in hedgerows to increase the availability of nesting and roosting features and enhance the value of these habitats for these species groups The **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** contains details of all ecological mitigation and enhancements. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12**

		Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7] and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on Site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Paragraph 5.4.22	The design of energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile/migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure. As energy infrastructure could occur anywhere within England and Wales, both inland and onshore and offshore, the potential to affect mobile and migratory species across the UK and more widely across Europe (transboundary effects)	As set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** the Proposed Development has considered the impact on the movement of mobile / migratory species, such as birds, fish, marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure.

	requires consideration, depending on the location of development.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** acknowledges that that construction and operation of the Proposed Development will result in the loss of arable farmland used by breeding Skylark. However, with the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures set out in **ES Appendix 7.13 Skylark Mitigation Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**, which includes the provision of sufficient areas of habitat creation, alongside extensive habitat enhancements, the impact of loss of arable farmland for breeding Skylark during construction will be offset and impacts during operation will be mitigated. As such, a minor adverse to negligible impact is anticipated, which is not significant, to the Skylark population. Overall, the assessment concludes that no significant adverse effects are

		anticipated to arise on any protected species and habitats as a result of the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Scheme.
Paragraph 5.4.25	The applicant should seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB and provide the Secretary of State with such information as the Secretary of State may reasonably require, to determine whether an HRA Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. Applicants can request and agree 'Evidence Plans' with SNCBs, which is a way to record upfront the information the applicant needs to supply with its application, so that the HRA can be efficiently carried out. If an AA is required, the applicant must provide the Secretary of State with such information as may reasonably be required to enable the Secretary of State to conduct the AA. This should include information on any mitigation measures that are proposed to minimise or avoid likely significant effects.	A **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** has been undertaken to inform the ES and is included within the DCO application. The report concludes there will be no significant effects to European Sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme or in combination with other plans and projects.
Paragraph 5.4.26	If, during the pre-application stage, the SNCB indicate that the proposed development is likely to adversely impact the integrity of habitat sites, the applicant must include with	The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** included with the DCO submission has been undertaken

	their application such information as may reasonably be required to assess a potential derogation under the Habitats Regulations.	to inform the ES. The report concludes there will be no significant effects to European Sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development or in combination with other plans and projects. Therefore, information regarding a derogation under the Habitats Regulations is not required.
Paragraph 5.4.27	If the SNCB gives such an indication at a later stage in the development consent process, the applicant must provide this information as soon as is reasonably possible and before the close of the examination. This information must include assessment of alternative solutions, a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate environmental compensation.	Should the SNCB later conclude that adverse effects on the integrity of European Site(s) cannot be avoided or mitigated, appropriate information will be provided to confirm that the Proposed Development meets the three derogation tests (No Reasonable Alternatives, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and adequate compensation).
Paragraph 5.4.28	Provision of such information will not be taken as an acceptance of adverse impacts and if an applicant disputes the likelihood of adverse impacts, it can provide this information as part of its application 'without prejudice' to the Secretary of State's final decision on the	

	impacts of the potential development. If, in these circumstances, an applicant does not supply information required for the assessment of a potential derogation, there will be no expectation that the Secretary of State will allow the applicant the opportunity to provide such information following the examination.	
Paragraph 5.4.29	It is vital that applicants consider the need for compensation as early as possible in the design process as 'retrofitting' compensatory measures will introduce delays and uncertainty to the consenting process.	It is concluded that there will be No Significant Effects to European sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development or in combination with other plans and projects. Therefore, there are no environmental compensation requirements to be considered.
Paragraph 5.4.30	Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government to develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development. Applicants should engage with the relevant Local Planning Authority at an early stage regarding the proposed location of compensatory measures. Applicants should	Natural England have been consulted during the pre-application process and it has been concluded the area does not include any internationally important European designations (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and/or Special Protection Areas (SPA)) are triggered by the project, nor those

	also take account of any strategic plan level compensation plans in developing project level compensation plans.	covered by the Ramsar Convention.
Paragraph 5.4.32	Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both construction and operational phases.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** concludes there would be no loss if ancient woodland or veteran trees as a result of the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]** has been produced setting out the likely direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on trees. This concludes there will be no tree loss to facilitate the Proposed Development. Retained tree mitigation measures to be secured in the CEMP are proposed to ensure that tree roots and soil structure will be robustly protected, and existing growing conditions will be maintained using sensitive construction methods. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.7] therefore concludes that a temporary adverse effect that is not significant is anticipated. Measures to protect retained trees and hedgerows will be put in place and secured through a detailed CEMP, DEMP and LEMP as requirements of the DCO. These measures will need to be substantially in accordance with the measures set out in the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** to ensure that impacts are minimised and that the Scheme is implemented in accordance with the detailed management plans.
Paragraph 5.4.33	Applicants should consider any reasonable opportunities to maximise the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wider biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the ability of habitats to store or sequester	As set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid all sites statutorily designated

	carbon as set out under Section 4.6.	for their biodiversity importance and to avoid or minimise impacts on sites that are non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance. Measures embedded within the Proposed Development design will ensure that designated sites are not adversely impacted during construction, operation or decommissioning e.g., through siting construction routes away from designated sites, incorporating suitable buffer zones and erection of temporary construction fencing to avoid incursion into exclusion zones. In addition to the above, **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out that the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid key nature conservation and ecological features present within or adjacent to the Order limits. Accordingly, minimum buffers have been applied where practicable.
Paragraph 5.4.34	Consideration should be given to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and species in, around and beyond developments, for wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits, beyond those under protection and identified as being of principal importance. This may include considerations and opportunities identified through Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and national goals and targets set through the Environment Act 2021 and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	

		The Proposed Development would provide extensive Woodland planting (also referred to as buffers) and native tree belts will be established to reinforce the retained existing woodland and tree belts. New hedgerows with trees will be established to supplement the existing, retained hedgerows with trees. These will provide both a valuable habitat, forming important wildlife corridors and re- enforcing existing ones. A range of artificial bird and bat boxes will be installed in existing woodland areas, on retained individual trees and existing trees in hedgerows to increase the availability of nesting and roosting features and enhance the value of these habitats for these species' groups. **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** contains details of all ecological mitigation and

		enhancements. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on Site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Paragraph 5.4.35	Applicants should include appropriate avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures as an integral part of the proposed development. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that:	Embedded mitigation measures are outlined in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** and are set out within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4],**

	• during construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works • the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance • during construction and operation best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised, including as a consequence of transport access arrangements • habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished • opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats rather than replace them, and where practicable, create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals. Where habitat creation is required as mitigation, compensation, or enhancement, the location and quality will be of key importance. In this regard habitat creation should be focused on areas where the most ecological and ecosystems benefits can be realised. • mitigations required as a result of legal	**ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. These include habitat avoidance, mitigation, creation and replacement measures; mitigation relating to protected and notable species; and standard mitigation measures that comply with industry good practice and environmental legislation. Production of a final CEMP, OEMP and DEMP will be secured via a Requirement within the DCO. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** includes best practice measures to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works during construction, in accordance with this part of the policy. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** outlines mitigation measures pertaining to habitat avoidance, creation and

	protection of habitats or species will be complied with.	replacement measures that comply with this part of the policy.
Paragraph 5.4.36	Applicants should produce and implement a Biodiversity Management Strategy as part of their development proposals. This could include provision for biodiversity awareness training to employees and contractors so as to avoid unnecessary adverse impacts on biodiversity during the construction and operation stages.	The management of biodiversity throughout the life of the Proposed Development is covered by **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** sets out that an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will provide advice about environmental and ecological issues during construction including for example, management of protected species, surface water management, pollution, air quality and noise.
Paragraph 5.4.39	The government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Act 2021 mark a step change in ambition for wildlife and the natural environment. The Secretary of State should have regard to the aims and goals of the	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** has been produced with regard to the aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan, as evidenced by the extensive habitat

	government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, and in Wales the objectives of the Nature Recovery Plan, and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.	to be provided pursuant to the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. The Applicant has also considered the Environment Act 2021, as evidenced by the **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]**. It is therefore considered the Proposed Development is compliant with this policy. As a nationally significant infrastructure project, the Proposed Development also contributes to climate change mitigation, which in turn is beneficial for biodiversity and geological conservation interests.
Paragraph 5.4.41	The benefits of nationally significant low carbon energy infrastructure development may include benefits for biodiversity and geological conservation interests and these benefits may outweigh harm to these interests. The Secretary of State may take account of any such net benefit in cases where it can be	The Proposed Development has the potential to deliver biodiversity benefits as a result of its embedded mitigation and enhancement measures, as set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.

	demonstrated.	In addition, with these measures implemented, there are no significant adverse impacts expected on biodiversity features. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7].ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**] demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on Site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy
Paragraph	As a general principle, and subject to the	As set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology**

5.4.42	specific policies below, development should, in line with the mitigation hierarchy, aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through consideration of reasonable alternatives (as set out in Section 4.3 above). Where significant harm cannot be avoided, impacts should be mitigated and as a last resort, appropriate compensation measures should be sought.	**and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** with the application of mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects have been identified on designated ecological sites, habitats or protected species during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Embedded mitigation measures are outlined in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**. These measures are also set out within the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. These include habitat avoidance; creation and replacement measures; mitigation relating to protected and notable species; and standard mitigation measures that comply with industry good practice and environmental
Paragraph 5.4.43	If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (for example through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then the Secretary of State will give significant weight to any residual harm.	

		legislation. Production of a final CEMP, OEMP and DEMP will be secured via a Requirement within the DCO.
Paragraph 5.4.44	The Secretary of State should consider what appropriate requirements should be attached to any consent and/or in any planning obligations entered into, in order to ensure that any mitigation or biodiversity net gain measures, if offered, are delivered and maintained. Any habitat creation or enhancement delivered including linkages with existing habitats for compensation or biodiversity net gain should generally be maintained for a minimum period of 30 years, or for the lifetime of the project, if longer.	**ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** set out measures to mitigate and achieve biodiversity net gain. These will be developed into detailed documents and secured by a requirement in the DCO.
Paragraph 5.4.46	Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to environmental and biodiversity enhancements, although any weight given to gains provided to meet a legal requirement (for example under the	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** has the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a

	Environment Act 2021) is likely to be limited.	functional and efficient Scheme design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process and principles are described in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of the **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net
Paragraph 5.4.47	When considering proposals, the Secretary of State should maximise such reasonable opportunities in and around developments, using requirements or planning obligations where appropriate. This can help towards delivering biodiversity net gain as part of or in addition to the approach set out at Section 4.6.	

		gain on Site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Paragraph 5.4.48	In taking decisions, the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national, and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.	Appropriate weight has been attached designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment, with an assessment of the Proposed Developments impact on these set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**.
Paragraph 5.4.49	The Secretary of State must consider whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on a protected site which is part of the National Site Network (a habitat site), a protected marine site, or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy,	The **Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.5]** explains that whilst the 2019 Regulations make changes to the Habitats regime and terminology (e.g., by introducing the

	either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.	term 'national network site') the HRA continues to use the term 'European Sites' to refer to all former Natura 2000 sites in line with current standard practice (comprising Special Areas of Conservation [SAC], Special Protection Areas [SPA]) potentially affected by the Proposed Development. The HRA concludes there will be no significant effects to European Sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development or in combination with other plans and projects. Therefore, information regarding a derogation under the Habitats Regulations is not required.
Paragraph 5.4.50	The Secretary of State should use requirements and/or planning obligations to mitigate the harmful aspects of the development and, where possible, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity or geological interest.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** details how the Proposed Development has sought to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. **ES**

		Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7] outlines the embedded mitigation measures which aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity conservation interests.
Paragraph 5.4.52	The Secretary of State should give due consideration to regional or local designations. However, given the need for new nationally significant infrastructure, these designations should not be used in themselves to refuse development consent.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** provides an assessment of the likely impacts and effects. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development on any sites or regional and local biodiversity or geological interests.
Paragraph 5.4.53	The Secretary of State should not grant development consent for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of any irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** and **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]** concludes there would be no loss of ancient woodland or veteran trees as a result of the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture**

		Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6] has been produced setting out the likely direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on trees. This concludes there will be no tree loss to facilitate the Proposed Development. Mitigation measures to be secured in the CEMP are proposed to ensure that tree roots and soil structure will be robustly protected, and existing growing conditions will be maintained, using sensitive construction methods. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** therefore concludes that a temporary adverse effect that is not significant is anticipated. Measures to protect retained trees and hedgerows will be put in place and secured through a detailed CEMP, DEMP and LEMP as requirements of the DCO. These measures will need to be substantially in accordance with

		the measures set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], outline ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** to ensure that impacts are minimised and that the Proposed Development is implemented in accordance with the detailed management plans.
Paragraph 5.4.54	The Secretary of State should ensure that species and habitats identified as being of importance for the conservation of biodiversity are protected from the adverse effects of development by using requirements, planning obligations, or licence conditions where appropriate.	There would be no residual significant adverse effects on any species and habitats as a result of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.4.55	The Secretary of State should refuse consent where harm to a protected species and relevant habitat would result, unless there is an overriding public interest and the other relevant legal tests are met. In this context the Secretary	There would be no residual significant adverse effects on any species and habitats as a result of the Proposed Development.

	of State should give substantial weight to any such harm to the detriment of biodiversity features of national or regional importance or the climate resilience and the capacity of habitats to store carbon, which they consider may result from a proposed development.	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Aviation		
Paragraph 5.5.5	UK airspace is important for both civilian and military aviation interests. It is essential that new energy infrastructure is developed collaboratively alongside aerodromes, aircraft,	The Applicant consulted with the MoD, CAA and NATS during the statutory consultation for the Proposed Development. No adverse comments

	air systems and airspace so that safety, operations and capabilities are not adversely affected by new energy infrastructure. Likewise, it is essential that aerodromes, aircraft, air systems and airspace operators work collaboratively with energy infrastructure developers essential for net zero. Aerodromes can have important economic and social benefits, particularly at the regional and local level, but their needs must be balanced with the urgent need for new energy developments, which bring about a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits.	were received with respect to the Proposed Development and its potential impact upon aviation interests. The **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]** sets out how regard has been had to responses received.
Paragraph 5.5.37	Where the proposed development may affect the performance of civil or military aviation CNS, meteorological radars and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES (see Section 4.3).	**Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** and **ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [EN010163/APP/6.2.16]** provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on aviation.
Paragraph 5.5.41	In addition, consideration of developments near aerodromes should take into account the following factors: • Bird Strike Risk – Aircraft are vulnerable to	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** takes into account the impacts to birds.

	wildlife strike, in particular bird strike. Birds and other wildlife may be attracted to the vicinity of an aerodrome by various types of development, for example, large buildings with perching/roosting opportunities for birds. It is therefore important that infrastructure, buildings and other elements from energy installations, as well as environmental mitigation are designed in such a way so as not to increase the bird strike risk to the airport for developments within 13km (this can vary). • Building Induced Turbulence – If a significant building or structure is proposed close to the airport/runways, there is potential for building induced turbulence/wind shear to be created which has the potential to impact on aircraft on take-off and landing. Studies may be required to identify the extent of any turbulence resulting from the energy infrastructure. • Thermal Plume Turbulence – This is caused under certain conditions by the release of hot air from a power plant equipped with a dry cooling system. The plumes generated by these facilities have the potential to create invisible turbulence that can affect the manoeuvrability	The Proposed Development does not propose significant buildings or structures; therefore turbulence has not been assessed. Thermal Plume Turbulence is not considered relevant as the Proposed Development does not propose dry cooling systems.

	of aircraft.	
Paragraph 5.5.49	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that the effects on meteorological radars, civil and military aerodromes, aviation technical sites and other defence assets or operations have been addressed by the applicant and that any necessary assessment of the proposal on aviation, NSWWS or defence interests has been carried out.	**Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** and **ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [EN010163/APP/6.2.16]** provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on aviation.
Paragraph 5.5.50	In particular, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the proposal has been designed, where possible, to minimise adverse impacts on the operation and safety of aerodromes and that realistically achievable mitigation is carried out on existing surveillance systems such as radar/tracking technologies. It is incumbent on Operators of aerodromes to regularly review the possibility of agreeing to make reasonable changes to operational procedures.	The Applicant has consulted with the MOD and NATS. Both NATS and the MOD confirmed in their statutory consultation responses that there were no safeguarding objections to the Scheme. **Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** and **ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [EN010163/APP/6.2.16]** provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on aviation and concludes that aviation impacts are assessed as low and therefore are not significant.

		Consultation has been undertaken throughout, with consultees notified and updated when relevant design changes were made. The **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]** contains further details.
Paragraph 5.5.55	Lighting must also be designed in such a way as to ensure that there is no glare or dazzle to pilots and/or ATC, aerodrome ground lighting is not obscured and that any lighting does not diminish the effectiveness of aeronautical ground lighting and cannot be confused with aeronautical lighting. Lighting may also need to be compatible with night vision devices for military low flying purposes.	Areas of solar PV panels will not require artificial lighting other than during temporary periods of maintenance/repair. Pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems are proposed around the perimeter of the operational areas of the Solar PV Site. These will not require lighting and will use infrared technology at night. **Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** and **ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [EN010163/APP/6.2.16]** provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on aviation. It concludes that aviation impacts are assessed as low and

		therefore are not significant. Consultation has been undertaken throughout, with consultees notified and updated when relevant design changes were made. The **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1]** contains further details.
Flood Risk		
Paragraph 5.8.7	Where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk overall. It should also be designed and constructed to remain operational in times of flood.	A **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been carried out in accordance with the previously mentioned policy requirements included in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [reference EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**. In addition to the **FRA a Sequential and Exception Test [reference EN010163/APP/7.5]** have also been undertaken because part of the Site includes development in high- risk Flood Zone 3a. These documents demonstrate how a sequential approach has been applied in selecting the land for the Proposed

		Development as well as its layout and design. This approach has resulted in more sensitive parts of the proposed development, i.e. BESS and Substation, located in areas of lowest flood risk. The documents referred to above demonstrate that the Proposed Development will not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere and has been designed to remain operational during times of flood.
Paragraph 5.8.9	If, following application of the Sequential Test, it is not possible, (taking into account wider sustainable development objectives), for the project to be located in areas of lower flood risk the Exception Test can be applied as defined in https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change#table2. The test provides a method of allowing necessary development to go ahead in situations where suitable sites at lower risk of flooding are not available.	A **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been carried out in accordance with the previously mentioned policy requirements included in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [reference EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**. In addition to the **FRA a Sequential and Exception Test [reference EN010163/APP/7.5]** have also been undertaken because part of the Site includes development in high- risk Flood Zone 3a. The Applicant is also of the opinion the
Paragraph 5.8.10	The Exception Test is only appropriate for use where the Sequential Test alone cannot deliver an acceptable site. It would only be appropriate to move onto the Exception Test when the	

	Sequential Test has identified reasonably available, lower risk sites appropriate for the proposed development where, accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, application of relevant policies would provide a clear reason for refusing development in any alternative locations identified. Examples could include alternative site(s) that are subject to national designations such as landscape, heritage and nature conservation designations, for example Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), SSSIs and World Heritage Sites (WHS) which would not usually be considered appropriate.	Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development. A summary of flood risk from all sources is contained within **ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8], Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Flood Risk Sequential Assessment and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** that confirms the Site is at risk from
Paragraph 5.8.11	Both elements of the Exception Test will have to be satisfied for development to be consented. To pass the Exception Test it should be demonstrated that: • the project would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community216 that outweigh flood risk; and • the project will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where	

	possible will reduce flood risk overall.	both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat and, ecology constraints and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are. Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test.
Paragraph 5.8.12	Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**

	climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.	confirms that flood risk during construction and at decommissioning will be managed through the CEMP and DP, which will be secured by the DCO Requirement to be in accordance with the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010153/APP/6.3.4]**. The assessment of flood risk during the operation of the Proposed Development concludes that although there would be amounts of solar PV in the eastern half of the site which interacts with Flood Zone 2 and 3, the residual flood risk will be low once mitigation is included. This will include raising the minimum height of the PV panels 0.8 metre above ground level A Requirement of the DCO will ensure that the detailed design is substantially in accordance with **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. The Solar PV Panel mounting structure legs

		do not materially remove floodplain volume, particularly with the relatively few panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3. Therefore, floodplain compensation is not considered to be required. **ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** assesses flood risk and drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the CEMP and DP that there will be no change to the risk of flooding from all sources with no significant effects arising. Given the design mitigation secured through the OEMP, there will be no significant adverse effects predicted upon receptors with regard to flood risk during the operation of the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water**

		Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8] has been prepared setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Surfaces Water Drainage Strategy concludes that runoff will be attenuated via sustainable drainage techniques (excluding infiltration to ground due to assumed geological conditions) and restricted at greenfield rates to watercourses within the Order limits as per the existing conditions. A detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be secured by a Requirement of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**.
Paragraph 5.8.13	A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England or Zone A in Wales, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving:	The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. It demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction,

	• sites of 1 hectare or more. • land which has been identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems. • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future. • land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water). • where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems.	operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The **Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** demonstrates how the requirements of the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test are satisfied.
Paragraph 5.8.14	This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.	The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding, taking climate change into account. The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The

		Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5] sets out how the Sequential Test has been applied and Exceptions Test satisfied.
Paragraph 5.8.15	The minimum requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) are that they should: • be proportionate to the risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the project; • consider the risk of flooding arising from the project in addition to the risk of flooding to the project; • take the impacts of climate change into account, across a range of climate scenarios, clearly stating the development lifetime over which the assessment has been made; • be undertaken by competent people, as early as possible in the process of preparing the proposal; • consider both the potential adverse and beneficial effects of flood risk management infrastructure, including raised defences, flow channels, flood storage areas and other artificial features, together with the consequences of	The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding, taking into account climate change. The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The **Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** sets out how the Sequential Test has been applied and the Exceptions Test satisfied. The FRA meets all the requirements set out within this policy.

	their failure and exceedance; • consider the vulnerability of those using the site, including arrangements for safe access and escape; • consider and quantify the different types of flooding (whether from natural and human sources and including joint and cumulative effects) and include information on flood likelihood, speed-of-onset, depth, velocity, hazard and duration; • identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall, making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management; • consider the effects of a range of flooding events including extreme events on people, property, the natural and historic environment and river and coastal processes; • include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk after risk reduction measures have been taken into account and demonstrate that these risks can be safely	

	managed, ensuring people will not be exposed to hazardous flooding; • consider how the ability of water to soak into the ground may change with development, along with how the proposed layout of the project may affect drainage systems. Information should include: i. Describe the existing surface water drainage arrangements for the site ii. ii. Set out (approximately) the existing rates and volumes of surface water run-off generated by the site. Detail the proposals for restricting discharge rates iii. Set out proposals for managing and discharging surface water from the site using sustainable drainage systems and accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change. If sustainable drainage systems have been rejected, present clear evidence of why their inclusion would be inappropriate	

	iv. Demonstrate how the hierarchy of drainage options has been followed. v. Explain and justify why the types of SuDS and method of discharge have been selected and why they are considered appropriate. vi. Explain how sustainable drainage systems have been integrated with other aspects of the development such as open space or green infrastructure, so as to ensure an efficient use of the site vii. Describe the multifunctional benefits the sustainable drainage system will provide viii. Set out which opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding have been identified and included as part of the proposed sustainable drainage system ix. Explain how run-off from the completed development will be prevented from causing an impact elsewhere	

	x. Explain how the sustainable drainage system been designed to facilitate maintenance and, where relevant, adoption. Set out plans for ensuring an acceptable standard of operation and maintenance throughout the lifetime of the development • detail those measures that will be included to ensure the development will be safe and remain operational during a flooding event throughout the development's lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere; • identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall during the period of construction; and • be supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events.	
Paragraph 5.8.17	Development (including construction works) will need to account for any existing watercourses and flood and coastal erosion risk management structures or features, or any land likely to be needed for future structures or	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** presents the assessment of the likely significant effects on surface water

	features so as to ensure: • Access, clearances and sufficient land are retained to enable their maintenance, repair, operation, and replacement, as necessary. • Their standard of protection is not reduced. • Their condition or structural integrity is not reduced.	bodies (e.g. rivers, streams, ditches, canals, lakes and ponds) including water quality and hydromorphology, flood risk and drainage. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** include measures to protect watercourses. The submitted **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]**, sets out the framework for the detailed drainage scheme to ensure that surface water runoff is attenuated to greenfield runoff rates and managed. **ES Appendix outline Fire Risk Management Plan (EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** includes details with regards risk management associated with potential contaminated water associated with

		fire water runoff. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** sets out details with respect to future management and maintenance. It is predicted at this stage that there would be a negligible impact to any receiving water feature from surface water runoff or any land likely to be needed for future structures or features. The Proposed Development would not adversely impact on any of these features.
Paragraph 5.8.18	Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the official pre-application stage of the NSIP process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators.	An FRA has been submitted in support of the DCO Application **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3].** The preparation of the FRA, and the ES has considered advice and taken account of consultation with key bodies, including the Environment Agency (EA), the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and the Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) Listed below are the statutory consultees and stakeholders that have provided comment on the
Paragraph 5.8.19	Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the	

	information that will be required by the Secretary of State to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The Secretary of State should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary but have not yet been addressed.	water environment: • Environment Agency (EA); • Nottinghamshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA); • the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (IDB), Severn Trent Water (water authority); and • the Canal and River Trust (CRT).
Paragraph 5.8.20	If the EA, NRW or another flood risk management authority has reasonable concerns about the proposal on flood risk grounds, the applicant should discuss these concerns with the EA or NRW and take all reasonable steps to agree ways in which the proposal might be amended, or additional information provided, which would satisfy the authority's concerns.	
Paragraph 5.8.21	The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Where it is not possible to locate development in low-risk areas, the Sequential Test should go on to compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and	The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The **Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** sets out how the Sequential Test has been applied and Exceptions Test satisfied.

	medium risk areas, within high-risk areas.	
Paragraph 5.8.23	Consideration of alternative sites should take account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3 above. All projects should apply the Sequential Test to locating development within the site.	
Paragraph 5.8.24	To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** presents the assessment of the likely significant effects on surface water bodies (e.g. rivers, streams, ditches, canals, lakes and ponds) including water quality and hydromorphology, flood risk and drainage. The chapter concludes that the Proposed Development will remain safe throughout its lifetime and will not increase the risk of flooding from surface water elsewhere and will be resilient to flooding with the implementation of mitigation measures secured via requirements. The FRA includes embedded

		mitigation measures alongside **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** informing a detailed strategy to be secured by a Requirement of the DCO in order to ensure that the Scheme manages flood risk through its surface water strategy during its lifetime to ensure that surface water flood risk does not increase elsewhere.
Paragraph 5.8.25	In this NPS, the term SuDS refers to the whole range of sustainable approaches to surface water drainage management including, where appropriate: • source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage. • infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, that can include individual soakaways and communal facilities. • filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns.	The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Surface Water Drainage Strategy **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through a Requirement of the DCO.

	• filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed. • basins, ponds and tanks to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding. • flood routes to carry and direct excess water through developments to minimise the impact of severe rainfall flooding.	
Paragraph 5.8.26	Site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system, so that excess water can be safely stored on or conveyed from the site without adverse impacts.	**ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** assesses flood risk and drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the CEMP and DP that there will be no change to the risk of flooding from all sources with no significant effects arising. Given the design mitigation secured through the OEMP, there will be no significant adverse effects predicted upon receptors with regard to flood
Paragraph 5.8.27	The surface water drainage arrangements for any project should, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the development's lifetime, be such that the volumes and peak flow rates of surface water leaving the site are no greater than the rates prior to the proposed project, unless specific off-site arrangements are made and	

	result in the same net effect.	risk during the operation of the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** has been prepared setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Surface Water Drainage Strategy concludes that runoff will be attenuated via sustainable drainage techniques (excluding infiltration to ground due to assumed geological conditions) and restricted at greenfield rates to watercourses within the Order limits as per the existing conditions. A detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be secured by a Requirement of **the draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**. The proposed surface water drainage design set out in **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** demonstrates

		that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through the DCO.
Paragraph 5.8.28	It may be necessary to provide surface water storage and infiltration to limit and reduce both the peak rate of discharge from the site and the total volume discharged from the site. There may be circumstances where it is appropriate for infiltration facilities or attenuation storage to be provided outside the project site, if necessary through the use of a planning obligation.	**ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** has been prepared setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Surface Water Drainage Strategy concludes that runoff will be attenuated via sustainable drainage techniques (excluding infiltration to ground due to assumed geological conditions) and restricted at greenfield rates to watercourses within the Order limits as per the existing conditions. A detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be secured by a requirement of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**.

		The proposed surface water drainage design set out in **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through the DCO.
Paragraph 5.8.29	The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. Vulnerable aspects of the development should be located on parts of the site at lower risk and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife habitat and flood storage uses. Opportunities should be taken to lower flood risk by reducing the built footprint of previously developed sites and using SuDS.	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and **Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** demonstrates that a sequential approach has been applied in selecting the land for the Proposed Development and to the subsequent layout and design of the solar and BESS infrastructure. The Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the

		identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat and, ecology constraints and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are. Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test. The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the

		Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** has been prepared setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Surfaces Water Drainage Strategy concludes that runoff will be attenuated via sustainable drainage techniques (excluding infiltration to ground due to assumed geological conditions) and restricted at greenfield rates to watercourses within the Order limits as per the existing conditions. A detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be

		secured by a Requirement of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through the DCO.
Paragraph 5.8.30	Where a development may result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere through the loss of flood storage, on-site level-for-level compensatory storage, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change over the lifetime of the development, should be provided.	The Proposed Development would not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere and will not materially remove floodplain volume and not require compensatory storage to be provided. A Requirement of the DCO will ensure that the detailed design is substantially in accordance with **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. The Solar PV Panel mounting structure legs do not materially remove floodplain
Paragraph 5.8.31	Where it is not possible to provide compensatory storage on site, it may be acceptable to provide it off-site if it is hydraulically and hydrologically linked. Where development may cause the deflection or constriction of flood flow routes, these will need to be safely managed within the site.	

		volume, particularly with the relatively panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3. Therefore, floodplain compensation is not considered to be required.
Paragraph 5.8.32	Where development may contribute to a cumulative increase in flood risk elsewhere, the provision of multifunctional sustainable drainage systems, natural flood management and green infrastructure can also make a valuable contribution to mitigating this risk whilst providing wider benefits.	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** sets out that there is the potential for cumulative effects during construction. However, with the embedded mitigation measures in place, and considering there are no significant effects identified, it is considered that there are no cumulative overall effects on the water environment receptors.
Paragraph 5.8.33	The receipt of and response to warnings of floods is an essential element in the management of the residual risk of flooding. Flood Warning and evacuation plans should be in place for those areas at an identified risk of flooding.	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** sets out the Contractor will be required to produce an Emergency Response Plan following grant of the DCO and prior to construction. This will be secured via a

		Requirement in the DCO requiring a full drainage strategy to be approved by the relevant planning authority and the Proposed Development implemented in accordance with this. The detailed drainage strategy will need to be in accordance with **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.
Paragraph 5.8.34	The applicant should take advice from the local authority emergency planning team, emergency services and, where appropriate, from the local resilience forum when producing an evacuation plan for a manned energy project as part of the FRA. Any emergency planning documents, flood warning and evacuation procedures that are required should be identified in the FRA.	
Paragraph 5.8.35	Flood resistant and resilient materials and design should be adopted to minimise damage and speed recovery in the event of a flood.	The Proposed Development has been designed to safeguard the water environment through being resilient to flooding now and in the future as set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Paragraph	In determining an application for development	**ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology,**

5.8.36	consent, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that where relevant: • the application is supported by an appropriate FRA. • the Sequential Test has been applied and satisfied as part of site selection. • a sequential approach has been applied at the site level to minimise risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk. • the proposal is in line with any relevant national and local flood risk management strategy. • SuDS (as required in the next paragraph on National Standards) have been used unless there is clear evidence that their use would be inappropriate. • in flood risk areas the project is designed and constructed to remain safe and operational during its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere (subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph 5.8.42). • the project includes safe access and escape routes where required, as part of an agreed	**Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8], Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Sequential Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** demonstrates that a sequential approach has been applied in selecting the land for the Proposed Development and to the subsequent layout and design of the solar and BESS infrastructure. The Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat and, ecology constraints and landscape constraints to the same

	emergency plan, and that any residual risk can be safely managed over the lifetime of the development. • land that is likely to be needed for present or future flood risk management infrastructure has been appropriately safeguarded from development to the extent that development would not prevent or hinder its construction, operation or maintenance.	degree as the alternative sites assessed are. Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test. The design evolution of the Proposed Development has applied a sequential approach to the layout and design of infrastructure within the Site, which involved locating vulnerable infrastructure that is critical to maintaining the supply of electricity (substation, Solar Stations and BESS) in areas with the lowest risk of flooding from any source. Although areas of solar PV panels remain in Flood Zone 2 and 3, mitigation forms part of the Proposed Development to ensure that the solar PV infrastructure in this area is resilient and can remain operational in

		times of flood. Given the above, the Sequential Test, has, where relevant, been met for site selection and design with the Proposed Development. The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** has been prepared setting out how surface water will be managed across the

		Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Surfaces Water Drainage Strategy concludes that runoff will be attenuated via sustainable drainage techniques (excluding infiltration to ground due to assumed geological conditions) and restricted at greenfield rates to watercourses within the Order limits as per the existing conditions. A detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be secured by a Requirement of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**. **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through the DCO. The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** considers

		measures incorporated into the Proposed Development to allow for safe access and ensures that any residual risk can be managed over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.8.38	In addition, the Development Consent Order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for appropriate operation and maintenance of any SuDS throughout the project's lifetime. Where this is secured through the adoption of any SuDS features, any necessary access rights to property will need to be granted.	**ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** has been prepared setting out how surface water will be managed across the Scheme to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Outline Drainage Strategy concludes that runoff will be attenuated via sustainable drainage techniques (excluding infiltration to ground due to assumed geological conditions) and restricted at greenfield rates to watercourses within the Order limits as per the existing conditions. A detailed Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be secured by a Requirement of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]**.
Paragraph	Energy projects should not normally be	The **Flood Risk Assessment**

5.8.41	consented within Flood Zone 3b, or Zone C2 in Wales, or on land expected to fall within these zones within its predicted lifetime. This may also apply where land is subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water). However, where essential energy infrastructure has to be located in such areas, for operational reasons, they should only be consented if the development will not result in a net loss of floodplain storage, and will not impede water flows.	**[EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8],** demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not result in a net loss of floodplain storage and will not impede water flows.
Paragraph 5.8.42	Exceptionally, where an increase in flood risk elsewhere cannot be avoided or wholly mitigated, the Secretary of State may grant consent if they are satisfied that the increase in present and future flood risk can be mitigated to an acceptable and safe level and taking account of the benefits of, including the need for, nationally significant energy infrastructure as set out in Part 3 above. In any such case the Secretary of State should make clear how, in reaching their decision, they have weighed up the increased flood risk against the benefits of the project, taking account of the nature and degree of the risk, the future impacts on	The Proposed Development would not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The Proposed Development will provide wider sustainability benefits to the community, including job creation in the local area during construction and decommissioning, that outweigh its impacts on flood risk. Through the generation of renewable and low carbon electricity, the Proposed Development is considered a CNP and will contribute to the critical and urgent need to

	climate change, and advice provided by the EA or NRW and other relevant bodies.	decarbonise electricity generation and contribute to the UKs obligations for Net Zero. Appropriate mitigation measures have been considered to ensure the Proposed Development is safe for its lifetime.
Historic Environment		
Paragraph 5.9.7	The Secretary of State should also consider the impacts on other non-designated heritage assets (as identified either through the development plan making process by plan-making bodies, including 'local listing', or through the application, examination and decision making process). This is on the basis of clear evidence that such heritage assets have a significance that merits consideration in that process, even though those assets are of lesser significance than designated heritage assets.	An assessment of potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Development on the historic environment is included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]**. This provides an assessment of impacts on non-designated heritage assets. Evaluation fieldwork surveys have been undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The results of the fieldwork surveys are included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** and the reports

		are submitted with the DCO application. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development: • Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Grade I Listed Church of St Martin (minor adverse); • Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse); • Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and, • Grade II Listed Manor Farmhouse (minor adverse). The design of the Proposed

		Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. Additional mitigation in the form of a programme of archaeological excavation and recording is proposed and will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) building on **ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**. Requirements are included as part of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** to secure this mitigation and ensure that it is carried out prior to the

		commencement of development. It is acknowledged that while archaeological excavation and recording would not minimise the physical harm to these assets, as it would still involve removal, however it would compensate for the loss of these heritage assets by preserving them by record, thereby allowing their continued study and greater understanding and appreciation of their heritage value. This would reduce the magnitude of impact on individual assets, resulting in a minor adverse effect, which is not significant.
Paragraph 5.9.9	The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA, and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES (see Section 4.3). This should include consideration of heritage assets above, at, and below the surface of the ground. Consideration will also need to be given to the possible impacts, including cumulative, on the wider historic	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** includes a clear and detailed assessment of the likely impacts and effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage, including cumulative effects.

	environment. The assessment should include reference to any historic landscape or seascape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing impacts relevant to the proposed project.	
Paragraph 5.9.11	Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation. Where proposed development will affect the setting of a heritage asset, accurate representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact.	Archaeological evaluations were undertaken for the Proposed Development and are detailed in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** in addition to **ES Appendix 9.1 Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.2 Magnitude Surveys Geophysical Report [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.3 Archaeological Mitigation Statement [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**.

Paragraph 5.9.12	The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will be required on those heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light and indirect impacts, the extent and detail of these studies will be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage, in accordance with this policy. This includes an assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets. The ES considers the potential impacts arising from noise, vibration and lighting.
Paragraph 5.9.13	The applicant is encouraged, where opportunities exist, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and to consider how their scheme takes account of the significance of heritage assets affected. This can include, where possible: • enhancing, through a range of measures such a sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or setting affected. • considering where required the development of archive capacity which could deliver	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** outlines the mitigation measures embedded within the proposed development design in relation to cultural heritage. It details that the Proposed Developments design has been carefully considered to avoid, reduce or mitigate potentially significant effects on the cultural heritage and archaeological assets. Heritage mitigation measures which have been embedded into the design of the

	significant public benefits. • considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme.	Proposed Development include avoidance, where possible, of heritage assets or archaeological remains. The construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been designed to take into account the impacts of haulage and access, noise generation and lighting on heritage assets. The Order limits have been designed to avoid or minimise potential changes to the setting of designated heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings. Mitigation measures have included the changing of the Order limits for example removing a Schedule Ancient Monument and the removal of Solar PV from fields in close proximity to designated heritage assets. As set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** the Proposed Development takes into

		consideration the surrounding landscape character to screen views to or from some heritage assets, respecting historic field boundaries and patterns.
Paragraph 5.9.14	Careful consideration in preparing the scheme will be required on whether the impacts on the historic environment will be direct or indirect, temporary, or permanent.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** assesses the likely impacts of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage, including direct and indirect, and temporary or permanent effects. There would be no significant effects on designated heritage assets. Impacts of the Proposed Development would generally be indirect, on the setting of assets. Impacts to the setting of assets would be temporary and reversed following decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.9.15	Applicants should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve	There are no World Heritage Sites affected by the Proposed Development. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage**

	those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** states there are no conservation areas within the Order limits. There are two conservation areas within 3km of the Proposed Development. However, the Proposed Development would not lead to any significant adverse effects to either conservation area. The Proposed Development, therefore, does not lead to significant adverse effects to a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area, in accordance with this policy.
Paragraph 5.9.24	In considering the impact of a proposed development on any heritage assets, the Secretary of State should consider the particular nature of the significance of the heritage assets and the value that they hold for this and future generations. This understanding should be used to avoid or minimise conflict between their conservation and any aspect of the proposal.	The particular nature of the significance of the heritage assets and the value they hold is set out in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** as well as an assessment of effects on these assets.
Paragraph 5.9.27	When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes

	designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give great weight to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss, or less than substantial harm to its significance.	there will be no residual significant effects on any designated heritage assets or their setting as a result of the Proposed Development. Embedded mitigation measures have reduced any significant adverse effects on heritage assets. The Proposed Development would lead to less than substantial harm at the lower end of the spectrum to designated assets.
Paragraph 5.9.28	The Secretary of State should give considerable importance and weight to the desirability of preserving all heritage assets. Any harm or loss of significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting) should require clear and convincing justification.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes that there will be no residual significant effects on any designated heritage assets or their setting as result of the Proposed Development, including listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites and registered battlefields during operation and decommissioning. during operation and decommissioning. The Proposed Development would lead to less than substantial harm at the lower end of
Paragraph 5.9.29	Substantial harm to or loss of significance of a grade II Listed Building or a grade II Registered Park or Garden should be exceptional.	
Paragraph 5.9.30	Substantial harm to or loss of significance of assets of the highest significance, including Scheduled Monuments; Protected Wreck Sites;	

	Registered Battlefields; grade I and II* Listed Buildings; grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens; and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.	the spectrum to designated assets. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development: • Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Grade I Listed Church of St Martin (minor adverse); • Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse); • Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and, • Grade II Listed Manor Farmhouse (minor adverse). The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to

		minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. Additional mitigation in the form of a programme of archaeological excavation and recording is proposed, and will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) building on **ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**. Requirements are included as part of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** to secure this mitigation and ensure that it is carried out prior to the

		commencement of development. It is acknowledged that while archaeological excavation and recording would not minimise the physical harm to these assets, as it would still involve removal, however it would compensate for the loss of these heritage assets by preserving them by record, thereby allowing their continued study and greater understanding and appreciation of their heritage value. This would reduce the magnitude of impact on individual assets, resulting in a minor adverse effect, which is not significant. The above effects are outweighed by the significant public benefits of the Proposed Development which are set out in Section 5 of this Planning Statement, when considered both in isolation and cumulatively with other adverse effects of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph	Where the proposed development will lead to	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage**

5.9.31	substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset the Secretary of State should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm to, or loss of, significance is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all the following apply: • the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site. • no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation. • conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible. • the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes there will be no residual significant effects on any designated heritage asses or their setting as a result of the Proposed Development. Embedded mitigation measures have reduced any significant adverse effects on heritage assets. The Proposed Development would lead to less than substantial harm at the lower end of the spectrum upon designated heritage assets. However, this harm is necessary to achieve the substantial public benefit of delivering CNP infrastructure that outweighs the heritage impact. This is supported by paragraph 4.2.16 and 4.2.17 of NPS EN-1 which treats CNP infrastructure as if it has met any tests which are set out within the NPSs, or any other planning policy, which requires a clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality or very special circumstances.
Paragraph 5.9.32	Where the proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate securing	

	its optimum viable use.	
Paragraph 5.9.33	In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes that there will be no residual significant effect on any designated heritage assets or their setting as result of the Proposed Development, including listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields etc. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development: • Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Grade I Listed Church of St

		Martin (minor adverse); • Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse); • Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and, • Grade II Listed Manor Farmhouse (minor adverse). The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. Additional mitigation in the form of a programme of archaeological excavation and recording is proposed and will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) building on **ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-**

		Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9] and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**. Requirements are included as part of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** to secure this mitigation and ensure that it is carried out prior to the commencement of development. It is acknowledged that while archaeological excavation and recording would not minimise the physical harm to these assets, as it would still involve removal, however it would compensate for the loss of these heritage assets by preserving them by record, thereby allowing their continued study and greater understanding and appreciation of their heritage value. This would reduce the magnitude of impact on individual assets, resulting in a minor adverse

		effect, which is not significant. The above effects are outweighed by the significant public benefits of the Proposed Development which are set out in Section 5 of this Planning Statement, when considered both in isolation and cumulatively with other adverse effects of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.9.34	Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.30 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.32, as appropriate, considering the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.	There are no World Heritage Sites affected by the Proposed Development. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** states there are no conservation areas within the Order limits. There are two conservation areas within 3km of the Proposed Development. However, the Proposed Development would not lead to any significant adverse effects to either conservation area. The Proposed Development, therefore, does not lead to significant adverse effects to a World Heritage Site or

		Conservation Area, in accordance with this policy.
Paragraph 5.9.36	When considering applications for development affecting the setting of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to the desirability of preserving the setting such assets and treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, the Secretary of State should give great weight to any negative effects, when weighing them against the wider benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes there will be no residual significant effects on any designated heritage asses or their setting as a result of the Proposed Development. Embedded mitigation measures have reduced any significant adverse effects on heritage assets. The Proposed Development would lead to less than substantial harm at the lower end of the spectrum upon designated heritage assets. However, this harm is necessary to achieve the substantial public benefit of delivering CNP infrastructure that outweighs the heritage impact. This is supported by paragraph 4.2.16 and 4.2.17 of NPS EN-1 which treats CNP infrastructure as if it has met any tests which are set out within the NPSs, or any other planning policy, which

		requires a clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality or very special circumstances.
Landscape and Visual		
Paragraph 5.10.6	Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.	Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process, informed by the LVIA, set out in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**. The LVIA has informed the iterative design process, which is set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The Proposed Development layout has been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment and fieldwork analysis. The design mitigation has been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity as outlined in **ES Appendix**

		7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]. The landscape design principles incorporate the following: a. Careful siting in the landscape responding sensitively to its proximity to dwellings, settlements and PRoW; b. Conserving the existing vegetation patterns including reinstatement and/or improvement of field boundaries; c. Creating new green infrastructure including areas for woodland belts and screening; and d. Sensitive design in relation to form and materials.
Paragraph 5.10.7	National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes. Projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational,	The Proposed Development is not located within any of these designations. **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** confirms there are no national landscape designations

	and other relevant constraints. For development proposals located within designated landscapes the Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.	impacts by the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.10.12	Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.	**ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** confirms there are no areas of local landscape value within the Order limits.
Paragraph 5.10.13	All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites.	**ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** Assesses the visual impact of the Proposed Development. Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, viewpoints were selected to demonstrate different receptors,
Paragraph 5.10.14	The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area,	

	outweigh the benefits of the project.	distances from the Site, the influence of existing vegetation, potential mitigation planting and likely effects. These representative viewpoints are assessed in **ES Appendix 6.3 Viewpoint Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]**. The design mitigation which is outlined in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**; **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** includes, but is not limited to, offsets from settlements and PRoWs, buffers between residential properties and other solar schemes in the locality and creation of new green infrastructure elements and corridors throughout the Proposed Development, which has aimed to reduce visual impacts. Despite the fact introduction of new energy generation infrastructure into

		the landscape will inevitably result in some visual effects, the Proposed Development has been designed to minimise visual effects as far as possible. Following the application of embedded mitigation measures and the implementation of best practice measures in accordance **with ES Appendix 4.1 outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [reference EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.2 outline Decommissioning Plan [reference EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and planting proposals in accordance with **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are not anticipated to result in any significant adverse effects on landscape and visual receptors.

		Benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh less than significant impacts that have been minimised and mitigated. **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** contains full details regarding landscape and visual impact and how the development complies with this policy.
Paragraph 5.10.16	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.	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been undertaken and included within **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** which includes cumulative effects. It also includes references to local and national landscape character assessments and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts. The Planning Statement, and Appendix D of this document takes account of any relevant policies based

		on these assessments in local development documents.
Paragraph 5.10.17	The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales.	
Paragraph 5.10.19	The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.	Good design has been a key consideration from the outset, which has informed and shaped the design, layout and landscape design as discussed in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. Landscape and visual matters have been considered throughout the design evolution process. **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and**

		Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3] details the site selection process while the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3**] sets out key design considerations.
Paragraph 5.10.20	The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an AONBs the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas'.	An Assessment of Likely Effects is provided in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6].** The Proposed would not affect a National Park, The Broads or National Landscapes.
Paragraph 5.10.21	The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation.	This is assessed in the Assessment of Likely Effects of **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**.
Paragraph 5.10.22	The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of noise and light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and	Good design and measures to reduce noise and light pollution have been minimised during all stages of the Proposed Development. Preferred

	operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, how these will be minimised.	locations for infrastructure were identified, including substations, storage compounds, access routes and office locations. These were sited to take advantage of existing screening by vegetation and limit impacts on sensitive receptors such as residential properties. **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** includes an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on local amenity, including an assessment of light pollution impacts. During both construction and decommissioning, activities can take place during daylight hours. However, at certain times of the year when light levels are low temporary external lighting will be deployed. Temporary external lighting will be avoided as far

		as practical and generally limited to the compound areas. External lighting of the on-site substation and BESS will be required during operation in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exists. **ES Chapter 11: Noise [EN010163/APP/5.4]** has assessed noise, and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development through a combination of consultation, background noise survey and computer modelling. During operation the change in noise levels at the nearest Noise Sensitive Receptors ('NSR') is insignificant and no mitigation measures are required. Construction and decommissioning sound and vibration from the introduction and removal of the Proposed Development could be significant in the absence of standard mitigation measures which would

		incorporate the adoption of a CEMP and the use of 'best practicable means' ('BPM') to reduce and mitigate construction sound and vibration levels as far as reasonably possible. However, provided that the appropriate mitigation measures are adopted as a matter of due course and that particular attention is paid to potentially sensitive locations, levels are unlikely to exceed typical limiting criteria at nearby properties. This aspect is therefore considered to consequently have a low overall impact, with the corresponding significance of effect being moderate/minor. Therefore, construction and decommissioning impacts are also not considered significant. A hierarchy of mitigation measures is contained within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which will ensure that significant noise effects do not occur and will be

		agreed once the principal contractor for these works is appointed. In addition, consideration has been given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Proposed Development to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors and the management of construction traffic on the highway network through **ES Appendix 13.2 outline CTMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**, which will inform a detailed CTMP to be secured through a DCO Requirement.
Paragraph 5.10.24	Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality.	Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process, informed by the LVIA, set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The Proposed Development layout has been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment and fieldwork analysis. The design mitigation has

		been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity as outlined in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]**. The landscape design principles incorporate the following: a) Careful siting in the landscape responding sensitively to its proximity to dwellings, settlements and PRoW; b) Conserving the existing vegetation patterns including reinstatement and/or improvement of field boundaries; c) Creating new green infrastructure including areas for woodland belts and screening; and d) Sensitive design in relation to form and materials.

Paragraph 5.10.25	In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on equally sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development.	**ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** identifies the existing landscape is dominated by the cooling towers of the West Burton power station and associated infrastructure including Over Head Lines ('OHL').
Paragraph 5.10.26	Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.	Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process, informed by the LVIA, set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The Proposed Development layout has been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment and fieldwork analysis. The design mitigation has been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual

		amenity as outlined in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**. The landscape design principles incorporate the following: a) Careful siting in the landscape responding sensitively to its proximity to dwellings, settlements and PRoW; b) Conserving the existing vegetation patterns including reinstatement and/or improvement of field boundaries; c) Creating new green infrastructure including areas for woodland belts and screening; and d) Sensitive design in relation to form and materials.
Paragraph 5.10.28	Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping	The Proposed Development will not undertake any landscaping off site.

	off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	
Paragraph 5.10.30	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that local authorities will have sufficient design content secured to ensure future consenting will meet landscape, visual and good design objectives.	**ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** will inform the detailed design of the Proposed Development secured through Requirements forming part of the DCO.
Paragraph 5.10.34	The duty to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas, which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid harming the purposes of designation or to minimise adverse effects on designated landscapes, and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the	No nationally designated landscapes will be impacted by the Proposed Development.

	Secretary of State to refuse consent.	
Paragraph 5.10.35	The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.	This policy acknowledges that virtually all NSIPs will have effects on the landscape, and this also applies to the Proposed Development. When taking into account the scale of the Proposed Development and its benefits, there are few impacts. Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process, informed by the LVIA, set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The Proposed Development layout has been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment and fieldwork analysis. The design mitigation has been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity as outlined in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.7]. The landscape design principles incorporate the following: a) Careful siting in the landscape responding sensitively to its proximity to dwellings, settlements and PRoW; b) Conserving the existing vegetation patterns including reinstatement and/or improvement of field boundaries; c) Creating new green infrastructure including areas for woodland belts and screening; and d) Sensitive design in relation to form and materials. It is considered that the limited and localised residual landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are clearly outweighed by these benefits, particularly the national benefit of delivering large scale renewable energy infrastructure which is identified as a CNP in NPS EN-1 and

		strongly supported by the Government as urgently needed in order to create a secure and affordable energy system and to help combat climate change. Therefore, in accordance with this policy, the level of landscape impacts are not considered to be so damaging that they are not offset by the benefits of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.10.36	In reaching a judgement, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.	Construction and decommissioning stage impacts will be for a relatively short duration, and operational effects beginning at Year 1 will reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes. The change to the landscape character, via the introduction of solar panels and associated infrastructure is considered to be localised. The reduction of effects over time and the reversibility of effects should be taken into consideration when reaching a judgement on the DCO Application.

		All operational effects will be reversed following 40 years of operation which will be secured by the DCO, and all adverse landscape and visual effects identified during the construction and decommissioning phases are short term and temporary. The Proposed Development has sought to minimise impacts through design iteration. The substantial benefits and need for the Proposed Development as set out in Section 5 of this Planning Statement, including the delivery of CNP Infrastructure to contribute towards meeting national energy objectives outweighs the residual landscape effects when applying the planning balancing exercise to the Proposed Development with no requirement to demonstrate exceptional circumstances given that the presumption for allowing the DCO.
Paragraph	The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking	The Proposed Development has been designed taking into account the

5.10.37	account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation.	environmental effects on the landscape, siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise adverse impacts on the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation. This is outlined in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**.
Paragraph 5.10.38	The Secretary of State should consider whether requirements to the consent are needed requiring the incorporation of particular design details that are in keeping with the statutory and technical requirements for landscape and visual impacts.	**ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** will secure the design of the Proposed Development through a DCO Requirement.
Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure and Green Belt		
Paragraph 5.11.4	Development of land will affect soil resources, including physical loss of and damage to soil resources, through land contamination and structural damage. Indirect impacts may also arise from changes in the local water regime, organic matter content, soil biodiversity and	**ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]**, **ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** and **ES Appendix 15.2 Outline Soil**

	soil process.	**Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** provide an assessment of how the Proposed Development will affect soils resources, including physical loss of and damage to soil resources, and indirect impacts to local water features, organic matter, soil biodiversity and soil process. **ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** sets out industry standard good practice measures for the handling and management of soil resources based upon guidance such as Defra's Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Construction Sites, and these are further described in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 15.2 outline SMP[EN010163/APP/6.3.15]**. A detailed CEMP and SMP prior to the commencement of works in site will be secured by a Requirement of the DCO.

		ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15] concludes that the removal of the Site from arable production and the planting of semi-improved grassland (as set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** will provide benefits to the quality of the soil, resulting in a significant beneficial effect. There will also be additional benefits from the recovery of soil organic matter including carbon sequestration and hydrological function.
Paragraph 5.11.8	The ES (see Section 4.3) should identify existing and proposed252 land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the preferred scheme and its likely impacts on such	**ES Chapter 10: Socio-Economics EN010163/APP/6.2.10]**, and section 6 of the Planning Statement identifies existing and proposed land uses near the project, and any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the Site with the Proposed Development or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Previously developed land was

	receptors. For developments on previously developed land, the applicant should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination and how it is proposed to address this.	considered in the Applicant's site selection process. These land types were identified by checking the local authorities brownfield registers. No suitable or available areas of brownfield which could form a contiguous Site was identified. Section **ES Chapter 3: Site Selection, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** has considered the potential for sources of contamination. In conclusion, no significant contaminative processes have operated on the majority of the Site. Potential contaminants may be anticipated onsite in areas currently occupied by farm buildings, railway embankments and West Burton A Power Station. However, the Site is deemed as being of low overall risk of significant contamination, and it is not considered necessary to undertake a ground investigation prior to granting of the DCO application.
Paragraph	Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site**

5.11.12	the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).	**Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** detail the process the Applicant has followed for site selection and design review, including the consideration given to the use of brownfield land. As set out therein, there are no preferable sites that are of sufficient scale to enable the construction of the Proposed Development on non-agricultural land, or land that is of a lower ALC grade without constraint. **ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** has had regard to agricultural land quality and identified the grade of land within the Order Limits. **ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** provides more detail of the land classification within the Order Limits and **ES Appendix 15.2 Outline Soil Management Plan [reference**

		EN010163/APP/6.3.15] details how soil within the Order Limits will be managed for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Approximately 72.1% of the land within the Order Limits forms BMV land. The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on BMV land through the design of the Proposed Development and ALC ratings as well as agricultural land productivity. This includes through discussions with landowners and minimising the impact of the Proposed Development on the landowners' wider land holdings. It is necessary to distinguish between agricultural land as a long-term resource, agricultural production and arable management. Long term, the Proposed Development would not affect the agricultural resource or continued agricultural production if the land continued to be grazed with only the arable use of the Site ceasing during the lifetime of the Proposed

		Development. Effectively the Proposed Development minimises impacts on agricultural land, retaining the ability to reinstate arable agricultural land after decommissioning and facilitating continued agricultural use through biodiversity management grazing throughout the operational life of the Proposed Development, together with allowing the soils to rest. The Applicant has demonstrated that the Proposed Development minimises impacts upon BMV land and, there are insufficient areas of available non-BMV land without constraints on which to accommodate the whole Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will not lead to any permanent loss of BMV land within the Site. Use of BMV land within the Site is justified due to factors related to site location and context within the

		Proposed Development, wider landholding and in relation to adjacent and surrounding land. The reason for retaining some areas of BMV land in general is because it forms part of larger fields of lower grade land and would not be practical to remove this from the Proposed Development in terms of layout or continue to farm as small, isolated land parcels. At the start of construction arable management of land within the development limits will cease for the duration of the temporary development. During operation, grass below and between the panels will need to be managed such as through grazing by livestock where appropriate. The proposal will result in farming diversification and a new stream of income for the landowners independent of from variations in profitability of arable production.

		Upon decommissioning, above ground physical infrastructure will be removed, the Site will be returned to its current state and BMV grade, and the land returned to the landowners. It is assumed hedgerows, trees and, woodland etc will be retained. Significant public benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh the reversible use of 72.1% BMV agricultural land for the duration of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.11.13	Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed.	**ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** identifies any effects on soil health and sets out the embedded mitigation measures which minimise impacts on soil health protect and improve soil quality. **ES Appendix 15.2 outline Soil Management Plan (SMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** has been prepared which sets out the principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the
Paragraph 5.11.14	Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination.	

		Proposed Development. A detailed soils management plan will be prepared prior to construction and secured by a Requirement of the DCO. The removal of the majority of the Site currently used for arable production and the planting of semi-improved grassland will provide benefits to the quality of the soil, resulting in a significant beneficial effect. There will also be additional benefits from the recovery of soil organic matter include carbon sequestration and hydrological function.
Paragraph 5.11.17	Applicants should ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use, taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination.	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** assesses the impact on ground conditions. There is not expected to be any likely significant effects associated with ground conditions. Best practice and bespoke mitigation measures will be carried out during construction, operation and

		decommissioning to reduce nuisance impacts from dust generation, soil removal and waste generation and avoid impact on ground conditions.
Paragraph 5.11.19	Applicants should safeguard any mineral resources on the proposed site as far as possible, taking into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place.	Section 6.11 of the Planning Statement considers Mineral Safeguarding. In terms of Mineral Safeguarding Areas ('MSA'), the Proposed Development affects a relatively small area of sand and gravel deposits with the majority of the Order Limits falling outside a MSA. It is therefore very unlikely that these small areas would be required for mineral extraction during the temporary operational life of the Proposed Development, such that paragraph 5.11.28 of NPS EN-1 is not engaged. The Proposed Development is unlikely to sterilise any significant volumes of safeguarded mineral due to the limited amount of ground disturbance at depth. At the end of its operational life, the

		Proposed Development will be decommissioned, ground structures removed and the site restored. Deep foundations or excavations are not required by the Proposed Development. Therefore disturbance is limited to surface layers rather than underlying deposits, thus underlying mineral deposits would not be permanently sterilised and available to exploit if required at a future date. The Site, along with large areas of Nottingham fall within Petroleum Exploration and Development License ('PEDAL') areas. Oil and gas deposits are found at much greater depths than other minerals and therefore surface development has less potential impact in terms of exploiting the resource. There are no safeguarding areas for hydrocarbons. Existing oil fields are identified and safeguarded with mineral consultation zone around each one. The Proposed Development does

		not affect an existing oil field or come within a mineral consultation zone. Therefore, the Proposed Development is not considered to have any implications for existing or proposed exploration and eventual exploration of oil and gas resource. Sterilisation of mineral resources have been demonstrated not to occur and part of the Proposed Development within the defined MSA will be available for future extraction should this be necessary.
Paragraph 5.11.23	Although in the case of most energy infrastructure there may be little that can be done to mitigate the direct effects of an energy project on the existing use of the proposed site (assuming that some of that use can still be retained post project construction) applicants should nevertheless seek to minimise these effects and the effects on existing or planned uses near the site by the application of good design principles, including the layout of the project and the protection of soils during	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** detail the process the Applicant has followed for site election and design review, including the consideration given to the use of brownfield land. As set out therein, there are no preferable sites that are of sufficient

	construction.	scale to enable the construction of the Proposed Development on non-agricultural land, or land that is of a lower ALC grade without constraint. **ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** has had regard to agricultural land quality and identified the grade of land within the Order Limits. **ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** provides more detail of the land classification within the Order Limits and **ES Appendix 15.2 Outline Soli Management Plan [reference EN010163/APP/6.3.1**5] details how soil within the Order Limits will be managed for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Approximately 72.1% of the land within the Order Limits forms BMV land. The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on BMV land through the design of the Proposed Development and ALC ratings as well as agricultural

		land productivity. This includes through discussions with landowners and minimising the impact of the Proposed Development on the landowners' wider land holdings. It is necessary to distinguish between agricultural land as a long-term resource, agricultural production and arable management. Long term, the Proposed Development would not affect the agricultural resource or continued agricultural production if the land continued to be grazed with only the arable use of the Site ceasing during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Effectively the Proposed Development minimises impacts on agricultural land, retaining the ability to reinstate arable agricultural land after decommissioning and facilitating continued agricultural use through biodiversity management grazing throughout the operational life of the Proposed Development, together with

		allowing the soils to rest. The Applicant has demonstrated that the Proposed Development minimises impacts upon BMV land and, there are insufficient areas of available non-BMV land without constraints on which to accommodate the whole Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will not lead to any permanent loss of BMV land within the Site. Use of BMV land within the Site is justified due to factors related to site location and context within the Proposed Development, wider landholding and in relation to adjacent and surrounding land. The reason for retaining some areas of BMV land in general is because it forms part of larger fields of lower grade land and would not be practical to remove this from the Proposed Development in terms of layout or continue to farm as small, isolated land parcels.

		At the start of construction arable management of land within the development limits will cease for the duration of the temporary development. During operation, grass below and between the panels will need to be managed such as through grazing by livestock where appropriate. The proposal will result in farming diversification and a new stream of income for the landowners independent of from variations in profitability of arable production. Upon decommissioning, above ground physical infrastructure will be removed, the Site will be returned to its current state and BMV grade, and the land returned to the landowners. It is assumed hedgerows, trees and, woodland etc will be retained. Significant public benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh the reversible use of 72.1% BMV

		agricultural land for the duration of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.11.27	Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible. In the EIP, the Government committed to increase the tree canopy and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area of England by 2050. The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** concludes there would be no loss if ancient woodland or veteran trees as a result of the Proposed Development. **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]** has been produced setting out the likely direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on trees. This concludes there will be no tree loss to facilitate the Proposed Development. Retained tree mitigation measures to be secured in the CEMP are proposed to ensure that tree roots and soil structure will be robustly protected, and existing growing conditions will be maintained using sensitive construction methods. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** therefore

		concludes that a temporary adverse effect that is not significant is anticipated. Hedgerow removal amounts to 1070m although this is mitigated via additional hedgerow planting. Measures to protect retained trees and hedgerows will be put in place and secured through a detailed CEMP, DEMP and LEMP as requirements of the DCO. These measures will need to be substantially in accordance with the measures set out in the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** to ensure that impacts are minimised and that the Scheme is implemented in accordance with the detailed management plans.
Paragraph 5.11.28	Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the	The Proposed Development will not impact upon safeguarded mineral

	Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources.	resources within the Order Limits preventing the extraction of minerals in the future after any decommissioning has taken place.
Paragraph 5.11.30	Public Rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Secretary of State should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve or create new access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way, consideration should be given to the use, character, attractiveness, and convenience of the right of way.	The Proposed Development has been designed to have minimal impact on PRoWs. As set out in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** the Proposed Developments design retains all existing PRoWs with no permanent closures or diversions proposed. The site selection process carried out to identify the Site for the Proposed Development included the exclusion of areas which contained a large number of Public Rights of Way to ensure that impacts could be minimised. In total there are 25 Public Rights of Way ('PRoWs') that traverse or abut the Order Limits, which and are set out in **Table 13.7 of ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.13]. Public PRoWs within the Site will remain open for the duration of construction period and diversions are not proposed unless required for short durations to protect public health and safety. When this is necessary, work could be undertaken when the relevant PRoW is unlikely to be used, such as during the nighttime, and opened during the daytime when the Public Right of Way PRoW is more likely to be used so far as practicable to do so. Existing PRoWs will remain open during the operational phase of the Proposed Development and two new permissive paths will be created. To improve connectivity within the Site, as well as active travel through the promotion of pedestrian and cycle access. These enhancements are set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.
Paragraph	The Secretary of State should ensure that	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site**

5.11.34	applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. Where schemes are to be sited on best and most versatile agricultural land the Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of that land. Where development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.	**Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** detail the process the Applicant has followed for site election and design review, including the consideration given to the use of brownfield land. As set out therein, there are no preferable sites that are of sufficient scale to enable the construction of the Proposed Development on non-agricultural land, or land that is of a lower ALC grade without constraint. **ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** has had regard to agricultural land quality and identified the grade of land within the Order Limits. **ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** provides more detail of the land classification within the Order Limits and **ES Appendix 15.2 Outline Soil Management Plan [reference**

		EN010163/APP/6.3.15] details how soil within the Order Limits will be managed for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Approximately 72.1% of the land within the Order Limits forms BMV land. The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on BMV land through the design of the Proposed Development and ALC ratings as well as agricultural land productivity. This includes through discussions with landowners and minimising the impact of the Proposed Development on the landowners' wider land holdings. It is necessary to distinguish between agricultural land as a long-term resource, agricultural production and arable management. Long term, the Proposed Development would not affect the agricultural resource or continued agricultural production if the land continued to be grazed with only the arable use of the Site ceasing during the lifetime of the Proposed

		Development. Effectively the Proposed Development minimises impacts on agricultural land, retaining the ability to reinstate arable agricultural land after decommissioning and facilitating continued agricultural use through biodiversity management grazing throughout the operational life of the Proposed Development, together with allowing the soils to rest. The Applicant has demonstrated that the Proposed Development minimises impacts upon BMV land and, there are insufficient areas of available non-BMV land without constraints on which to accommodate the whole Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will not lead to any permanent loss of BMV land within the Site. Use of BMV land within the Site is justified due to factors related to site location and context within the

		Proposed Development, wider landholding and in relation to adjacent and surrounding land. The reason for retaining some areas of BMV land in general is because it forms part of larger fields of lower grade land and would not be practical to remove this from the Proposed Development in terms of layout or continue to farm as small, isolated land parcels. At the start of construction arable management of land within the development limits will cease for the duration of the temporary development. During operation, grass below and between the panels will need to be managed such as through grazing by livestock where appropriate. The proposal will result in farming diversification and a new stream of income for the landowners independent of from variations in profitability of arable production.

		Upon decommissioning, above ground physical infrastructure will be removed, the Site will be returned to its current state and BMV grade, and the land returned to the landowners. It is assumed hedgerows, trees and, woodland etc will be retained. Significant public benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh the reversible use of 72.1% BMV agricultural land for the duration of the Proposed Development.
Noise and Vibration		
Paragraph 5.12.4	Noise resulting from a proposed development can also have adverse impacts on wildlife and biodiversity. Noise effects of the proposed development on ecological receptors should be assessed by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Biodiversity and Geological Conservation section of this NPS at Section 5.4. This should consider underwater noise and vibration especially for marine developments. Underwater noise can be a significant issue in the marine environment,	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** includes an assessment of the likely impacts and effects on noise relevant ecological features. It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development is compliant with this policy.

	particularly in regard to energy production.	
Paragraph 5.12.6	Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment: • a description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal characteristics, if the noise is impulsive, whether the noise contains particular high or low frequency content or any temporal characteristics of the noise. • identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected. • the characteristics of the existing noise environment. • a prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development: o in the shorter term, such as during the construction period. o in the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure. o at particular times of the day, evening and	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** presents a noise assessment in accordance with the requirements of this policy, including a description of the noise generating aspects of the development. **ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** describes the existing characteristics of the noise environment for the Scheme and surrounding areas; embedded design mitigation relevant to the Scheme with respect to noise and vibration, encompassing the construction, operational and decommissioning phases; assesses the noise and vibration effects on sensitive receptors arising from the construction, decommissioning, and operating life of the infrastructure including at particular times of the day and at night.

	night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year. • an assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise-sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and quality of life / well-being where appropriate, particularly among those disadvantaged by other factors who are often disproportionately affected by noise-sensitive areas. • if likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise. • all reasonable steps taken to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** outlines the noise sensitive locations and premises that have been identified. Noise-sensitive receptors have been identified through a desktop study of aerial imagery and mapping across the site and assessed at daytime **Figure 11.1 Assessment Locations and Daytime Specific Sound Levels [EN010163/APP/6.4.11]** and nighttime **ES Figure 11.2 Assessment Locations and Nighttime Specific Sound Levels [EN010163/APP/6.4.11]. Noise Assessment details are** summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]**. The effect of noise and vibration on these receptors have been considered during the construction, decommissioning and operational phases of the Proposed Development including at particular times of the day and at night. The noise assessment is proportionate to the likely noise impact, which would

		be managed through **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** during construction and would be limited by the nature of the Proposed Development and very small amount of traffic generated during operation.
Paragraph 5.12.7	The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.	The noise assessment is proportionate to the likely noise impact, which would be managed through the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** during construction and would be limited by the nature of the Scheme and very small amount of traffic generated during operation.
Paragraph 5.12.8	Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** considers the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation. It concludes that with the implementation of mitigation measures significant adverse noise and vibration effects during the

		construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be avoided at sensitive receptors. Mitigation measures have been embedded into the Proposed Developments design and construction methodology to minimise adverse effects where practicable, as set out in **ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]**. These include embedded design measures representing Best Practicable Means (BPM) during construction and decommissioning. A hierarchy of mitigation measures is contained within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which will ensure that significant noise effects do not occur due to potential nighttime works and will be agreed once the principal contractor for these works is appointed. In addition, consideration has been given to traffic routing, timing and access points to

		the Proposed Development to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors and the management of construction traffic on the highway network through **ES Appendix 13.2 outline CTMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**, which will inform a detailed CTMP to be secured through a Requirement of the DCO.
Paragraph 5.12.9	Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance. Further information on assessment of particular noise sources may be contained in the technology specific NPSs. In particular, for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. For the prediction, assessment and management of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** assesses operational noise at the identified sensitive noise receptors following BS 4142 guidance, BS 8233:2014 and World Health Organisation guidance. Construction and decommissioning noise and vibration impacts have been assessed in line with Annex E of British Standards 5228-1.
Paragraph	Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** provides a

5.12.12	development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation.	detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan for noise and vibration impacts.
Paragraph 5.12.13	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction noise over and above any which may form part of the project application. In doing so the Secretary of State may wish to impose mitigation measures. Any such mitigation measures should take account of the NPPF or any successor to it and the Planning Practice Guidance on Noise.	A hierarchy of mitigation measures is contained within the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which include embedded design measures representing Best Practicable Means (BPM) during construction and decommissioning. Measures which will ensure that significant noise effects do not occur due to potential night time works and will be agreed once the principal contractor for these works is appointed. In addition, consideration has been given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Scheme to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors and the management of construction traffic on the highway network through the **ES Appendix 13.2 outline CTMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**, which will inform a detailed CTMP to

		be secured through the a Requirement of the DCO. These mitigation measures have taken account of the NPPF the Planning Practice Guidance on Noise.
Paragraph 5.12.14	Mitigation measures may include one or more of the following: • engineering: reducing the noise generated at source and/or containing the noise generated. • lay-out: where possible, optimising the distance between the source and noise sensitive receptors and/or incorporating good design to minimise noise transmission through the use of screening by natural or purpose-built barriers, or other buildings. • administrative: using planning conditions/obligations to restrict activities allowed on the site at certain times and/or specifying permissible noise limits/noise levels, differentiating as appropriate between different times of day, such as evenings and late at night, and taking into account seasonality of wildlife in nearby designated sites.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** details the embedded mitigation measures that have been embedded into the Proposed Developments design and construction methodology to minimise adverse effects where practicable. These include embedded design measures representing Best Practicable Means (BPM) during construction and decommissioning, and the consideration of plant selection, layout of the Order limits, including locating and orienting noise generating infrastructure such as Solar Stations and BESS in a sensitive manner to minimise operational noise at sensitive receptors. Design principles as set out in **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles**

	• insulation: mitigating the impact on areas likely to be affected by noise including through noise insulation when the impact is on a building.	**[EN010163/APP/6.3.4**] which will inform the detailed design, to be secured by a Requirement of the DCO. A hierarchy of mitigation measures is contained within the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which will ensure that significant noise effects do not occur due to potential nighttime works and will be agreed once the principal contractor for these works is appointed. In addition, consideration has been given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Scheme to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors and the management of construction traffic on the highway network through the **ES Appendix 13.2 outline CTMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**, which will inform a detailed CTMP to be secured through a Requirement of the DCO.
Paragraph 5.12.15	The project should demonstrate good design through selection of the quietest or most	The Proposed Development has demonstrated good design through

	acceptable cost-effective plant available; containment of noise within buildings wherever possible, taking into account any other adverse impacts that such containment might cause (e.g. on landscape and visual impacts; optimisation of plant layout to minimise noise emissions; and, where possible, the use of landscaping, bunds or noise barriers to reduce noise transmission).	the inclusion of noise and vibration mitigation measures. **ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** details the embedded mitigation measures for the operational phase. Embedded mitigation measures that will be applied includes (but is not limited to) consideration of: d. Plant selection; e. Design layout of elements within the Order limits to minimise noise at receptors including: i. locating solar stations in areas away from large concentrations of receptors; and ii. location and orientation of inverters and transformers. f. Transformers may be standalone units or pre- assembled with inverters and switchgear to form a single contained unit (i.e. enclosed). **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**

		Impact and Residential Amenity of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.6] sets out an assessment of how the Proposed Developments design, which includes embedded mitigation measures, will have an effect on landscape and visual impacts, and sets out any necessary mitigation measures.
Paragraph 5.12.16	A development must be undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements for noise. Due regard must be given to the relevant sections of the Noise Policy Statement for England, the NPPF, and the government's associated planning guidance on noise. In Wales the relevant policy will be PPW and the TANs, as well as the Welsh Government's Noise and Soundscape Action Plan.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** considers relevant sections of the Noise Policy Statement, the NPPF, and the government's associated planning guidance on noise, within its assessment.
Paragraph 5.12.17	The Secretary of State should not grant development consent unless they are satisfied that the proposals will meet the following aims, through the effective management and control of noise: • avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** concludes that with the implementation of mitigation measures significant adverse noise and vibration effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed

	• mitigate and minimise other adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise. • where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise.	Development will be avoided at sensitive receptors. Mitigation measures have been embedded into the Proposed Developments design and construction methodology to minimise adverse effects where practicable, as set out in **ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010163/APP/6.2.11]**. These include embedded design measures representing Best Practicable Means (BPM) during construction and decommissioning, and the consideration of plant selection, layout of the Order limits, including locating and orienting noise generating infrastructure such Solar Stations and BESS in a sensitive manner to minimise operational noise at sensitive receptors. Design principles as set out in **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which will inform the detailed design, to be secured by a Requirement of the DCO.
Paragraph 5.12.18	When preparing the Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State should consider including measurable requirements or specifying the mitigation measures to be put in place to ensure that noise levels do not exceed any limits specified in the development consent. These requirements or mitigation measures may apply to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the energy infrastructure development.	

		A hierarchy of mitigation measures is contained within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which will ensure that significant noise effects do not occur and will be agreed once the principal contractor for these works is appointed. In addition, consideration has been given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Scheme to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors and the management of construction traffic on the highway network through the **ES Appendix 13.2 outline CTMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** which will inform a detailed CTMP to be secured through a Requirement attached to the DCO. The effect of noise and vibration on nearby sensitive receptors can be minimised through a good communication strategy. Prior to construction works being undertaken, liaison will be undertaken with occupiers of sensitive receptors that

		may be adversely affected by construction noise and vibration. The communication strategy and noise complaint system will be secured through the DCO as part of **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** submitted alongside the DCO.
Socio-economic Impacts		
Paragraph 5.13.2	Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES (see Section 4.3).	An assessment of these impacts is undertaken in **ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]**.
Paragraph 5.13.3	The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with relevant local authorities during early stages of project development so that the applicant can gain a better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities.	The Applicant has engaged with relevant local authorities, as outlined in **ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]**.
Paragraph	The applicant's assessment should consider all	**ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics**

5.13.4	relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: • the creation of jobs and training opportunities. Applicants may wish to provide information on the sustainability of the jobs created, including where they will help to develop the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero. • the contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally. • the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities. • any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation to use of local support services and supply chains. • effects (positive and negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted. • the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** provides an assessment of all potential socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development, in accordance with this policy.

	infrastructure. This could change the local population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development. • cumulative effects - if development consent were to be granted for a number of projects within a region and these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short-term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region.	
Paragraph 5.13.5	Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.	**ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** describes the existing socio-economic baseline conditions of the Study Area. The Proposed Developments compliance with local policies is considered in

		Appendix D of this Planning Statement.
Paragraph 5.13.6	Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example visual impacts considered in Section 5.10 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain.	**ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** provides an assessment of the Proposed Developments impact on local land use and amenity. It confirms the Proposed Development supports social economic growth, existing and future land uses and community infrastructure including PRoWs. The Proposed Development will result in significant beneficial socio-economic effects due to the employment and educational opportunities during construction and decommissioning phase, benefits to the use of accommodation stock and through creation of two permissive paths. There may be significant adverse effects to local tourism, that will be limited to a small number of locations, and on long distance recreational routes during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Cumulative effects have been

		assessed, and no significant cumulative effects are expected to arise. The identified significant effects are limited, short term and outweighed by the significant public and other benefits of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.13.7	Applicants should consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required.	An accommodation strategy is not proposed for the Proposed Development as there is considered to be sufficient local supply to facilitate all construction workers.
Paragraph 5.13.8	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are necessary to mitigate any adverse socio-economic impacts of the development. For example, high quality design can improve the visual and environmental experience for visitors and the local community alike.	**ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** concludes that there would be no significant effects in relation to socio- economic and land use impacts. The Proposed Developments design also includes two new permissive paths. The Proposed Development has been designed to the principles of good design as set out **in ES Chapter 6:**

		Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6] and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Paragraph 5.13.9	The Secretary of State should have regard to the potential socio-economic impacts of new energy infrastructure identified by the applicant and from any other sources that the Secretary of State considers to be both relevant and important to its decision.	**ES Chapter 10: Socio-economics [EN010163/APP/6.2.10]** provides an assessment of all potential socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.13.10	The Secretary of State may conclude that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence (particularly in view of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in this NPS).	
Paragraph 5.13.11	The Secretary of State should consider any relevant positive provisions the applicant has made or is proposing to make to mitigate impacts (for example through planning obligations) and any legacy benefits that may arise as well as any options for phasing development in relation to the socio-economic	The Proposed Development provides the following environmental, economic, social and community benefits: a. The delivery of a substantial CNP infrastructure that will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and

	impacts.	low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020s and 2030s timeframe. Maximising the capacity of generation in the resource-rich, well-connected and technically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development, represents a significant and economically rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency. b. A suite of ecological enhancements including new diverse habitats and planting, helping to provide maximum benefits to biodiversity and improved connectivity, providing 10% BNG. c. The provision of two new permissive paths offering recreational access in an area where PRoW are limited and also improving north-south off- road links. d. During construction, 382 net direct jobs will be created per annum during the construction period. Of
Paragraph 5.13.12	The Secretary of State may wish to include a requirement that specifies the approval by the local authority of an employment and skills plan detailing arrangements to promote local employment and skills development opportunities, including apprenticeships, education, engagement with local schools and colleges and training programmes to be enacted.	

		these, 289 jobs per annum are expected to be taken up by residents in the Bassetlaw District. Prior to construction, a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, which accords with the outline plan submitted as part of the DCO Application, will be prepared setting out the measures the Applicant will use to advertise and promote employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development locally. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero by 2050. e. Gross Value Added ('GVA') to the economy from workers is expected to be a £29.5 million of benefit to the local economy all retained within Bassetlaw District. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is likely to generate around 50% of GVA per annum as the

		construction phase with adjustments made for inflation between construction and decommissioning. The jobs created by the Proposed Development will be in the renewable energy sector, specifically relating to solar installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain.
Traffic and Transport		
Paragraph 5.14.5	If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES (see Section 4.3) should include a transport appraisal. The DfT's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) and Welsh Governments WelTAG provides guidance on modelling and assessing the impacts of transport schemes.	**ES Appendix 13.2 Transport Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been prepared in accordance with appropriate guidance including the Department for Transport's guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements in Decision Taking (2014). The applicant has consulted with the relevant Highways Authorities regarding the assessment. Comments from these stakeholders are included in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**.
Paragraph	National Highways and Highways Authorities are	**ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access**

5.14.6	statutory consultees on NSIP applications including energy infrastructure where it is expected to affect the strategic road network and / or have an impact on the local road network. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment and mitigation to inform the application to be submitted.	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has been submitted following consultation with the relevant Highways Authorities.
Paragraph 5.14.7	The applicant should prepare a travel plan including demand management and monitoring measures to mitigate transport impacts. The applicant should also provide details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport to: • reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal. • contribute to decarbonisation of the transport network. • improve user travel options by offering genuine modal choice.	**ES Appendix 13.2 outline CTMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been prepared to mitigate transport impacts and reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Scheme, while encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communication local bus connection and pedestrian/cycle routes to/from the Proposed Development to all construction staff, and providing appropriate facilities for the safe storage of cycles. **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** considers any possible disruption to services and
Paragraph 5.14.8	The assessment should also consider any possible disruption to services and infrastructure (such as road, rail and airports).	

		infrastructure.
Paragraph 5.14.9	If additional transport infrastructure is needed or proposed, it should always include good quality walking, wheeling and cycle routes, and associated facilities (changing/storage etc.) needed to enhance active transport provision.	**ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** states that site access improvements will be implemented in terms of new infrastructure. The Proposed Development will include the provision of two new permissive paths to improve connectivity within the Site, as well as active travel through the promotion of pedestrian and cycle access. These enhancements are set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.
Paragraph 5.14.11	Where mitigation is needed, possible demand management measures must be considered. This could include identifying opportunities to: • reduce the need to travel by consolidating trips. • locate development in areas already accessible by active travel and public transport.	**ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been prepared to mitigate transport impacts, reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Proposed Development, while encouraging the use of lower

	• provide opportunities for shared mobility. • re-mode by shifting travel to a sustainable mode that is more beneficial to the network . • retime travel outside of the known peak times . • reroute to use parts of the network that are less busy.	carbon modes of transport by identifying and communication local bus connection and pedestrian/cycle routes to/from the Proposed Development to all construction staff, and providing appropriate facilities for the safe storage of cycles.
Paragraph 5.14.12	If feasible and operationally reasonable, such mitigation should be required, before considering requirements for the provision of new inland transport infrastructure to deal with remaining transport impacts. All stages of the project should support and encourage a modal shift of freight from road to more environmentally sustainable alternatives, such as rail, cargo bike, maritime and inland waterways, as well as making appropriate provision for and infrastructure needed to support the use of alternative fuels including charging for electric vehicles.	As outlined in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]** and **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** the Proposed Development would aim to reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Proposed Development, while encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communication local bus connection and pedestrian/cycle routes to/from the Proposed Development to all construction staff, and providing appropriate facilities for the safe storage of cycles. It would also ensure

		construction vehicles conform to current emissions standards. The potential use of water-borne and rail transport instead of road transport for all phases of the Proposed Development has been considered. Whilst use of both alternative is possible in the supply of the Proposed Development, the final leg of deliveries during construction will be undertaken by roads set out in the study area. For example, larger equipment, such as transformers or batteries, will be transported to the Humber docks by sea (Hull, Immingham, Goole) but the final leg delivery will be via the strategic and local highway network as set out in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**.
Paragraph 5.14.13	Regard should always be given to the needs of freight at all stages in the construction and operation of the development including the need to provide appropriate facilities for HGV	The potential use of water-borne and rail transport instead of road transport for all phases of the Proposed Development has been considered. Whilst use of both alternative is

	drivers as appropriate.	possible in the supply of the Proposed Development, the final leg of deliveries during construction will be undertaken by roads set out in the study area. For example, larger equipment, such as transformers or batteries, will be transported to the Humber docks by sea (Hull, Immingham, Goole) but the final leg delivery will be via the strategic and local highway network as set out in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**.
Paragraph 5.14.14	The Secretary of State may attach requirements to a consent where there is likely to be substantial HGV traffic that: • control numbers of HGV movements to and from the site in a specified period during its construction and possibly on the routing of such movements. • make sufficient provision for HGV parking,270 and associated high quality drive facilities either on the site or at dedicated facilities elsewhere, to support driver welfare, avoid	The Site is located in a rural area with good access to the Strategic Road network and seeks to use the same transport route as the neighbouring West Burton Power Station and Sturton-le-Steeple quarry. A total of 26 access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. No.2 of the accesses will serve primary

	'overspill' parking on public roads, prolonged queuing on approach roads and uncontrolled on-street HGV parking in normal operating conditions. • ensure satisfactory arrangements for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption, in consultation with network providers and the responsible police force.	construction compounds and No.3 will serve the secondary construction compounds. The remaining No.21 access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and No.5 construction accesses will be used during operation. Traffic flows are expected to take place over 730 working days (construction period) and during a peak construction phase day traffic vehicle trips will consist of staff car, shuttle bus, LGV and HGV movements. It is estimated that the construction of the Proposed Development would result in around 12,887 one-way (25,774 two-way) delivery construction vehicle movements, and 42,000 one-way (84,000 two-way) workforce construction vehicle movements over the full 24-month (730 days) construction period. This equates to an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) value of 152 vehicles (comprising 36 delivery trips and 116

		workforce trips) based on 109,774 trips divided by 730 days (equivalent of 24 months construction period). **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Proposed Development in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay; pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. There are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access receptors. Significant cumulative effects are also not expected to arise. **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the order limits. This includes traffic

		routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads to ensure access roads are suitable for transportation of components to the site. The oCTMP is secured by a DCO Requirement and also includes a construction worker plan that sets out measures and controls for staff vehicles. This includes measures to discourage and limit access to the Order Limits by car and instead promotes the use of a shuttle bus from local worker accommodation and car sharing to minimise additional vehicles on local roads.
Paragraph 5.14.15	The Secretary of State should have regard to the cost-effectiveness of demand management measures compared to new transport infrastructure, as well as the aim to secure more sustainable patterns of transport development when considering mitigation measures.	**ES Appendix 13.2 Transport Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** and **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** outline measures proposed to mitigate the traffic and transport impacts of the Proposed Development. The outline CTMP will be developed into a CTMP prior to commencement and will

		be secured by a Requirement of the DCO.
Paragraph 5.14.18	A new energy NSIP may give rise to substantial impacts on the surrounding transport infrastructure and the Secretary of State should therefore ensure that the applicant has sought to mitigate these impacts, including during the construction phase of the development and by enhancing active, public and shared transport provision and accessibility.	**ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** confirms that due to measures proposed for construction, the Scheme will not result in residual adverse effects upon highway safety or generate any highway capacity issues. A total of 26 access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. No.2 of the accesses will serve primary construction compounds and No.3 will serve the secondary construction compounds. The remaining No.21 access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and No.5 construction accesses will be used during operation. Traffic flows are expected to take place over 730 working days
Paragraph 5.14.20	Development consent should not be withheld provided that the applicant is willing to enter into planning obligations for funding new infrastructure or requirements can be imposed to mitigate transport impacts. In this situation the Secretary of State should apply appropriately limited weight to residual effects on the surrounding transport infrastructure.	
Paragraph 5.14.21	The Secretary of State should only consider refusing development on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe, or it does not show how consideration has been given to	

	the provision of adequate active public or shared transport access and provision.	(construction period) and during a peak construction phase day traffic vehicle trips will consist of staff car, shuttle bus, LGV and HGV movements. It is estimated that the construction of the Proposed Development would result in around 12,887 one-way (25,774 two-way) delivery construction vehicle movements, and 42,000 one-way (84,000 two-way) workforce construction vehicle movements over the full 24-month (730 days) construction period. This equates to an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) value of 152 vehicles (comprising 36 delivery trips and 116 workforce trips) based on 109,774 trips divided by 730 days (equivalent of 24 months construction period). **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Proposed Development in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay;

		pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. There are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access receptors. Significant cumulative effects are also not expected to arise. **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads to ensure access roads are suitable for transportation of components to the site. The oCTMP is secured by a DCO Requirement and also includes a construction worker plan that sets out measures and controls for staff vehicles. This includes measures to

		discourage and limit access to the Order Limits by car, and instead promotes the use of a shuttle bus from local worker accommodation and car sharing to minimise additional vehicles on local roads. Overall, the Proposed Development will not have an unacceptable or severe impact on highway safety.
Resource and Waste Management		
Paragraph 4.12.10	The Secretary of State should work on the assumption that the relevant pollution control regime and other environmental regulatory regimes, including those on land drainage, water abstraction and biodiversity, will be properly applied and enforced by the relevant regulator. The Secretary of State should act to complement but not seek to duplicate them.	The Proposed Development has been designed and will be constructed and operated to minimise the creation of waste, maximise the use of recycled materials and assist the collection, separation, sorting, recycling and recovery of waste arising from the development during its use. **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** sets out the arrangements that are proposed for managing any waste produced by the Proposed Development, in accordance
Paragraph 5.15.6	Applicants must demonstrate that development proposals are in line with Defra's policy position on the role of energy from waste in treating residual waste.	
Paragraph	The applicant should set out the arrangements	

5.15.8	that are proposed for managing any waste produced and prepare a report that sets out the sustainable management of waste and use of resources throughout any relevant demolition, excavation and construction activities.	with the waste hierarchy, which are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** informing detailed plans to be secured by the DCO. Measures include: a. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction/decommissioning waste to be re- used and recycled where reasonably practicable; b. Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; and
Paragraph 5.15.9	The arrangements described and a report setting out the sustainable management of waste and use of resources should include information on how re-use and recycling will be maximised in addition to the proposed waste recovery and disposal system for all waste generated by the development. They should also include an assessment of the impact of the waste arising from development on the capacity of waste management facilities to deal with other waste arising in the area for at least five years of operation.	
Paragraph 5.15.10	The applicant is encouraged to refer to the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Maximising Resources Minimising Waste and 'Towards Zero Waste: Our Waste Strategy for Wales' and should seek to minimise the volume of waste produced and the volume of waste sent for disposal unless it can be demonstrated	

	that this is the best overall environmental outcome.	c. Reusing suitable infrastructure and resources where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements). **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** concludes that there would be no significant impacts relating to materials and waste during construction, operation or decommissioning. No adverse effects are expected in relation to the ability of existing waste management facilities to deal with other waste from other solar DCO's in the area. The Applicant is committed to properly managing all waste from the Proposed Development, including on-site and off-site, by dealing with it appropriately with the waste infrastructure available. During decommissioning, the Scheme will be subject to measures and procedures defined within a DP as
Paragraph 5.15.12	The UK is committed to moving towards a more 'circular economy'. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to source materials from recycled or reused sources and use low carbon materials, sustainable sources and local suppliers. Construction best practices should be used to ensure that material is reused or recycled onsite where possible.	
Paragraph 5.15.13	Applicants are also encouraged to use construction best practices in relation to storing materials in an adequate and protected place on site to prevent waste, for example, from damage or vandalism. The use of Building Information Management tools (or similar) to record the materials used in construction can help to reduce waste in future decommissioning of facilities, by identifying materials that can be recycled or reused.	

		secured through the DCO. **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** has been submitted with the DCO application.
Paragraph 5.15.14	The Secretary of State should consider the extent to which the applicant has proposed an effective system for managing hazardous and non-hazardous waste arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development.	Potential sources of waste associated with the Scheme are outline in **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]**. The Applicant would demonstrate that processes are in place to meet relevant Environmental Permit (EP) requirements, should an EP regime relating to hazardous or non-hazardous waste be required for the Proposed Development. **Details of Other Consents and Licenses [EN010163/APP/5.9**] sets out information on additional consents and licenses that are or may be needed to construct and operated the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 5.15.15	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that: • any such waste will be properly managed,	The Proposed Development has been designed and will be constructed and

	both on-site and off-site. • the waste from the proposed facility can be dealt with appropriately by the waste infrastructure which is, or is likely to be, available. Such waste arisings should not have an adverse effect on the capacity of existing waste management facilities to deal with other waste arisings in the area. • adequate steps have been taken to minimise the volume of waste arisings, and of the volume of waste arisings sent for recovery or disposal, except where that is the best overall environmental outcome.	operated to minimise the creation of waste, maximise the use of recycled materials and assist the collection, separation, sorting, recycling and recovery of waste arising from the development during its use. **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** sets out the arrangements that are proposed for managing any waste produced by the Proposed Development, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, which are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** informing detailed plans to be secured by the DCO. Measures include: a. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction/decommissioning waste
Paragraph 5.15.16	Where necessary, the Secretary of State should use requirements or obligations to ensure that appropriate measures for waste management are applied.	
Paragraph 5.15.17	The Secretary of State may wish to include a condition on revision of waste management plans at reasonable intervals when giving consent.	
Paragraph 5.15.19	The Secretary of State should have regard to any potential impacts on the achievement of	

	resource efficiency and waste reduction targets set under the Environment Act 2021 or wider goals set out in the government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.	to be re- used and recycled where reasonably practicable; b. Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; and c. Reusing suitable infrastructure and resources where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements). **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]** concludes that there would be no significant impacts relating to materials and waste during construction, operation or decommissioning. No adverse effects are expected in relation to the ability

		of existing waste management facilities to deal with other waste from other solar DCO's in the area. The Applicant is committed to properly managing all waste from the Proposed Development, including on-site and off-site, by dealing with it appropriately with the waste infrastructure available. During decommissioning, the Scheme will be subject to measures and procedures defined within a DP as secured through the DCO. **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** has been submitted with the DCO application.
Water Quality and Resources		
Paragraph 5.16.3	Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of	**ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** presents an assessment of the likely significant effects on the water environment including surface water features such as rivers, streams,

	climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent (see Section 4.3 and 4.10).	ditches, lakes, groundwater assets, and demand for water resources, taking into account impacts from climate change.
Paragraph 5.16.4	The applicant should make early contact with the relevant regulators, including the local authority, the Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation, where appropriate, for relevant licensing and environmental permitting requirements.	**ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** details that engagement has been undertaken with the Environment Agency and relevant regulators.
Paragraph 5.16.5	Where possible, applicants are encouraged to manage surface water during construction by treating surface water runoff from exposed topsoil prior to discharging and to limit the discharge of suspended solids e.g. from car parks or other areas of hard standing, during operation.	The implementation of embedded mitigation measures and best practice control measures during the construction of the Proposed Development will be secured via a detailed CEMP which is to be substantially in accordance with the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, and a Drainage Strategy, which is in accordance with **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]**. A Water Management Plan (WMP) (which will be produced post consent) will
Paragraph 5.16.6	Applicants are encouraged to consider protective measures to control the risk of pollution to groundwater beyond those outlined in River Basin Management Plans and Groundwater Protection Zones – this could include, for example, the use of protective barriers.	

		include details for water quality monitoring and pollution prevention and control. The WMP will be a management plan that is brought forward as part of the detailed CEMP to be secured by a Requirement of the DCO and to be substantially in accordance with the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.
Paragraph 5.16.7	The ES should in particular describe: • the existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges. • existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies)	An assessment of the baseline is provided in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and demonstrates compliance with this policy. The impacts of climate change. Cumulative effects are also considered. **ES Appendix 8.3 Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** assesses the impacts of the Proposed Development on water bodies or protected areas under the WFD.

	and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance. • existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics. • any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions. • how climate change could impact any of the above in the future. • any cumulative effects.	
Paragraph 5.16.8	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.	Mitigation measures during the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be according to best practice and implemented through the **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP**

		[EN010163/APP/6.3.4]. **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** sets out the measures propped to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment.
Paragraph 5.16.16	The Secretary of State should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary.	

NPS relevant Paragraph	NPS Relevant Detail	NPS Assessment and Proposed Development compliance
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3)		
Climate Change Adaption		
Paragraph 2.4.11	Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in	Climate change resilience measures are embedded into the Proposed Development. These include measures

	particular, how plant will be resilient to: • increased risk of flooding; and • impact of higher temperatures.	associated with flood risk, as seen in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. Further detail on the specific flood impacts and mitigation measures are discussed in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8].** Details of other climate change adaptation measures are set out in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**, and **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**
Good Design		
Paragraph 2.5.2	Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon

		electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Developments design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010142/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Proposed Developments design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included:

		• Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050; • Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by diversifying energy production and stored energy; • Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to heritage assets and settings; • Safeguard surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk

		elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to existing land quality; and • Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Development's design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010142/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Flexibility		
Paragraph 2.6.1	Where details are still to be finalised, applicants should explain in the application which elements of the proposal have yet to be	The Applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design details of certain components of the

	finalised, and the reason why this is the case.	Proposed Development. The extent of flexibility required is described in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** and set out in the **Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Paragraph 2.6.2	Where flexibility is sought in the consent as a result, applicants should, to the best of their knowledge, assess the likely worst case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed.	As set out in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]**, the application and EIA have been based on maximum, and if relevant, minimum parameters. To remain in accordance with the EIA Regulations, the parameters have remained as limited as practicable to ensure that the 'likely significant effects' are identified, rather than unrealistically amplified effects, which could be deemed to be unlikely. These parameters have been considered in detail by technical authors in the ES to ensure the realistic worst-case effects of the Scheme have been assessed for each potential receptor. This is of

		particular importance to maintain flexibility due to the rapid pace of change in solar PV technology.
Need/Principle		
Paragraph 2.10.9	The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions by 2050. As such, solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector.	The NPSs set out the Government's policy commitment to meeting net zero. Evidence of need for the Proposed Development is provided within the designated NPSs and how the Proposed Development meets this need. Section 5 of the Planning Statement explains that the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020s and 2030's timeframe. Maximising the capacity of generation in the resource-rich, well-connected and technically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant
Paragraph 2.10.10	Solar also has an important role in delivering the government's goals for greater energy independence. The British Energy Security Strategy states that government expects a five-fold increase in combined ground and rooftop solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW). It sets out that government is supportive of solar that is "co-located with other functions (for example, agriculture, onshore wind generation, or storage) to maximise the efficiency of land use".	
Paragraph 2.10.11	The Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan states that government seeks large scale ground-mount solar deployment across the UK,	

	looking for development mainly on brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land. It sets out that solar and farming can be complementary, supporting each other financially, environmentally and through shared use of land, and encourages deployment of solar technology that delivers environmental benefits, with consideration for ongoing food production or environmental improvement.	and commercially rational step towards the fight against the global climate emergency.
Paragraph 2.10.13	Solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation.	This policy emphasises that solar is also one of the lowest cost ways of generating electricity and that solar is one of the predominant technologies anticipated to produce electricity by 2050. The Proposed Development is therefore strongly supported by both the need for decarbonised grid and affordable energy supplies. The cost of solar generation is already super- competitive against the cost of other forms of conventional and low-carbon generation, both locally and more widely. Internationally, there is the ongoing trend of solar generation
Paragraph 2.10.14	Solar farms can be built quickly and, coupled with consistent reductions in the cost of materials and improvements in the efficiency of panels, large-scale solar is now viable in some cases to deploy subsidy-free.	

		assets becoming larger and more affordable, each subsequent project providing a real-life demonstration that solar schemes of similar sizes and scales as the Proposed Development can be developed locally. The development of such Proposed Developments will provide decarbonisation and commercial benefits to consumers. Single, large-scale solar schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward carbon reductions and more affordable electricity, in line with government policy.
Paragraph 2.10.15	Solar farm proposals are currently likely to consist of solar panel arrays, mounting structures, piles, inverters, transformers and cables.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large

		amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Developments design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010142/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Paragraph 2.10.16	Associated infrastructure may also be proposed and may be treated, on a case by case basis, as associated development, such as energy storage, electrolysers associated with the production of low carbon hydrogen, or security arrangements (which may encompass flood defences, fencing, lighting and surveillance).	It is confirmed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** that the site totals 888.31 ha in area and is located on land to the east and west of Sturton-le-Steeple, wholly within Bassetlaw District in the county of Nottinghamshire. The developable area contains solar panels (467ha), associated BESS (2.9ha), substation (2.4ha), access tracks/ access points
Paragraph 2.10.17	Along with associated infrastructure, a solar farm requires between 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output. A typical 50MW solar farm will	

	consist of around 100,000 to 150,000 panels and cover between 125 to 200 acres. However, this will vary significantly depending on the site, with some being larger and some being smaller. This is also expected to change over time as the technology continues to evolve to become more efficient. Nevertheless, this scale of development will inevitably have impacts, particularly if sited in rural areas.	and visibility splays (8.5ha) as well as associated infrastructure such the grid connection point etc (200.67ha). The remaining area (199.9 ha) is set aside for landscape and ecological mitigation. These areas are shown on **the Layout Plan [EN010163/APP/2.6]**.
Paragraph 2.10.18	The key considerations involved in the siting of a solar farm are likely to be influenced by factors set out in the following paragraphs, in addition to considerations specific to individual projects.	Further considerations of the NPS are addressed below.
Irradiance and Site Topography		
Paragraph 2.10.19	Irradiance will be a key consideration for the applicant in identifying a potential site as the amount of electricity generated on site is directly affected by irradiance levels. Irradiance of a site will in turn be affected by surrounding topography, with an uncovered or exposed site of good elevation and favourable south-facing aspect more likely to increase year-round irradiance levels. This in turn affects the carbon	It is confirmed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** that the land characteristics of the area (described below) and the Proposed Development's location are well suited for the generation of renewable solar energy due to flat or gently sloping topography predominantly (or capable

	emission savings and the commercial viability of the site.	of being) well screened from short- and long-range views. Good levels of solar irradiance are received by the Site, allowing energy to be produced by the Proposed Development. As set out in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]**, solar PV modules are rapidly developing due to innovation in technology and processing techniques for the PV cells, the dimensions of the solar PV modules available at the time of construction may vary. The ES therefore considers a height parameter which represents the worst-case scenario in terms of identifying potential environmental effects. The solar PV modules indicative arrangement for the Site is shown at **Figure 2.1 - Indicative Site Layout [EN010163/APP/6.4.2].**
Paragraph 2.10.20	In order to maximise irradiance, applicants may choose a site and design its layout with variable and diverse panel types and aspects, and panel arrays may also follow the movement of the sun in order further to maximise the solar resource.	
Network Connection		
Paragraph 2.10.21	Applicants should consider important issues relating to network connection at Section 4.11 of	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design**

	EN-1 and in EN-5. In particular, and where appropriate, applicants should proceed in a manner consistent with the regulatory regime for offshore transmission networks established by Ofgem, details of which are set out in EN-5.	**Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**, confirms that the Proposed Development benefits from the immediate availability of a grid connection (POC) at the existing 400kv substation at West Burton A Power Station site and the basis of this available connection in the process of site selection.
Paragraph 2.10.22	Many solar farms are connected into the local distribution network. The capacity of the local grid network to accept the likely output from a proposed solar farm is critical to the technical and commercial feasibility of a development proposal.	
Paragraph 2.10.25	To maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs, applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity.	
Paragraph 2.10.26	Where this is the case, applicants should consider the cumulative impacts of situating a solar farm in proximity to other energy generating stations and infrastructure.	The cumulative impact of the Proposed Development and developments within the surrounding area is included in **ES Chapter 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology and Public Consultation [EN010163/APP/6.2.2]**

Proximity to Dwellings		
Paragraph 2.10.27	Utility-scale solar farms are large sites that may have a significant zone of visual influence. The two main impact issues that determine distances to sensitive receptors are therefore likely to be visual amenity and glint and glare. These are considered in Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity (paragraphs 2.10.93-2.10.101) and Glint and Glare (paragraphs 2.10.102 – 2.10.106) impact sections below.	These effects of the proposal on dwellings are considered in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** and **ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [EN010163/APP/6.2.16],** with further reference to the specific sections of the NPS made below.
Agriculture and Land Classification		
Paragraph 2.10.28	Solar is a highly flexible technology and as such can be deployed on a wide variety of land types.	The ALC survey results identify at the Site 88.68% (640.24 ha) is BMV land, of which predominantly is Grade 3a (430.32 ha). The remaining Site area is non-BMV land, 11.32% (81.76 ha). Full details and assessment of the ALC survey results is set out in **ES Chapter 15 - Land use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]**. **ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** provides more detail of the land classification within
Paragraph 2.10.29	While land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location applicants should, where possible, utilise suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of "Best and Most Versatile" agricultural land	

	where possible. 'Best and Most Versatile agricultural land is defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.	the order limits and **ES Appendix 15.2 Outline Soli Management Plan [reference EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** details how soil within the Order limits will be managed for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** detail the process the applicant has followed for site selection and design review. Ultimately, there are no preferable sites that are of sufficient scale to enable the construction of the whole Proposed Development on non-agricultural land, or land that is of a lower ALC grade without constraint. **ES Chapter 15 - Land use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15]** sets out the key considerations of the effect of the temporary use of the site on the availability of agricultural land
Paragraph 2.10.30	Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, or sites designated for their natural beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.73 – 92 and 2.10.107 – 2.10.126.	
Paragraph 2.10.31	It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land.	
Paragraph 2.10.32	Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind generation, storage, hydrogen electrolysers) to maximise the efficiency of	

	land use.	and production.
Paragraph 2.10.33	The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is the only approved system for grading agricultural quality in England and Wales and, if necessary, field surveys should be used to establish the ALC grades in accordance with the current, or any successor to it, grading criteria and identify the soil types to inform soil management at the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases in line with the Defra Construction Code.	
Paragraph 2.10.34	Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Resources and Management Plan which could help to use and manage soils sustainably and minimise adverse impacts on soil health and potential land contamination. This should be in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan to bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soils into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this up to 60% by 2030.	The reinstatement to comparable soil properties and land grade would be undertaken in accordance with a Soil Management Plan secured through the DCO, with regard to the measures stated within **ES Appendix 15.2- Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]**. Therefore, the works are considered to be temporary.
Paragraph 2.10.145	[Factors influencing site selection and design] The Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best	

	and most versatile agricultural land. The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant has put forward appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils or soil resources.	
Accessibility		
Paragraph 2.10.35	Applicants will need to consider the suitability of the access routes to the proposed site for both the construction and operation of the solar farm with the former likely to raise more issues.	Considerations in respect of the suitability of access routes for both construction and operational phases of the proposed development are set out in the **Transport Assessment (TA)** and **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP)** which are included at **ES Appendix 13.1 [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**, **ES Appendix 13.2 [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** and **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.3.13].**
Paragraph 2.10.36	Given that potential solar farm sites are largely in rural areas, access for the delivery of solar arrays and associated infrastructure during construction can be a significant consideration for solar farm siting.	The Site is located in a rural area with good access to the Strategic Road network and seeks to use the same transport route as the neighbouring West Burton Power Station and neighbouring Sturton-le-Steeple
Paragraph	Developers will usually need to construct on-	

2.10.37	site access routes for operation and maintenance activities, such as footpaths, earthworks, or landscaping.	quarry. A total of 26 access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. 2 of the accesses will serve primary construction compounds and 3 will serve secondary construction compounds. The remaining 21 access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and 5 of the construction accesses will be used during operation. **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Scheme in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay; pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. In conclusion, there are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access. Cumulative
Paragraph 2.10.38	In addition, sometimes access routes will need to be constructed to connect solar farms to the public road network.	
Paragraph 2.10.39	Applications should include the full extent of the access routes necessary for operation and maintenance and an assessment of their effects.	

		effects are not expected to change compared to residual effects. **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the Order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads to ensure access roads are suitable for the transportation of components to the site. The oCTMP will be secured by a DCO Requirement should consent be granted.
PRoW		
Paragraph 2.10.40	Proposed developments may affect the provision of public rights of way networks.	Several PRoWs are within or abut the site and therefore a PRoW Management Plan is contained within **outline CTMP (Appendix 13.2, [EN010163/APP/6.3.13])** is provided to assess the impact on PRoWs and to
Paragraph 2.10.41	Public rights of way may need to be temporarily closed or diverted to enable construction, however, applicants should keep, as far as is practicable and safe, all public rights of way	

	that cross the proposed development site open during construction and protect users where a public right of way borders or crosses the site.	provide a management strategy for the Proposed Development. PRoWs may require temporary alteration during construction but will remain unchanged during operation as set out in the PRoW Management Plan. Access to existing Public Rights of Way ('PRoW') will remain through all phases of development. Whilst not anticipated, should temporary closures be required for health and safety purposes, these will be limited to short periods during construction or decommissioning. The creation of two permissive paths will improve permeability and access to PRoW. These will be in place for the 40-year lifetime of the scheme and are indicated on **Figure 2.1 – Indicative Site Layout [EN010163/APP/6.4.2].**
Paragraph 2.10.42	Applicants are encouraged to design the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreational use of public rights of way where possible during construction, and in particular during operation of the site.	
Paragraph 2.10.43	Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual impacts of the development for those using existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape.	
Paragraph 2.10.44	Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the inclusion, through site layout and design of access, of new opportunities for the public to access and cross proposed solar development sites (whether via the adoption of new public rights of way or the creation of permissive paths), taking into account, where appropriate, the views of landowners.	

Paragraph 2.10.45	Applicants should set out detail on how public rights of way would be managed to ensure they are safe to use in an outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan.	
Security and Lighting		
Paragraph 2.10.46	Security of the site is a key consideration for developers. Applicants may wish to consider not only the availability of natural defences such as steep gradients, hedging and rivers but also perimeter security measures such as fencing, electronic security, CCTV and lighting, with the measures proposed on a site-specific basis.	It is confirmed in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** that the perimeter fencing will enclose solar panel areas, BESS Compound, Substation Compound, the Permissive Paths and temporary fencing associated with Construction Compounds. During both construction and decommissioning, activities can take place during daylight hours. However, at certain times of the year when light levels are low, temporary external lighting will be deployed. Temporary external lighting will be avoided as far as practical and generally limited to the compound areas. External lighting of the on-site Substation and BESS will

		be required during operation in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exists. Downward facing lighting will be attached to buildings or on columns 3m high in the BESS Compound. Temporary lighting will be provided as part of the general works provided for under Work No. 7 and within Construction Compounds. A maximum of 6 temporary lighting columns (5m in height) will be in each construction compound. No areas of the Proposed Development are proposed to be continuously lit during the operational phase of this development and will need to be manually switched on.
Paragraph 2.10.47	Applicants should assess the visual impact of these security measures, as well as the impacts on local residents, including for example issues relating to intrusion from CCTV and light pollution in the vicinity of the site.	The implications of the lighting strategy, set out in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4],** are considered in Table 6.1 of **ES Chapter 6:**

Paragraph 2.10.48	Applicants should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and the visual impact of security measures.	**Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity**. This confirms that there would be no lighting associated with the solar energy element of the Proposed Development during the operational phase of the development and for the substation and BESS, movement activated security lighting will be provided, with no permanent lighting required to be switched on. During the construction and decommissioning period there will be limited working outside of daylight hours and where any such works were to take place standard best practice will be implemented to minimise light spill and any potential for effects of lighting on human receptors such that no significant effects would arise. Further detail regarding potential effects of lighting on ecological receptors is set out in ES **Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**.

Technical Considerations		
Paragraph 2.10.49	Applications for solar farms are likely to comprise a number of elements including solar panel arrays, piling, inverters, mounting structures, cabling, earthworks, and measures associated with site security, and may also include associated infrastructure such as energy storage and electrolysers associated with the production of low carbon hydrogen.	**ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** provides the guiding principles for the detailed design of the Proposed Development and will be secured by a requirement in the DCO. This will form the parameters of the detailed design and has fed into Schedule 1 of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** where the different components of the Scheme are divided into works which correspond with the work number areas shown on the **Works Plans [EN010163/APP/2.2]**.
Paragraph 2.10.50	Solar panels generate electricity in direct current (DC) form. A number of panels feed an external inverter, which is used to convert the electricity to alternating current (AC). After inversion a transformer will step-up the voltage for export to the grid. Because the inverter is separate from the panels, the total capacity of a solar farm can be measured either in terms of the combined capacity of installed solar panels (measured in DC) or in terms of combined	The Proposed Development is AC-coupled. This technology is described in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**.

	capacity of installed inverters (measured in AC).	
Paragraph 2.10.51	For the purposes of determining the capacity thresholds in Section 15 of the 2008 Act, all forms of generation other than solar are currently assessed on an AC basis, while a practice has developed where solar farms are assessed on their DC capacity.	
Paragraph 2.10.52	Having reviewed this matter, the Secretary of State is now content that this disparity should end, particularly as electricity from some other forms of generation is switched between DC and AC within a generator before it is measured.	
Paragraph 2.10.53	From the date of designation of this NPS, for the purposes of Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008, the maximum combined capacity of the installed inverters (measured in alternating current (AC)) should be used for the purposes of determining solar site capacity.	
Paragraph 2.10.55	The installed generating capacity of a solar farm will decline over time in correlation with the reduction in panel array efficiency. There is a range of sources of degradation that	The indicative design for the Proposed Development includes an element of overplanting to have regard to the

	developers need to consider when deciding on a solar panel technology to be used. Applicants may account for this by overplanting solar panel arrays.	degradation of panels.
Paragraph 2.10.56	AC installed export capacity should not be seen as an appropriate tool to constrain the impacts of a solar farm. Applicants should use other measurements, such as panel size, total area and percentage of ground cover to set the maximum extent of development when determining the planning impacts of an application.	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** sets out the evolution of design, and the technology proposed by the Proposed Development.
Site Layout, Design and Appearance		
Paragraph 2.10.60	As set out above applicants will consider several factors when considering the design and layout of sites, including proximity to available grid capacity to accommodate the scale of generation, orientation, topography, previous land–use, and ability to mitigate environmental impacts and flood risk.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area,
Paragraph 2.10.61	For a solar farm to generate electricity efficiently the panel array spacing should seek to maximise the potential power output of the site. The type, spacing and aspect of panel	

	arrays will depend on the physical characteristics of the site such as site elevation.	avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Proposed Developments design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010142/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Scheme's design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national
Paragraph 2.10.62	In terms of design and layout, applicants may favour a southfacing arrangement of panels to maximise output although other orientations may be chosen. For example, an east-west layout, whilst likely to result in reduced output compared to south-facing panels on a panel-by-panel basis, may allow for a greater density of panels to compensate and therefore for generation to be spread more evenly throughout the day.	
Paragraph 2.10.63	It is likely that underground and overhead cabling will be required to connect the electrical assets of the site, such as from the substation to the panel arrays or storage facilities.	
Paragraph 2.10.64	In the case of underground cabling, applicants are expected to provide a method statement describing cable trench design, installation methodology, as well as details of the operation and maintenance regime.	

		targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050; • Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by diversifying energy production and stored energy; • Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to heritage assets and settings; • Safeguard surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change; • Develop a Proposed

		Development sensitive to existing land quality; and • Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Scheme's design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010142/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**.
Project Lifetime and Decommissioning		
Paragraph 2.10.66	Time limited consent, where granted, is described as temporary because there is a finite period for which it exists, after which the project would cease to have consent and therefore must seek to extend the period of consent or be decommissioned and removed.	It is confirmed, in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4],** that the design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be operational for a maximum of 40 years**.**
Paragraph	Applicants should set out what would be	It is the intention that after the 40

2.10.69	decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station, considering instances where it may be less harmful for the ecology of the site to keep or retain certain types of infrastructure, for example underground cabling, and where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation.	years of operation, the whole Site will be available to revert to its current use and be used by the landowner for agricultural operations of their choice and determined by the global markets at that time. This will include the areas that will have been used for Biodiversity Mitigation over the lifetime of the Proposed Development. It is the intent that two permissive paths would also be closed to the public once the Proposed Development is decommissioned. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example internal access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process. Cabling buried more than 0.9m below ground is proposed to be left in situ. **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** outlines the Decommissioning details that will form the basis for the detailed DP secured
Paragraph 2.10.147	Where the consent for a solar farm is to be time-limited, the DCO should impose a requirement setting that time-limit from the date the solar farm starts to generate electricity.	
Paragraph 2.10.148	Such a requirement should also secure the decommissioning of the generating station after the expiration of its permitted operation to ensure that inoperative plant is removed after its operational life.	
Paragraph 2.10.149	An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time period or for differing time-periods for operation.	

Paragraph 2.10.150	The time limited nature of the solar farm, where a time limit is sought as a condition of consent, is likely to be an important consideration for the Secretary of State.	by a DCO Requirement.
Paragraph 2.10.151	The Secretary of State should consider the period of time the applicant is seeking to operate the generating station, as well as the extent to which the site will return to its original state, when assessing impacts such as landscape and visual effects and potential effects on the settings of heritage assets and nationally designated landscapes.	
Flexibility		
Paragraph 2.10.70	In many cases, not all aspects of the proposal may have been settled in precise detail at the point of application. Such aspects may include: • the type, number and dimensions of the panels; • layout and spacing; • the type of inverter or transformer; and • whether storage will be installed (with the option to install further panels as a substitute).	The applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development. The extent of flexibility required is described in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** and set out in the **Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**

Paragraph 2.10.71	Applicants should set out a range of options based on different panel numbers, types and layout, with and without storage.	As set out in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]**, the application and EIA have been based on maximum, and if relevant, minimum parameters. To remain in accordance with the EIA Regulations, the parameters have remained as limited as practicable to ensure that the 'likely significant effects' are identified, rather than unrealistically amplified effects, which could be deemed to be unlikely. These parameters have been considered in detail by technical authors in the ES to ensure the realistic worst-case effects of the Scheme have been assessed for each potential receptor. This is of particular importance to maintain flexibility due to the rapid pace of change in solar PV technology.
Paragraph 2.10.74	Applicants should provide information on relevant impacts as directed by this NPS and the Secretary of State.	
Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation		
Paragraph 2.10.76	The applicant's ecological assessments should identify any ecological risk from developing on the proposed site.	**ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** explains that the Proposed

Paragraph 2.10.77	Issues that need assessment may include habitats, ground nesting birds, wintering and migratory birds, bats, dormice, reptiles, great crested newts, water voles and badgers.	Development has been designed to avoid all sites statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance and to avoid or minimise impacts on sites that are non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance. Measures embedded within the Proposed Developments design will ensure that no significant effects are anticipated on designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning e.g., through siting construction routes away from designated sites, incorporating suitable buffer zones and erection of temporary construction fencing to avoid incursion into exclusion zones. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out the Proposed Development has been designed from the outset to avoid key nature conservation and ecological features present within, or adjacent to the Order limits. Accordingly, the following buffers from
Paragraph 2.10.78	The applicant should use an advising ecologist during the design process to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided, minimised or mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised.	
Paragraph 2.10.79	The assessment may be informed by a 'desk study' of existing ecological records, an evaluation of the likely impacts of the solar farm upon ecological features, and should specify mitigation to avoid or minimise these impacts, and any further surveys required.	

		key habitat features has been applied: a. All woodland – at least 15m b. All trees and hedgerows with individual trees – protected by clearly defined root protection areas, concordant with the requirements of each individual tree c. Watercourses (where practicable) – at least 10m from bank-top of the watercourses d. Standing water – at least 20m e. Hedgerows (where practicable) – at least 5m The Proposed Development would provide extensive woodland planting (also referred to as buffers) and native tree belts will be established to reinforce the retained existing woodland and tree belts. New hedgerows with trees will be established to supplement the existing, retained hedgerows with trees. These will provide both a

		valuable habitat, forming important wildlife corridors and re- enforcing existing ones. A range of artificial bird and bat boxes will be installed in existing woodland areas, on retained individual trees and existing trees in hedgerows to increase the availability of nesting and roosting features and enhance the value of these habitats for these species groups **ES Appendix 7.14 Outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** contains details of all ecological mitigation and enhancements. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**

		demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Paragraph 2.10.80	Applicants should consider earthworks associated with construction compounds, access roads and cable trenching.	Cabling will in the main be installed by open trenching methods, as illustrated in **Typical Cable Trench Sections [EN010163/APP/2.23]** however, special installation techniques such as directional drilling may be required to cross obstacles such as watercourses, utility assets, and roads. **Appendix 4.6 - Crossing Schedule [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** details the locations of the crossings and proposed crossing method. With horizontal directional drilling, a pipeline would be bored underground to emerge at a target point. The

		location of the drill bit is monitored using the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) locating system. This is illustrated in **Indicative HDD Cross Section [EN010163/APP/2.27]**. If trenching is chosen instead of horizontal directional drilling, standard trenching techniques to break open the ground to install trench and ducting for cabling will be used, per final detailed construction designs. The majority of cabling will be laid into trenches and then the soil will be re-laid on top. The process will follow **ES Appendix 15.2- Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.15]** to ensure that the soil structure and quality are not degraded as part of the construction of the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 2.10.81	Where soil stripping occurs, topsoil and subsoil should be stripped, stored, and replaced separately to minimise soil damage and to provide optimal conditions for site restoration. Further details on minimising impacts on soil	The proposed development application is supported by an **ES Appendix 15.2 Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.15] –** this plan

	and soil handling are above at paragraphs 2.10.33 and 2.10.34.	identifies the importance and sensitivity of the soil resource at the Proposed development and to provide specific guidance to ensure that there is no significant adverse effect on the soil resource as a result of the Proposed Development. Measures proposed will be considered prior to the commencement of construction
Paragraph 2.10.82	Applicants should consider how security and lighting installations may impact on the local ecology. Where pole mounted CCTV facilities are proposed the location of these facilities should be carefully considered to minimise impact. If lighting is necessary, it should be minimised and directed away from areas of likely habitat.	The implications of the lighting strategy set out in the **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** and are considered in Table 6.1 of **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity**. This confirms that there would be no lighting associated with the solar energy element of the Proposed Development during the operational phase of the development and for the substation and BESS, movement activated security lighting will be provided, with no permanent lighting required to be switched on. During the construction

		and decommissioning period there will be limited working outside of daylight hours and where any such works were to take place standard best practice will be implemented to minimise light spill and any potential for effects of lighting on human receptors such that no significant effects would arise. Further detail regarding potential effects of lighting on ecological receptors is set out in **ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**.
Paragraph 2.10.83	Applicants should consider how site boundaries are managed. If any hedges/scrub are to be removed, further surveys may be necessary to account for impacts. Buffer strips between perimeter fencing and hedges may be proposed, and the construction and design of any fencing should account for enabling mammal, reptile and other fauna access into the site if required to do so in the ecological report.	Existing hedgerows gapped up where required with locally appropriate mixed native hedgerow species with hedgerows allowed to grow and be managed to 3m, and New planting across the Site including native hedgerows, hedgerow trees, orchards, linear areas of woodland planting and small copses. The underground cables will be located in existing gaps in hedgerows

		wherever feasible, however this assessment assumes the loss of some hedgerows as a worst case. Hedgerows to be removed are included within **Appendix 6.5 – Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.6].** Some of the hedgerows to be removed are designated as 'Important Hedgerow', with Important Hedgerow removal length approximately 76.8m - see **Important Hedgerows Plan [EN010163/APP/2.34]** for locations**.**
Paragraph 2.10.89	Solar farms have the potential to increase the biodiversity value of a site, especially if the land was previously intensively managed. In some instances, this can result in significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains which is encouraged.	The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to

		achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Paragraph 2.10.90	For projects in England, applicants should consider enhancement, management, and monitoring of biodiversity in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.	The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with
Paragraph 2.10.128	In England, proposed enhancements should take account of the above factors and as set out in Sections 4.6 and 5.4 of EN-1 aim to achieve environmental and biodiversity net gain in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.	
Paragraph	This might include maintaining or extending	

2.10.129	existing habitats and potentially creating new important habitats, for example by installing cultivated strips/plots for rare arable plants, rough grassland margins, bumble bee plant mixes, and wild bird seed mixes.	policy. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** explains that the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid all sites statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance and to avoid or minimise impacts on sites that are non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance. Measures embedded within the Proposed Developments design will ensure that no significant effects are anticipated on designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning e.g., through siting construction routes away from designated sites, incorporating suitable buffer zones and erection of temporary construction fencing to avoid incursion into exclusion zones. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** sets out the Proposed Development has been designed from the outset to
Paragraph 2.10.130	Applicants are advised to develop an ecological monitoring programme to monitor impacts upon the flora of the site and upon any particular ecological receptors (such as bats and wintering birds). Results of the monitoring will then inform any changes needed to the land management of the site, including, if appropriate, any livestock grazing regime.	

		avoid key nature conservation and ecological features present within, or adjacent to the Order limits. Accordingly, the following buffers from key habitat features has been applied: a. All woodland – at least 15m b. All trees and hedgerows with individual trees – protected by clearly defined root protection areas, concordant with the requirements of each individual tree c. Watercourses (where practicable) – at least 10m from bank-top of the watercourses d. Standing water – at least 20m e. Hedgerows (where practicable) – at least 5m The Proposed Development would provide extensive woodland planting (also referred to as buffers) and native tree belts will be established to reinforce the retained existing woodland and tree belts. New

		hedgerows with trees will be established to supplement the existing, retained hedgerows with trees. These will provide both a valuable habitat, forming important wildlife corridors and re- enforcing existing ones. A range of artificial bird and bat boxes will be installed in existing woodland areas, on retained individual trees and existing trees in hedgerows to increase the availability of nesting and roosting features and enhance the value of these habitats for these species' groups **ES Appendix 7.14 Outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** contains details of all ecological mitigation and enhancements. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES**

		Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]. ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7] demonstrates that the Proposed Development has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has therefore taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with policy.
Drainage		
Paragraph 2.10.84	Where a Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out this must be submitted alongside the applicant's ES. This will need to consider the impact of drainage. As solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant.	A **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been prepared in consultation with the Environment Agency (EA), Nottinghamshire County Council in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (IDB), the Canal and River Trust (CRT) and Severn Trent Water (water authority). The FRA

		assesses the risk of flooding to and from the Proposed Development from all potential sources, taking into account climate change over the lifetime of the Proposed Development and the vulnerability of the proposed use. It details the mitigation measures proposed to mitigate the flood risk to the Proposed Development and the measures taken to ensure there is no associated increase in flood risk off-site. The FRA is appended as **ES Appendix 8.1 [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** of **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**
Paragraph 2.10.85	Where access tracks need to be provided, permeable tracks should be used, and localised Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), such as swales and infiltration trenches, should be used to control any run-off where recommended.	**ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** assesses the impacts of the Proposed Development on drainage. It describes how permeable access tracks are proposed, and SuDS are used within the Proposed Development to control runoff. The **Flood Risk Assessment**

		(FRA) [EN010163/APP/5.3] describes how consideration has been given to existing watercourses in the layout of the Proposed Development, with appropriate easements provided for these watercourses and culverting used only where necessary for access.
Paragraph 2.10.86	Given the temporary nature of solar PV farms, sites should be configured or selected to avoid the need to impact on existing drainage systems and watercourses.	**ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process: [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** explains that OS mapping also identifies a number of Ordinary Watercourses crossing the Site, as shown in **ES Figure 8.1 -Watercourses [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]**. The EA categorise these watercourses as primary, secondary and tertiary rivers. Primary watercourses consist of Main Rivers and major Ordinary Watercourses, secondary watercourses consist of smaller Ordinary Watercourses, and tertiary watercourses comprise drainage ditches and Ordinary Watercourses receiving limited flows. Two primary
Paragraph 2.10.87	Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided.	
Paragraph 2.10.88	Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period.	

		rivers are shown within the Site. The first is the Catchwater Drain which flows from south to north through the eastern part of the Site, discharging to the River Trent approximately 1km to the northeast of the Site. The second is the Mother Drain which flows from south to north just within the southeastern Site boundary, also discharging into the River Trent to the northeast of the Site. A significant number of unnamed secondary and tertiary watercourses pass through the Site, generally flowing from west to east, and discharging into the Catchwater Drain or the Mother Drain. The **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [EN010163/APP/5.3]** describes how consideration has been given to existing watercourses in the layout of the Proposed Development, with appropriate easements provided for these watercourses and culverting used only where necessary for access.
Paragraph	Applicants should consider whether they need	**ES Chapter 8: Hydrology,**

2.10.92	to provide geotechnical and hydrological information (such as identifying the presence of peat at each site) including the risk of landslide connected to any development work.	**Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** considers the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development with respect to hydrology, surface water and groundwater quality, hydrogeology, water resources and flood risk. It should be read in conjunction with **ES Appendix 8.1 Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.8], ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** and **ES Appendix 8.3 Water Framework Directive Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]**. Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant statutory consultees throughout the assessment process, with all comments received considered in the overall assessment of effects.
Paragraph 2.10.154	Water management is a critical component of site design for ground mount solar plants. Where previous management of the site has involved intensive agricultural practice, solar sites can deliver significant ecosystem services value in the form of drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, and water quality management.	
Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity		
Paragraph	The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale	**ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity**

2.10.94	solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are likely to be in low lying areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure.	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** seeks to determine the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development and whether such effects would be significant or not. This chapter considers the effects on: • Landscape Features; • Landscape Designations; • Landscape Character; and • Visual Amenity. The assessment in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** is supported by the following figures: **Figure 6.1 - Site Location Plan [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.2 - Landscape Designations [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.3 – Topography [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]**
Paragraph 2.10.95	However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.	
Paragraph 2.10.96	Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre-application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a part of the pre-application process.	
Paragraph 2.10.97	Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints.	

		Figure 6.4 - Landscape Character Areas [EN010163/APP/6.4.6] **Figure 6.5a – Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Long-Distance Routes) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.5b – Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and PROW) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.5c – Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Minor Roads) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.6a Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (SZTV) and viewpoint (VP) Locations (10km radius) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.6b SZTV and VP Locations (5km radius) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.6c SZTV and VP Locations (2km radius) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.7 SZTV and Landscape Character [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]**

		Figure 6.8a SZTV and Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Long-Distance Routes) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6] **Figure 6.8b SZTV and Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and PROW) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.8c SZTV and Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Minor Roads) [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** **Figure 6.9 Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]** This chapter also is supported by the following appendices: **Appendix 6.1 - Viewpoint Photographs [EN010163/APP/6.3.6];** **Appendix 6.2 – Photomontages [EN010163/APP/6.3.6];** **Appendix 6.3 – Viewpoint**

		Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]; **Appendix 6.4 – Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.6];** **Appendix 6.5 – Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.6];** and **Appendix 6.6 – Assessment of Public Rights of Way [EN010163/APP/6.3.6].**
Paragraph 2.10.98	Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes.	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of this Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the

		Proposed Developments design is summarised in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010142/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Scheme's design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Scheme, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; and

		• Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use.
Paragraph 2.10.99	Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact (see paragraphs 2.10.46 – 2.10.48 above).	It is confirmed in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** that perimeter fencing will enclose solar panel areas, BESS Compound, Substation Compound, the Permissive Paths and temporary fencing associated with Construction Compounds During both construction and decommissioning, activities can take place during daylight hours. However, at certain times of the year when light levels are low, temporary external lighting will be deployed. Temporary external lighting will be avoided as far as practical and generally limited to the compound areas. External lighting of the on-site Substation and BESS will be required during operation in accordance with Health and Safety

		requirements, particularly around any emergency exists. Downward facing lighting will be attached to buildings or on columns 3m high in the BESS Compound. Temporary lighting will be provided as part of the general works provided for under Work No. 7 and within Construction Compounds. A maximum of 6 temporary lighting columns (5m in height) will be in each construction compound. No areas of the Proposed Development are proposed to be continuously lit during the operational phase of this development and will need to be manually switched on. The implications of the lighting strategy set out in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** are considered in Table 6.1 of **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**. This confirms

		that there would be no lighting associated with the solar energy element of the Proposed Development during the operational phase of the development and for the substation and BESS, movement activated security lighting will be provided, with no permanent lighting required to be switched on. During the construction and decommissioning period there will be limited working outside of daylight hours and where any such works were to take place standard best practice will be implemented to minimise light spill and any potential for effects of lighting on human receptors such that no significant effects would arise. Further detail regarding potential effects of lighting on ecological receptors is set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**
Paragraph 2.10.100	The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain,	Existing hedgerows gapped up where required with locally appropriate mixed native hedgerow species with

	wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity.	hedgerows allowed to grow and be managed to 3m, and New planting across the Site including native hedgerows, hedgerow trees, orchards, linear areas of woodland planting and small copses. The underground cables will be located in existing gaps in hedgerows wherever feasible, however this assessment assumes the loss of some hedgerows as a worst case. Hedgerows to be removed are included within **ES Appendix 6.5 – Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010163/APP/6.3.6].** Some of the hedgerows to be removed are designated as 'Important Hedgerow', with Important Hedgerow removal length approximately 76.8m - see **Important Hedgerows Plan [EN010163/APP/2.34]** for locations**.**
Paragraph 2.10.101	The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural/hedge assessment as appropriate.	
Paragraph 2.10.131	Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees	It is confirmed in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity**

	and woodlands.	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** that a series of landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement measures are included as part of the Proposed Development, each of which has been developed collaboratively alongside the project ecologists and illustrated on **ES Figure 6.9 Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.4.6]**. These are also considered to form embedded mitigation which would be implemented as part of the Proposed Development, including: • Existing hedgerows allowed to grow up and be managed at 3m; • Existing hedgerows gapped up where required with locally appropriate mixed native hedgerow species; • New native hedgerow trees added to existing hedgerows, where appropriate, at approximately 20-50m centres;

		and • New species rich native hedgerows planted with hedgerow trees adjacent to footpaths and on boundaries with no existing vegetation. Position of new hedge lines reflective of the local landscape pattern and allow for required offset from drainage features.
Paragraph 2.10.132	Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security, or screen security fencing.	It is confirmed in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** that the perimeter fencing will enclose solar panel areas, BESS Compound, Substation Compound, the Permissive Paths and temporary fencing associated with Construction Compounds. As a worst-case scenario, the use of palisade security fencing has been assessed in this ES. The three fencing options are illustrated on **Typical Fences Detail [EN010163/APP/2.19]**.

		The fencing would be designed in such a way to allow small animals to pass through and would also be gated to allow access to and from the Site.
Paragraph 2.10.133	Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.	During both construction and decommissioning, activities can take place during daylight hours. However, at certain times of the year when light levels are low, temporary external lighting will be deployed. Temporary external lighting will be avoided as far as practical and generally limited to the compound areas. External lighting of the on-site Substation and BESS will be required during operation in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exists. Downward facing lighting will be attached to buildings or on columns 3m high in the BESS Compound. Temporary lighting will be provided as part of the general works provided for under Work No. 7 and within Construction Compounds. A

		maximum of 6 temporary lighting columns (5m in height) will be in each construction compound. No areas of the Proposed Development are proposed to be continuously lit during the operational phase of this development and will need to be manually switched on. The implications of the lighting strategy set out in **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** are considered in **Table 6.1 of ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**. This confirms that there would be no lighting associated with the solar energy element of the Proposed Development during the operational phase of the development and for the substation and BESS, movement activated security lighting will be provided, with no permanent lighting required to be switched on. During the construction

		and decommissioning period there will be limited working outside of daylight hours and where any such works were to take place standard best practice will be implemented to minimise light spill and any potential for effects of lighting on human receptors such that no significant effects would arise. Further detail regarding potential effects of lighting on ecological receptors is set out in **ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**.
Paragraph 2.10.157	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. Nationally designated landscapes (National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Beauty) are afforded extra protection due their statutory purpose. Development in these areas needs to	**ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** seeks to determine the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development and whether such effects would be significant or not. This chapter considers the effects on: • Landscape Features; • Landscape Designations;

	satisfy policy as set out in EN-1 Section 5.10.	• Landscape Character; and • Visual Amenity. The Proposed Development is not located within any of these designations. **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** confirms there are no national landscape designations impacts by the Proposed Development.
Glint and Glare		
Paragraph 2.10.102	Solar panels are specifically designed to absorb, not reflect, irradiation. However, solar panels may reflect the sun's rays at certain angles, causing glint and glare. Glint is defined as a momentary flash of light that may be produced as a direct reflection of the sun in the solar panel. Glare is a continuous source of excessive brightness experienced by a stationary observer located in the path of reflected sunlight from the face of the panel. The effect occurs when the solar panel is stationed between or at an angle of the sun and the	**ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [EN010163/APP/6.2.16]** presents the effects of glint and glare during operation of the Proposed Development. The chapter should be read in conjunction with **ES Appendix 16.1 -Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [EN010163/APP/6.3.16]**. The ES chapter and appendix set out the methodology and findings of the assessment undertaken.

	receptor.	The Pager Power methodology is outlined further in **ES Appendix 16.1 - Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [EN010163/APP/6.3.16].** In total, 212 dwelling receptors have been geometrically assessed to model residential properties within 1km of the Proposed Development, shown in **ES Figure 11 – Overview of dwelling receptors of Appendix 16.1 - Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [EN010163/APP/6.3.16].** The modelled reflector area is used to indicate the areas of solar panels for geometric modelling purposes only and does not accurately represent all infrastructure present within the Proposed Development as shown on **ES Figure 2.1 – Indicative Site Layout [EN010163/APP/6.4.2]** The assessment also takes account of Railway receptors, aviation receptors, and road users. During both construction and
Paragraph 2.10.103	Applicants should map receptors qualitatively to identify potential glint and glare issues and determine if a glint and glare assessment is necessary as part of the application.	
Paragraph 2.10.104	When a quantitative glint and glare assessment is necessary, applicants are expected to consider the geometric possibility of glint and glare affecting nearby receptors, and provide an assessment of potential impact and impairment based on the angle and duration of incidence and the intensity of the reflection.	
Paragraph 2.10.105	The extent of reflectivity analysis required to assess potential impacts will depend on the specific project site and design. This may need to account for 'tracking' panels if they are proposed as these may cause differential diurnal and/or seasonal impacts.	
Paragraph 2.10.106	When a glint and glare assessment is undertaken, the potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality may need to be assessed, although the glint and glare of the frames and supports is likely to be significantly less than	

	the panels.	decommissioning, activities can take place during daylight hours. However, at certain times of the year when light levels are low, temporary external lighting will be deployed. Temporary external lighting will be avoided as far as practical and generally limited to the compound areas. External lighting of the on-site Substation and BESS will be required during operation in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exists. Downward facing lighting will be attached to buildings or on columns 3m high in the BESS Compound. Temporary lighting will be provided as part of the general works provided for under Work No. 7 and within Construction Compounds. A maximum of 6 temporary lighting columns (5m in height) will be located in each construction compound. No areas of the Proposed Development are proposed to be continuously lit
Paragraph 2.10.133	Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.	
Paragraph 2.10.135	Applicants may consider using screening between potentially affected receptors and the reflecting panels to mitigate the effects.	
Paragraph 2.10.136	Applicants may consider adjusting the azimuth alignment of, or changing the elevation tilt angle of, a solar panel within the economically viable range, to alter the angle of incidence. In practice this is unlikely to remove the potential impact altogether but in marginal cases may contribute to a mitigation strategy.	
Paragraph 2.10.158	Solar PV panels are designed to absorb, not reflect, irradiation. However, the Secretary of State should assess the potential impact of glint and glare on nearby homes, motorists, public rights of way, and aviation infrastructure (including aircraft departure and arrival flight paths).	

Paragraph 2.10.159	Whilst there is some evidence that glint and glare from solar farms can be experienced by pilots and air traffic controllers in certain conditions, there is no evidence that glint and glare from solar farms results in significant impairment on aircraft safety. Therefore, unless a significant impairment can be demonstrated, the Secretary of State is unlikely to give any more than limited weight to claims of aviation interference because of glint and glare from solar farms.	during the operational phase of this development and will need to be manually switched on. The implications of the lighting strategy set out in the **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development [EN010163/APP/6.2.4]** are considered in Table 6.1 of **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**. This confirms that there would be no lighting associated with the solar energy element of the Proposed Development during the operational phase of the development and for the substation and BESS, movement activated security lighting will be provided, with no permanent lighting required to be switched on. During the construction and decommissioning period there will be limited working outside of daylight hours and where any such works were to take place standard best practice will be implemented to minimise light

		spill and any potential for effects of lighting on human receptors such that no significant effects would arise. Further detail regarding potential effects of lighting on ecological receptors is set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**
Cultural Heritage		
Paragraph 2.10.107	The impacts of solar PV developments on the historic environment will require expert assessment in most cases and may have effect both above and below ground.	An assessment of potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Development on the historic environment is included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]**. This provides an assessment of impacts on non-designated heritage assets. Evaluation fieldwork surveys have been undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The results of the fieldwork surveys are included within **ES Chapter 9:**
Paragraph 2.10.108	Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as on Historic Landscape Character.	

		Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9] and the reports are submitted with the DCO application. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development: • Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Grade I Listed Church of St Martin (minor adverse); • Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse); • Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and, • Grade II Listed Manor

		Farmhouse (minor adverse). The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. Additional mitigation in the form of a programme of archaeological excavation and recording is proposed and will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) building on **ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**. Requirements are included as part of

		the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** to secure this mitigation and ensure that it is carried out prior to the commencement of development. It is acknowledged that while archaeological excavation and recording would not minimise the physical harm to these assets, as it would still involve removal, however it would compensate for the loss of these heritage assets by preserving them by record, thereby allowing their continued study and greater understanding and appreciation of their heritage value. This would reduce the magnitude of impact on individual assets, resulting in a minor adverse effect, which is not significant.
Paragraph 2.10.109	Below ground impacts, although generally limited, may include direct impacts on archaeological deposits through ground disturbance associated with trenching, cabling, foundations, fencing, temporary haul routes etc.	Archaeological evaluations were undertaken for the Proposed Development and are detailed in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** in addition to **ES Appendix 9.1 Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.2 Magnitude Surveys Geophysical Report [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.3 Archaeological Mitigation Statement [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9] and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**.
Paragraph 2.10.110	Equally, solar PV developments may have a positive effect, for example archaeological assets may be protected by a solar PV farm as the site is removed from regular ploughing and shoes or low-level piling is stipulated.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** outlines the mitigation measures embedded within the proposed development design in relation to cultural heritage. It details that the Proposed Developments design has been carefully considered to avoid, reduce or mitigate potentially significant effects on the cultural heritage and archaeological assets. Heritage mitigation measures which have been

		embedded into the design of the Proposed Development include avoidance, where possible, of heritage assets or archaeological remains. The construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been designed to take into account the impacts of haulage and access, noise generation and lighting on heritage assets. The Order limits have been designed to avoid or minimise potential changes to the setting of designated heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings. Mitigation measures have included the changing of the Order limits for example removing a Schedule Ancient Monument and the removal of Solar PV from fields in close proximity to designated heritage assets. As set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** the

		Proposed Development takes into consideration the surrounding landscape character to screen views to or from some heritage assets, respecting historic field boundaries and patterns.
Paragraph 2.10.112	Applicant assessments should be informed by information from Historic Environment Records (HERs)95 or the local authority.	**ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** confirms that for searches of the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record ('NYHER') to identify non-designated heritage assets and records, a search area of 1km from the Site Boundary was utilised.
Paragraph 2.10.113	Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. These should be carried out using expertise where necessary and in consultation with the local planning authority, and should identify archaeological study areas and propose appropriate schemes of investigation, and	Archaeological evaluations were undertaken for the Proposed Development and are detailed in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** in addition to **ES Appendix 9.1 Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.2 Magnitude Surveys Geophysical Report [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.3 Archaeological**

	design measures, to ensure the protection of relevant heritage assets.	**Mitigation Statement [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**.
Paragraph 2.10.114	In some instances, field studies may include investigative work (and may include trial trenching beyond the boundary of the proposed site) to assess the impacts of any ground disturbance, such as proposed cabling, substation foundations or mounting supports for solar panels on archaeological assets.	
Paragraph 2.10.115	The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of, proposed ground disturbance in the associated study area.	
Paragraph 2.10.116	Applicants should take account of the results of historic environment assessments in their design proposal.	
Paragraph 2.10.117	Applicants should consider what steps can be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting.	
Paragraph 2.10.118	As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence but also	

	from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms which depending on their scale, design, and prominence, may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset.	
Paragraph 2.10.119	Applicants may need to include visualisations to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets.	An assessment of potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Development on the historic environment is included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]**. This provides an assessment of impacts on non-designated heritage assets. Evaluation fieldwork surveys have been undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The results of the fieldwork surveys are included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** and the reports are submitted with the DCO application.

Paragraph 2.10.137	The ability of the applicants to microsite specific elements of the proposed development during the construction phase should be an important consideration by the Secretary of State when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology.	Archaeological evaluations were undertaken for the Proposed Development and are detailed in **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** in addition to **ES Appendix 9.1 Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.2 Magnitude Surveys Geophysical Report [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.3 Archaeological Mitigation Statement [EN010163/APP/6.2.9], ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]** and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**.
Paragraph 2.10.138	Where requested by the applicant, the Secretary of State should consider granting consents which allow for the micrositing within a specified tolerance of elements of the permitted infrastructure, so that precise locations can be amended during the construction phase if unforeseen circumstances, such as the discovery of previously unknown archaeology, arise.	
Paragraph 2.10.160	Solar farms are generally consented on the basis that they will be time-limited in operation. The Secretary of State should therefore consider the length of time for which consent is sought when considering the impacts of any	It is confirmed that the design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be operational for a maximum of 40 years in the **ES Chapter 4: Proposed Development**

	indirect effect on the historic environment, such as effects on the setting of designated heritage assets.	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.4].**
Construction Including Traffic and Transport Noise and Vibration		
Paragraph 2.10.120	Modern solar farms are large sites that are mainly comprised of small structures that can be transported separately and constructed on-site, with developers designating a compound on-site for the delivery and assemblage of the necessary components.	The Site is located in a rural area with good access to the Strategic Road network and seeks to use the same transport route as the neighbouring West Burton Power Station and neighbouring Sturton-le-Steeple quarry. A total of 26no. access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. 2no. of the accesses will serve primary construction compounds and 3no. will serve secondary construction compounds. The remaining 21no. access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and 5no. of the construction accesses will be used
Paragraph 2.10.121	Many solar farms will be sited in areas served by a minor road network. Public perception of the construction phase of solar farms will derive mainly from the effects of traffic movements, which is likely to involve smaller vehicles than typical onshore energy infrastructure but may be more voluminous.	
Paragraph 2.10.123	Applicants should assess the various potential routes to the site for delivery of materials and components where the source of the materials is known at the time of the application, and select the route that is the most appropriate.	
Paragraph	Where the exact location of the source of	

2.10.124	construction materials, such as crushed stone or concrete is not be known at the time of the application, applicants should assess the worst-case impact of additional vehicles on the likely potential routes.	during operation. **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Scheme in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay; pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. In conclusion, there are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access. Cumulative effects are not expected to change compared to residual effects. **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the Order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads
Paragraph 2.10.125	Applicants should ensure all sections of roads and bridges on the proposed delivery route can accommodate the weight and volume of the loads and width of vehicles. Although unlikely, where modifications to roads and/or bridges are required, these should be identified, and potential effects addressed in the ES.	
Paragraph 2.10.126	Where a cumulative impact is likely because multiple energy infrastructure developments are proposing to use a common port and/or access route and pass through the same towns and villages, applicants should include a cumulative transport assessment as part of the ES. This should consider the impacts of abnormal traffic movements relating to the project in question in combination with those from any other relevant development. Consultation with the relevant local highways authorities is likely to be necessary.	

Paragraph 2.10.127	The Defra Construction code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites96 provides guidance on ensuring that damage to soil during construction is mitigated and minimised. Mitigation measures focus on minimising damage to soil that remains in place, and minimising damage to soil being excavated and stockpiled. The measures aim to preserve soil health and soil structure to minimise soil carbon loss and maintain water infiltration and soil biodiversity. Mitigation measures for agricultural soils include use of green cover, multispecies cover crops - especially during the winter- minimising compaction and adding soil organic matter.	to ensure access roads are suitable for the transportation of components to the site. The oCTMP will be secured by a DCO Requirement.
Paragraph 2.10.139	In some cases, the local highway authority may request that the Secretary of State impose controls on the number of vehicle movements to and from the solar farm site in a specified period during its construction and, possibly, on the routeing of such movements particularly by heavy vehicles.	
Paragraph 2.10.140	Where the Secretary of State agrees that this is necessary, requirements could be imposed on	

	development consent.	
Paragraph 2.10.141	Where cumulative effects on the local road network or residential amenity are predicted from multiple solar farm developments, it may be appropriate for applicants for various projects to work together to ensure that the number of abnormal loads and deliveries are minimised, and the timings of deliveries are managed and coordinated to ensure that disruption to residents and other highway users is reasonably minimised.	
Paragraph 2.10.142	It may also be appropriate for the highway authority to set limits for, and coordinate these deliveries through, active management of the delivery schedules through the abnormal load approval process.	
Paragraph 2.10.143	Once consent for a scheme has been granted, applicants should liaise with the relevant local highway authority (or other coordinating body) regarding the start of construction and the broad timing of deliveries. Applicants may need to agree a planning obligation to secure appropriate measures, including restoration of roads and verges.	

Paragraph 2.10.144	Further, it may be appropriate for any non-permanent highway improvements carried out for the development (such as temporary road widening) to be made available for use by other subsequent solar farm developments.	
Paragraph 2.10.161	Once solar farms are in operation, traffic movements to and from the site are generally very light, in some instances as little as a few visits each month by a light commercial vehicle or car. Should there be a need to replace machine components, this may generate heavier commercial vehicle movements, but these are likely to be infrequent.	
Paragraph 2.10.162	The Secretary of State is unlikely to give any more than limited weight to traffic and transport noise and vibration impacts from the operational phase of a project.	

NPS relevant Paragraph	NPS Relevant Detail	NPS Assessment and Proposed Development compliance
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)		
Background		

Paragraph 1.1.5	As identified in EN-1, government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure. This includes: for electricity grid infrastructure, all power lines in scope of EN-5 including network reinforcement and upgrade works, and associated infrastructure such as substations. This is not limited to those associated specifically with a particular generation technology, as all new grid projects will contribute towards greater efficiency in constructing, operating and connecting low carbon infrastructure to the National Electricity Transmission System. These are viewed by the government as being CNP infrastructure and should be progressed as quickly as possible.	Section 5 of the Planning Statement explain that the Proposed Development will be a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020s and 2030s timeframe. Maximising the capacity of generation in the resource-rich, well-connected and technically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development, represents a significant and economically rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency.
Site Selection and Design		
Paragraph 2.2.8	There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development's associated substations, and applicants should consider carefully their location, as well as their design.	The applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development. The extent of flexibility required is described in **ES Chapter 3: Scheme Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process**
Paragraph 2.2.9	In particular, the applicant should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the	

	possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts. (See Section 2.10 below and Section 5.10 in EN-1.)	**[EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and set out in **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** as well as the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has been informed by a detailed and sensitive iterative design process. This has included taking account of the context and features of the land within the Order Limits, sensitive receptors, information from environmental surveys and feedback from stakeholders. The design also takes into account constraints and opportunities to enable the development of a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation along with the minimisation of potential impacts or provision of mitigation and environmental enhancements where

		practicable. The design process and basis of design are set out in **ES Chapter 3: Scheme Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The key focus of Design Objective 4 outlined in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** is to ensure the Proposed Development integrates sensitively to the landscape in which it is located as well as limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes. Landscape was a key consideration in the layout and design of the Proposed Development, with the design evolving throughout the pre-application process to reduce impacts on landscape features. This includes the incorporation of buffers from woodland/hedgerows,

		watercourses and PRoW.
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilient		
Paragraph 2.3.1	Section 4.10 of EN-1 sets out the generic considerations that applicants and the Secretary of State should take into account in order to ensure that electricity networks infrastructure is resilient to the effects of climate change.	As outlined in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]**, the effects of climate change have been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development, and when considering how it will be constructed, operated and decommissioned. Measures embedded into the design of the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]** and include (but are not limited to): a. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction/decommissioning waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable; b. Designing, constructing and implementing the Scheme in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower
Paragraph 2.3.2	As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it has been designed to be resilient to: • flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change; • the effects of wind and storms on overhead lines;	

	• higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; • earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and • coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively.	embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; c. Reusing suitable infrastructure and resources where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements); d. Liaising with construction/decommissioning personnel for the potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options e. Implementing a Construction Worker Travel Plan in **ES Appendix 13.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** to reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Scheme; f. Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring

		construction vehicles conform to current emissions standards; and g. Conducting regular planning maintenance of the construction/decommissioning plant and machinery to optimise efficiency. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be developed into a detailed CEMP, OEMP and DP prior to the commencement of the construction phase as a means to secure the embedded mitigation measures. Further climate change resilience measures embedded into the Proposed Development, including measures associated with flood risk are included in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**.

		Further detail on the specific flood impacts and mitigation measures are discussed in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**.
Paragraph 2.3.3	Section 4.10 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to the effects of climate change must be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Sections 5.8 in EN-1). Consideration should also be given to coastal change (see sections 5.6 in EN1).	**ES Chapter 12: Climate Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12]** assess the climate change impacts of the Proposed Development and includes a Climate Change Resilience Review and an In-Combination Climate Change Impact Assessment. The specific flood risk impacts and associated mitigation measures are discussed in further detail in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]**.
Paragraph 2.8.4	The Secretary of State should also take into account that Transmission Owners (TOs) and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) are required under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to bring forward efficient and economical	The Applicant has secured a connection to the National Grid via a new connection. This will connect the on-site substation to the National Grid West Burton Substation. Further

	proposals in terms of network design.	details are included in the **Grid Connection Statement [EN010163/APP/5.8]**.
Paragraph 2.8.5	TOs and DNOs are also required to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and electricity distributors have a statutory duty to provide a connection where requested.	
Paragraph 2.9.37	Audible noise effects can also arise from substation equipment such as transformers, quadrature boosters and mechanically switched capacitors.	**ES Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration of the ES EN010163/APP/6.2.11]** has assessed the impacts of all components of the Proposed Development including substations. It is concluded that there will not be any significant impact on noise from the substation as a result of the Proposed Development. As set out in **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** Solar Stations and BESS will not be located within a minimum 100m from residential properties to avoid adverse noise effects on residential properties in close proximity to the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 2.9.38	Transformers are installed at many substations, and generate low frequency hum. Whether the noise can be heard outside a substation depends on a number of factors, including transformer type and the level of noise attenuation present (either engineered intentionally or provided by other structures).	
Paragraph	Furthermore, since long-term management of	**ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net**

2.10.8	the selected mitigation schemes is essential to their mitigating function, a management plan, developed at least in outline at the conclusion of the examination, and which sets out proposals within a realistic timescale, should secure the integrity and benefit of these schemes. This should also uphold the landscape commitments made to achieve consent, alongside any pertinent commitments to environmental and biodiversity net gain.	**Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** confirms that the Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of the BNG Report **[EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. Long-term management of the Proposed Developments landscape mitigation and screening is detailed within the **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.
Electric and Magnetic Fields		
Paragraph 2.10.11	The applicant should consider the following factors: • height, position, insulation and protection (electrical or mechanical as appropriate) measures subject to ensuring compliance with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002; • that optimal phasing of high voltage overhead	The design of the Proposed Development will ensure compliance with Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002; however this is not specifically addressed within the ES. The Proposed Development has considered relevant up to date

	power lines is introduced wherever possible and practicable in accordance with the Code of Practice to minimise EMFs; and • any new advice emerging from the Department of Health and Social Care relating to government policy for EMF exposure guidelines.	legislation, policy and guidance as set out in **ES Chapter 2: EIA Methodology and Guidance [EN010163/APP/6.2.2]** and **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]**. **ES Chapter 3: Scheme Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** confirms the need to minimise the landscape and visual, and noise effects of the Proposed Development on the surrounding area, informed the provision of underground cables. An assessment of Electric and Electro-Magnetic Fields is included in **ES Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010163/APP/6.2.17]**. It concludes no significant effects are anticipated on residential receptors or users of PRoW in relation to Electro-Magnetic Fields.
Paragraph 2.11.13	Undergrounding of a line would reduce the level of EMFs experienced, but high magnetic field levels may still occur immediately above the cable. It is the government's policy that power lines should not be undergrounded solely for the purpose of reducing exposure to EMFs.	
Paragraph 2.11.14	In order to avoid unacceptable adverse impacts of EMFs from electricity network infrastructure on aviation, the Secretary of State will take account of statutory technical safeguarding zones defined in accordance with Planning Circular 01/0331, or any successor, when considering recommendations for DCO applications. More detail on this issue can be found in Section 5.5 of EN-1.	
Paragraph	Where a statutory consultee on the safeguarding of technical facilities identifies a	

2.11.15	risk that the EMF effect of electricity network infrastructure would compromise the effective and safe operation of such facilities, the potential impact and siting and design alternatives will need to have been fully considered as part of the application.	
Paragraph 2.14.2	In the assessments of their designs, applicants should demonstrate: • how environmental, community and other impacts have been considered and how adverse impacts have followed the mitigation hierarchy i.e. avoidance, reduction and mitigation of adverse impacts through good design; • how enhancements to the environment post construction will be achieved including demonstrating consideration of how proposals can contribute towards biodiversity net gain (as set out in Section 4.5 of EN-1 and the Environment Act 2021), as well as wider environmental improvements in line with the Environmental Improvement Plan and environmental targets (paragraph 4.2.29 of EN-1);	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has been informed by a detailed and sensitive iterative design process. This has included taking account of the context and features of the land within the Order Limits, sensitive receptors, information from environmental surveys and feedback from stakeholders. The design also takes into account constraints and opportunities to enable the development of a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation along with the minimisation of potential impacts or provision of mitigation and

	• how the construction planning for the proposals has been co-ordinated with that for other similar projects in the area on a similar timeline; • how enhancements to the landscape and environmental assets may contribute to overall landscape and townscape quality as set out in EN-1 4.6.13 and 5.10.23; • how the mitigation hierarchy has been followed, in particular to avoid the need for compensatory measures for coastal, inshore and offshore developments affecting SACs SPAs, and Ramsar sites and MCZs as set out in EN-3 2.8; • For designated landscapes the principal mitigation measure, as established by the Holford Rules, should be to seek to avoid landfall in these areas.	environmental enhancements where practicable. The design process and basis of design are set out in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. Design development has sought to first avoid and then mitigate potential effects in line with the mitigation hierarchy. Embedded mitigation measures are set out in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** with additional mitigation requirements included in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** also details mitigation measures which aim to avoid significant harm to important ecological features. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.7] and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** provide information on how the Scheme has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The Proposed Development will provide 10% BNG, consistent with the terms of the **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** and aligned with the proposals in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**.

Appendix D: Local Policy Accordance Table

The following provides a view over relevant Local planning policy applicable to the Proposed Development. Where policy is absent from the list it is deemed to not relate to the Proposed Development.

Policy reference	Policy Text	Assessment
Bassetlaw Local Plan (2020-2038)		
POLICY ST1: Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy	A. The spatial strategy for Bassetlaw will be delivered over the plan period 2020-2038 through: 1. managed sustainable development and growth, appropriate to the size of each settlement or location to meet the evidenced need for new homes and jobs, to regenerate the District's town centres, and to support necessary improvements to infrastructure, services and facilities by: a) promoting the efficient and effective use of	It is demonstrated in paragraphs 5.1.11-5.1.13 of the Planning Statement that the Proposed Development contributes to sustainable development. This aligns with section 2.6 of NPS EN-1 which outlines how energy infrastructure contributes to sustainable development goals. Section 5 of the Planning Statement summarises the Need and Benefit of the Proposed Development The Proposed Development

	land and the re-use of previously developed land in sustainable locations, unless there are overriding amenity, biodiversity or heritage matters that preclude such use; and by seeking to minimise the use of the most versatile Grade 1-3 agricultural land, where practicable;	demonstrates efficient and effective use of land as it does not affect the potential to continue agricultural production of the land; livestock can continue to graze on the grass below and between panels even during operation. Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land is discussed in **ES Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [EN010163/APP/6.2.15].** Paragraphs 6.10.9-6.10.17 of the Planning Statement explain the stance taken on BMV land and despite approximately 71% of the land within the Order limits being BMV land, the significant public benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh the use of BMV agricultural land whilst the Proposed Development is operational, bearing in mind that the use is reversible; when the Proposed Development is decommissioned after 40 years, the land will be returned to the landowners in its current state and BMV Grade. NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.10.29 states that land type should not be the predominant factor in

		determining suitability of a site for solar development. Policy parts 1b-7 are not included in this table as they are not relevant to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant parts of Policy ST1.
POLICY ST33: Design Quality	1. All development must be of a high quality design that: a) has a clear function, character and identity based upon a robust understanding of local context, constraints and distinctiveness, while reflecting the principles of relevant national and local design guidance, including Sport England's Active Design principles 3, the Bassetlaw Design Quality SPD and the Bassetlaw Design Code; c) where appropriate, positively preserves, enhances and integrates landscape and townscape features, and natural and heritage assets; d) respects the local context and complements the landform, layout, building orientation, scale,	**The Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** illustrate the site selection and design process that has been undertaken to achieve what now comprises the Proposed Development and demonstrate that it is both appropriate for a large-scale renewable energy project and a policy-compliant design. **ES Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** sets out the key infrastructure and how it will be distributed and orientated within the

	height, massing, type, materials, details and landscaping of the surrounding areas; i) creates safe communities and reduces the likelihood of crime and the fear of crime through maximising natural surveillance and where appropriate use of active ground floor frontages and lighting; j) incorporates and/or links to a well-defined green/blue infrastructure network of well-managed and maintained public and open spaces; m) incorporates high quality landscape design and maximises opportunities for greening, particularly where a development site adjoins the countryside; n) is sustainable in design and construction, and utilises modern construction methods and durable materials, where practicable; p) mitigates flood risk and water run-off utilising the drainage hierarchy in accordance with Policy ST50, and integrates water management appropriate to place;	Order limits. Details of designated and non-designated heritage assets are contained within section 9.6 of **ES Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** and they have been taken into consideration in the design of the Proposed Development**.** All impacts of the Proposed Development on heritage assets have been assessed but it is concluded that they are limited to the lifetime of the Proposed Development and therefore it is not considered that those impacts are so great as to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development includes mounted CCTV poles for security purposes. These can be seen on **Security CCTV Detail Plan [EN010163/APP/2.20].** Access to all Public Rights of Way (PROWs) will remain through all phases

		of development. In addition, 2no. new permissive paths will be created to improve permeability and access to PROWs during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. Further detail can be found in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13].** **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 Outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** set out the landscaping elements of the Proposed Development. This includes retention of hedgerows, woodland, ditches and ponds where possible, the planting of new trees woodland, hedgerows and species-rich planting across the majority of the site as well as various ecological and biodiversity enhancements. Local materials and resources will be used where possible to keep the

		Proposed Development's carbon footprint low. In addition to this, 95% of solar panels are now recyclable, which adds to the sustainability of solar farms, even at the end of their operational period. **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** discusses flood risk. There is a low risk of fluvial flooding, but no mitigation measures are required to protect the Proposed Development because the infrastructure will remain unaffected and safe access routes will be available for any personnel on site at the time. Policy parts 1b, i,ii, and iii, e, f, g, h, k, l, o, q and 2 have been excluded from the table as they relate to residential development and are hence not relevant for the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is

		therefore considered to comply with relevant parts of Policy ST33.
POLICY ST35: Landscape Character	1. Proposals that contribute to the nature and quality of Bassetlaw's landscapes will be supported where it can be demonstrated that: a) it protects and where possible enhances the distinctive qualities of the relevant landscape character policy zone, as identified in the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment 2009 by conserving, restoring, reinforcing or creating relevant landscape forms and features; and 2. Proposals in an edge of settlement location will be expected to create a positive interface between the urban and rural environments. This should be demonstrated through compliance with Part 1 of this Policy, and by giving appropriate consideration to layout, density, scale, massing and form of development in accordance with Policy ST33.	6.3.11 and 6.3.12 of the Planning Statement set out that the construction and operational phases would cause notable, significant effects to the landscape character of the site but that these effects would be temporary. Furthermore, the Proposed Development includes notable planting of new trees, woodland and hedgerows, as well as species rich planting across the majority of the Site. This is discussed and further detail can be found in **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6].** Paragraph 5.10.5 of NPS EN-1 states: *"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"*.

		Policy part 1b has been excluded from the table as it relates to Local Plan site allocations and is therefore not relevant to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant parts of Policy ST35.
POLICY ST37: Green and Blue Infrastructure	1. The connectivity, quality, multifunctionality, biodiversity and amenity value of the green and blue infrastructure network will be enhanced, extended and managed through: b) protecting, enhancing and restoring watercourses, ponds, lakes and water dependent habitats where appropriate; c) providing for biodiversity net gain, including reconnecting vulnerable and priority habitats (see policy ST38); d) protecting and enhancing ancient and mature woodland and hedgerows, and providing for tree planting to secure recreational benefits and/or to aid climate change mitigation;	All watercourses, ditches and water bodies within the Order Limits will be retained. There are no ancient woodland or protected hedgerows within the Order Limits. Hedgerow loss is limited as much as possible to 1070metres mitigation by additional substantial hedgerow planting that exceeds the loss. The Proposed Development includes the retention of watercourses, ditches, water bodies, woodland as well as most hedgerows, on the site where possible, and the planting of new trees woodland, hedgerows and species-

	f) applying climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through new development, including flood risk and watercourse management; g) linking walking and cycling routes, bridleways and public rights of way to and through development, where appropriate; 3. All new green and blue infrastructure should be accompanied by appropriate management and maintenance arrangements.	rich planting across the majority of the site as well as various ecological and biodiversity enhancements. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** details how the Proposed Development meets the requirements of policy ST37. **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** covers the climate change mitigation measures to be implemented relating to flood risk management. Access to all Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) will remain through all phases of development. In addition, 2no. new permissive paths will be created to improve permeability and access to PRoWs during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. Further detail can be found in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13].** Policy parts 1a, e, 2a, b and c are

		excluded from this table as they are not relevant to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant parts of Policy ST37.
POLICY ST38: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	1.The Council will seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of Bassetlaw, including: **National Designations** c) a proposal (either individually or in combination with other developments) that may either directly or indirectly adversely impact a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) or ancient woodland and their buffer zones will be refused, other than in wholly exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh any harm to the special interest features of the asset. In such circumstances measures should be identified through an Ecological Impact Assessment to mitigate the adverse effects resulting from the	Paragraphs 6.5.14-6.5.17 of the Planning Statement address the impacts of the Proposed Development on nationally designated sites. **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]** provides further detail regarding the proposed mitigation measures. Section 6.5 of the Planning Statement sets out the nearest internationally designated site within the 30km search area is Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC which is 17 km southwest from the Site. Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is 19.5 km northwest from Site. Hatfield Moor SAC is also 19.5 km northwest at its closest point. The Humber Estuary Ramsar and Humber Estuary SAC are

	development. **Local Designations and Locally Important Ecological Features** e) proposals having a direct or indirect adverse effect on a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site or Local Geological Site and their buffer zones or other biodiversity/geodiversity asset, will only be supported where there are no reasonable alternatives; and the case for development clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the ecological, recreational and/or educational value of the site. 2. In all cases, where the principle of development is considered appropriate the mitigation hierarchy must be applied so that: a) firstly harm is avoided wherever possible; then b) appropriate mitigation is provided to ensure no net loss or a net gain of priority habitat and local populations of priority species; c) as a last resort, compensation is delivered to offset any residual damage to biodiversity; d) they protect, restore, enhance and provide	both 25.5 km north from the Site. Thorne Moor SAC is more than 28 km north from the Site. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development and its separation from internationally designated sites, direct impacts for example as a result of land-take will not arise. Indirect impacts from lighting or from pollution, are also unlikely to arise. The breeding and wintering bird surveys undertaken in 2023 / 24 have not identified any significant activity at the Site from qualifying bird species of SPA and Ramsar sites. Given the separation distance from these sites, the Site is not functionally linked, i.e. it is not likely to provide an important role in maintaining or restoring the population of qualifying species at favourable conservation status. It is therefore not likely that significant adverse impacts on the bird interest of internationally designated sites arising from habitat modification or

	appropriate buffers around wildlife and geological features at a local and wider landscape-scale to deliver robust ecological networks, to help deliver priorities in the draft Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Model for Bassetlaw and Idle Valley 2018 or any successor; e) they establish additional ecological links to the Nature Recovery Network. **Biodiversity Net Gain** 3. In line with national legislation, all new development should make provision for net biodiversity gain on site, or where it can be demonstrated after following the mitigation hierarchy that this is not practicable, off site provision will be considered. 4. Management for a minimum of 30 years in accordance with a maintenance scheme will be sought to manage the biodiversity assets in the long term.	loss, or the introduction of a solar development will result from the Proposed Development. In addition to bird interests, no likely significant effects on other qualifying species of Ramsar or SAC sites have been identified, primarily due to the separation distance between the designated sites and the Site. There are no cumulative effects in relation to internationally designated sites. The closest nationally designated site is the Clarborough Tunnel SSSI, which is 40 m west of the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area of the Proposed Development. This means that a small area of the Proposed Development (0.01 ha) falls within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of the SSSI. Clarborough Tunnel SSSI is adjacent to the Site's southern boundary and the part of the Site adjoining the SSSI has been identified for enhancement to

		species-rich grassland as part of the designed-in measures. The nearest area of development is over 750 m from the SSSI. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development and the separating distance from any areas of development within the Site, no direct or indirect impacts on the interest of Clarborough Tunnel SSSI are anticipated. **ES Chapter 14 - Air Quality [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** provides additional information on potential impact pathways regarding construction dust and traffic to Clarborough Tunnel SSSI and also concludes that there will be no likely direct or indirect impacts. All other nationally designated sites are over 1.6 km from the Site, and there would be no direct or indirect impacts upon them. There are No.30 non-statutory designated sites, No.1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland ('ASNW'), and No.1 Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site

		(PAWS) within the 2 km search area. Of the No.30 identified, No.5 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) either wholly or partially in the site and that no direct impacts are anticipated in terms of habitat loss because they will be retained and buffered by an appropriate stand-off where they are within or adjacent to development areas, as part of the designed in measures of the Proposed Development. A fundamental part of the Proposed Development's design are the principles of BNG, with significant areas identified for habitat creation and enhancement. In addition to the above, land below and between the PV arrays will also be managed to enhance biodiversity. **ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** sets out the results of the Proposed Development's BNG Assessment and the Proposed

		Development will provide 10% BNG. The **Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to EN010163/APP/6.2.19]** demonstrates that a temporary residual significant adverse effects (in EIA terms) will be created upon ecology and biodiversity but these effects are limited to the lifetime of the Proposed Development, and it is not considered that they are so great as to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development. BNG will be managed for the operational life of the temporary development. Policy parts 1a and b have been excluded from the table as the Proposed Development does not impact on Internationally Designated Sites. Part 1d has also been excluded as it applies only to residential development and hence is not relevant to the Proposed Development.

		The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy ST38.
POLICY ST39: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	1.The Council will protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows and secure additional planting that increases canopy cover in the interests of biodiversity, amenity and climate change adaptation by: a) retaining, protecting and improving woodland and trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), trees within conservation areas, and 'important' hedgerows as defined by the Hedgerows Regulations 1997; b) making Tree Preservation Orders; c) giving consideration to trees and hedgerows both on individual merit as well as their contribution to amenity and interaction as part of a group within the broader landscape setting; d) resisting the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; e) seeking from major development, provision	None of the trees on site are ancient trees nor form ancient woodland. None of the existing trees within the Order Limits are protected (i.e. through Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), Conservation Area status etc. **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]** has been produced setting out the likely direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on trees. This concludes there will be no tree loss to facilitate the Proposed Development. Measures to protect and managed retained and new trees and hedgerows will be put in place secured through detailed CEMP, DEMP and LEMP as requirements of the DCO. These measures will need to be substantially in accordance with the measures set

	for new trees or an equivalent financial contribution to help mitigate the impacts of climate change in accordance with Policy ST48. 2. Where development would adversely affect trees or hedgerows the application must be accompanied by: a) an accurate tree survey and arboriculture assessment, undertaken by an experienced arboriculturist, of all existing trees and hedgerows on site in accordance with BS5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations) 2012; b) details of protective measures to be put in place during the development to ensure the health and safety of each specimen and hedgerow to be retained; c) an avoidance and mitigation strategy to include replacement planting for specimens of at least equal amenity and ecological value of a local provenance; and d) a detailed management plan providing details of maintenance arrangements for 10 years.	out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** to ensure that impacts are minimised and that the Proposed Development is implemented in accordance with the detailed management plans. Any trees subject to development impacts during construction will be subject to further inspection, survey and necessary steps to avoid or minimise impact. Further information, including a schedule of proposed buffers can be found in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7].** Whilst the loss of some non-protected hedgerows (1070 metres) and vegetation will be required, this loss is kept to a minimum and is vastly

		outweighed by proposed additional planting and mitigation measures. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy ST39.
POLICY ST40: The Historic Environment	1. The historic environment will be conserved and enhanced, sensitively managed, enjoyed and celebrated for its contribution to sustainable communities. Proposals will be supported where they: a) give great weight to the conservation and re-use of designated heritage assets and their settings, including for appropriate temporary use, based on their significance in accordance with national policy; b) make a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment, including through the use of innovative design; c) positively conserve or enhance a historic designed landscape; d) maintain, conserve, sustain or return to beneficial use designated or non-designated	An assessment of potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Development on the historic environment is included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]**. This provides an assessment of impacts on non-designated heritage assets. Evaluation fieldwork surveys have been undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The results of the fieldwork surveys are included within **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** and the reports are submitted with the DCO

	assets; e) capitalise in an appropriate and sensitive manner the regeneration, tourism and energy efficiency potential of heritage assets; f) positively secure the conservation and re-use of 'at risk' heritage assets; g) improve access and enjoyment of the historic environment where appropriate, particularly where they retain, create or facilitate public access to heritage assets to increase understanding of their significance. 2. Applicants will be required to submit evidence in line with best practice and relevant national guidance, examining the significance of any heritage assets affected through a Heritage Statement, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's significance, and the results submitted to the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record. In some circumstances, further survey, analysis and/or recording will be made a condition of consent	application. **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** concludes only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development: • Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Grade I Listed Church of St Martin (minor adverse); • Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse); • Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and, • Grade II Listed Manor Farmhouse (minor adverse). The construction phase would not result in any direct, physical impacts

POLICY ST41: Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets	**Designated Heritage Assets** 1. Proposals for development, including change of use, that involve a designated heritage asset, or the setting of a designated heritage asset will be expected to: a) conserve, enhance or better reveal those elements which contribute to the heritage significance and/or its setting; b) respect any features of special architectural or historic interest, including where relevant the historic curtilage or context, its value within a group and/or its setting, such as the importance of a street frontage, traditional roofscape, or traditional shopfronts; c) be sympathetic in terms of its siting, size, scale, height, alignment, proportions, design and form, building technique(s), materials and detailing, boundary treatments and surfacing, or are of a high quality contemporary or innovative nature which complements the local vernacular, in order to retain the special interest that justifies its designation; d) ensure significant views away from, through,	to any designated assets. There is potential for below ground impacts associated with development, such as piling ground works for infrastructure, cable trenching, plant movement, environmental works etc. to impact upon buried archaeological remains. This includes identified remains in the east of the Site, adjacent the Segelocum Scheduled Monument, and also discrete areas of archaeology across the wider Site. With mitigation, although the magnitude of impact may be medium to assets of low value, implementation of mitigation measures would reduce the significance of effect to minor adverse (not significant). Construction effects could arise from a short-term, temporary increase in vehicle movements, construction noise and activity. The offset of development from the Scheduled Monument Segelocum, and the Grade II Listed Littleborough Cottage has

	towards and associated with the heritage asset(s) are conserved or enhanced; e) in the case of a Conservation Area, to have regard to the established urban grain and ensure that spaces between and around buildings, such as paddocks, greens, gardens and other gaps, are preserved where they contribute to the Conservation Area's character and appearance. 2. Proposals that will lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance will be refused unless the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, and it can be demonstrated that: a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; b) no viable use of the heritage asset can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible;	ensured that this increase would result in a significant level of impact to the heritage significance or value of any of these or any other heritage assets, resulting in a neutral effect (not significant). During operation, only indirect effects would result from the operational phase of the Proposed Development as there would be no below-ground activity within the Site. During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, infrastructure has been assessed as causing minor and/or moderate adverse (not significant) effects during its operational lifetime. During decommissioning the Proposed Development would not result in any physical effects to heritage assets. Following appropriate mitigation, based on the results of the trial trench evaluation, it is anticipated that areas of significant archaeological potential will not require any intrusive works to remove the infrastructure of the

	d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use. 3. Proposals that would result in less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the public benefits will outweigh any harm identified. **Non-Designated Heritage Assets** 4. Proposals for development, including change of use, that involve a non-designated heritage asset, or the setting of a non-designated heritage asset will be expected to: a) have regard to the significance of the asset and its relationship with its setting; b) be sympathetic to the local vernacular in terms of siting, size, scale, height, alignment, design and form; proportions, materials; 5. Proposals that will lead to harm to or loss of significance of a non-designated heritage asset will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that: a) the asset's architectural or historic	Proposed Development, given the above-ground nature of all of the elements within, or the potential avoidance of areas of significance. Therefore, no impacts either direct or indirect are anticipated during this phase. Should the below-ground cabling within the Site be removed as part of decommissioning, this would also not result in any physical impacts to below-ground archaeology given the archaeological deposits disturbed by the insertion of the cable would have been removed and recorded via an Archaeological Watching Brief, if appropriate, during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. There is likely to be a beneficial effect upon the significance of the heritage assets during decommissioning due to the removal of the Proposed Development infrastructure which has been assessed as causing minor and/or moderate adverse effects

	significance is proven to be minimal; or b) through an up-to-date structural report produced by a suitably qualified person, the asset is not capable of viable repair; or c) through appropriate marketing, the asset has no viable use; or d) the public benefits of the scheme outweigh the loss of significance. **Archaeological sites** 6. Where evidence suggests that significant archaeological remains exist on site, proposals should be supported by an appropriate archaeological evaluation that provides an assessment of the significance of the remains and considers how the remains would be affected by the proposed development. 7. Where the 'in situ' preservation of archaeological remains is not possible or desirable, suitable provision shall be made by the developer for the excavation, recording, analysis, storage, relocation of assets and archiving, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been approved by the Local Planning Authority.	during its operational lifetime. These beneficial effects will arise from the removal of the Proposed Development and the restoration of the Site for agricultural use. The level of impact will correspond to level of impacts resulting from the operational phase and the levels of effect will be minor and/or moderate beneficial (not significant). The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. Additional mitigation in the form of a programme of archaeological excavation and recording is proposed and will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) building on **ES Appendix 9.4 outline Written**

		Scheme of Investigation Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [EN010163/APP/6.3.9] and **ES Appendix 9.5 outline Written Scheme of Investigation Post Consent Archaeological Works [EN010163/APP/6.3.9]**. Requirements are included as part of the **draft DCO [EN010163/APP/3.1]** to secure this mitigation and ensure that it is carried out prior to the commencement of development. It is acknowledged that while archaeological excavation and recording would not minimise the physical harm to these assets, as it would still involve removal, however it would compensate for the loss of these heritage assets by preserving them by record, thereby allowing their continued study and greater understanding and appreciation of their heritage value. This would reduce the magnitude of impact on individual assets, resulting in a minor adverse

		effect, which is not significant. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policies ST40 and ST41.
POLICY ST42: Promoting Healthy, Active Lifestyles	1. The Council, with its partners will create an environment which supports healthy, active, inclusive and safe communities. Healthy, active and safe lifestyles will be enabled by: b) facilitating access to a range of high quality, well maintained and accessible open space and play areas, woodland, blue infrastructure, leisure and cultural facilities; e) creating high-quality, inclusive environments that incorporate active design principles and where practicable, increase opportunities for movement through a network of well-connected sustainable travel routes, public rights of way and towpaths to everyday shops and services; f) supporting energy efficient design of development, where practicable; g) ensuring that the current air quality in the District is maintained and, where possible	Access to all Public Rights of Way (PROWs) will remain through all phases of development. In addition, No.2 new permissive paths that will be created to improve permeability and access to PROWs during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. Further detail can be found in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13].** **ES Appendix 6.5 Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) [EN010163/APP/6.3.6]** has been produced setting out the likely direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on trees. This concludes there will be no tree loss to facilitate the Proposed Development. Measures to protect and managed retained and new trees and hedgerows

	improved; h) minimising and mitigating against potential harm from risks such as pollution and other environmental hazards and climate change;	will be put in place secured through detailed CEMP, DEMP and LEMP as requirements of the DCO. These measures will need to be substantially in accordance with the measures set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **outline ES Appendix 4.4 OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 outline LEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]** to ensure that impacts are minimised and that the Proposed Development is implemented in accordance with the detailed management plans. Any trees subject to development impacts during construction will be subject to further inspection, survey and necessary steps to avoid or minimise impact. Further information, including a schedule of proposed buffers can be found in **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.7]. Whilst the loss of some non-protected hedgerows (1070 metres) and vegetation will be required, this loss is kept to a minimum and is vastly outweighed by proposed additional planting and mitigation measures. **ES Chapter 14 - Air Quality [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** provides additional information on potential impact pathways regarding construction dust and traffic from the Proposed Development site to Clarborough Tunnel SSSI and also concludes that there will be no likely direct or indirect impacts. Standard measures for pollution prevention and dust management are incorporated into **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** for the construction and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** for the decommissioning phase. As detailed in the **Design and Access**

		Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3] and **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient Scheme design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. Policy parts 1a, c, d, i and 2 have been excluded from this table as are not relevant or applicable for the Proposed Development; they learn more towards a residential development proposal. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy ST42.
POLICY 46:	1. Proposals for development should be	As detailed in the **Design and Access**

Protecting Amenity	designed and constructed to avoid and minimise impacts on the amenity of existing and future users, individually and cumulatively, within the development and close to it. As such, proposals will be expected to: a) not have a significant adverse effect on the living conditions of existing and new residents and future occupiers of the proposed development through loss of privacy, excessive overshadowing or overbearing impact; and b) not generate a level of activity, noise, light, air quality, odour, vibration or other pollution which cannot be mitigated to an appropriate standard. 2. Proposals for development adjacent to, or in the locality of, existing 'bad neighbour' uses such as waste sites, incinerators, chemical production, heavy industry and businesses with out of normal hour (9-5) operations, will need to demonstrate that: a) the ongoing use of the neighbouring site is not compromised; and b) the amenity of future occupiers of the new	**Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process. Design decisions have been informed by outcomes of statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement, ongoing environmental assessments, engineering and design considerations, and collaboration with other developers. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Proposed Developments design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national

	development can be achieved in accordance with Part 1 of this policy with the ongoing normal use of the neighbouring site; 3. Where the development of a new bad neighbour business or change of use could have a significant adverse effect on residential amenity, appropriate mitigation will be required before the development can be occupied.	targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050; • Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by diversifying energy production and stored energy; • Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to heritage assets and settings; • Safeguard surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change; • Develop a Proposed

		Development sensitive to existing land quality; and • Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Scheme's design is summarised in in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** considers the landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development with reference to relevant landscape character assessments and significant effects. A range of factors have been considered including visibility, views, visual amenity, light pollution, local

		amenity, tranquillity and nature conservation. The chapter justifies how the Proposed Development is policy compliant. The proposed green infrastructure and landscape- and ecological-led design helps to reduce any negative impacts on amenity. **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6]** concludes that adverse effects will be localised and temporary, as they will be reversed following decommissioning. NPS EN-1 acknowledges adverse effects are likely given the scale of energy NSIPs, and in accordance with paragraph 5.10.35 of NPS EN-1, significant residual visual effects of the Proposed Development are outweighed by the Proposed Development's benefits (as set out in Section 5 of the Planning Statement). **ES Chapter 11: Noise [EN010163/APP/5.4]** has assessed noise and vibration impacts of the

		Proposed Development through a combination of consultation, background noise survey and computer modelling. When assessed against the criteria, noise emissions during operation do not result in a significant impact at any NSR and no further mitigation measures are required. BMP to minimise noise during construction and decommissioning are included within **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. No mitigation beyond implementation of construction and decommission BPM is required. The **Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010163/APP/5.4]** considers whether, amongst other matters, noise and vibration impacts will give rise to a statutory nuisance. That statement concludes the Proposed Development

		is not likely to give rise to a statutory noise or vibration nuisance, or any other statutory nuisance. A **Health Impact Assessment [EN010163/APP/7.2]** presents an assessment of the likely significant effects on human health as a result of the Proposed using IEMA guidance on health. The assessment includes transport, employment and income, air quality, noise and vibration, climate change and landscape and visual amenity. It also considers impacts on access and connections, including community connectivity such as access to services, facilities and open space, prioritisation of walking and cycling; and road and route safety. As a result of site selection and design, no significant adverse effects are anticipated on health as a result of the Proposed Development. As outlined in **ES Chapter 12: Climate**

		Change [EN010163/APP/6.2.12], the effects of climate change have been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development, and when considering how it will be constructed, operated and decommissioned. Measures embedded into the design of the Proposed Development include (but not limited to): a. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction/decommissioning waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable; b. Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; c. Reusing suitable infrastructure

		and resources where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements); d. Liaising with construction/decommissioning personnel for the potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options e. Implementing a Travel Plan in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** to reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Proposed Development; f. Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring construction vehicles conform to current emissions standards; and g. Conducting regular planning

		maintenance of the construction/decommissioning plant and machinery to optimise efficiency. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be developed into a detailed CEMP, OEMP and DP prior to the commencement of the construction phase as a means to secure the embedded mitigation measures. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 46.
POLICY 47: Contaminated and Unstable Land	1. Where development is considered to be on contaminated land and/or unstable land, through an appropriate contamination assessment and/or land instability risk assessment, proposals should: a) ensure that all works, including investigation of the nature of any contamination or land	Land contamination has been considered within **ES Chapter 3 Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.]** and with regard to the potential for sources of contamination, no significant

	instability, and removal of materials can be undertaken without causing unacceptable risk to health, waterways, other watercourses and sources of groundwater, or to the environment; b) identify the nature and extent of existing unstable land and/or contaminated land and the level of risk that contaminants/instability could pose in relation to the proposed development and its users, and adjoining land; c) ensure appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented which are suitable for the proposed use and that the occupiers and neighbouring uses are not exposed to an unacceptable level of risk; d) demonstrate that the developed site, will be suitable for the proposed use without risk from contaminants/instability to people, buildings, services or the environment including the apparatus of statutory undertakers.	contaminative processes have operated on the majority of the Site. Potential contaminants may be anticipated onsite in areas currently occupied by farm buildings, railway embankments and West Burton A Power Station. However, the Site is deemed as being of low overall risk of significant contamination, and it is not considered necessary to undertake a ground investigation prior to granting of the DCO application. Best practice and bespoke mitigation measures will be carried out during construction, operation and decommissioning to reduce nuisance impacts from dust generation, soil removal and waste generation and avoid impact on ground conditions. **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be

		developed into a detailed CEMP, OEMP and DP prior to the commencement of the construction phase as a means to secure the embedded mitigation measures. A small area in the in the eastern half of the Site is underlain by Sand and Gravel. The Proposed Development will not impact on the safeguarding or sterilisation of the minerals within the Order Limits as no mineral workings will be pursued in the Order Limits and no impediment to mineral extraction would remain after the Proposed Development has been decommissioned. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 47.
POLICY ST48: Reducing Carbon Emissions, Climate	1. All proposals, including the change of use of existing buildings and spaces, should be designed to improve resilience to the anticipated effects of climate change taking into account the design principles in the	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process.

Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Bassetlaw Design Quality SPD and the Bassetlaw Design Code. Proposals should incorporate, where appropriate, the following measures that address issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation through: a) ensuring no unacceptable adverse impact on local air quality; b) designing layouts so that the orientation of buildings and spaces maximise opportunities for solar gain; c) providing space for habitats and species to move through the landscape and for the operation of natural processes to occur; d) where possible, minimising the use of natural resources over the development's lifetime, such as minerals and consumable products, by reuse or recycling of materials in construction, and by making the best use of existing buildings and infrastructure; e) adapting surface materials and drainage design to reduce the risk of flooding to land, property and people as a result of more extreme rainfall in accordance with Policy ST50;	Design decisions have been informed by outcomes of statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement, ongoing environmental assessments, engineering and design considerations, and collaboration with other developers. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Proposed Developments design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050; • Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by

	f) using integrated water management systems to manage runoff and provide a non-potable water supply; g) providing green/blue infrastructure, and where possible, retaining existing trees and woodlands to reduce the 'urban heating effect' during warmer summers; and h) using urban greening methods within the design of new buildings. 2. All new non-residential development of 1000sqm floorspace or more will be required to meet the BREEAM very good-excellent standards or equivalent. wh3. All new residential development in the District should promote water efficiency by meeting the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day. 4. All major development will be required to make provision for 5 trees per dwelling or per 1,000 sqm of non residential floorspace on site, or if on site provision is not practicable then an equivalent financial contribution will be sought to enable provision of new native trees and/or	diversifying energy production and stored energy; • Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to heritage assets and settings; • Safeguard surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to existing land quality; and • Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network;

	the protection and enhancement of ancient and veteran woodland within the District.	and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Scheme's design is summarised in in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. **ES Chapter 14 - Air Quality [EN010163/APP/6.2.14]** concludes that there will be no likely direct or indirect impacts on air quality as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development. The proposed layout of the solar panels and their south facing orientation has been designed to maximise solar gain. The land will not be fully taken out of agricultural use during operation of the Proposed Development; livestock can

		continue to graze on the grass below and between the panels. The Proposed Development involves the retention of hedgerows, woodland, ditches and ponds where possible, the planting of new trees, woodland, hedgerows and other species-rich planting across the majority of the site. All of these ecological and biodiversity enhancements contribute towards habitats and species to move through the landscape. 95% of solar panels are now recyclable, which adds to the sustainability of solar farms, even at the end of their operational period. A summary of flood risk from all sources is contained within **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8], Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Flood Risk Sequential Assessment and Exception Test**

		[EN010163/APP/7.5] that confirm the Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat, ecology and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are. Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test. The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development passes satisfies the Exception Test

		demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development. In terms of design, the Proposed Development has embedded a response to the Site's flood risk. In terms of attenuation to maintain existing runoff rates, permeable surfacing will be provided for the Site access and a gravel filled trench will be installed along parts of the access track where there is a potential for concentration of excess flows. These trenches will act as attenuation and

		treatment prior to infiltration. A filter drain is proposed running along the centre of the Site, directing flows into an attenuation basin in the south-western corner. This filter drain will collect runoff from the hardstanding electrical equipment area. Grass and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels is also proposed. Finally, two large detention basins have been strategically placed within the Site on land to the west (up-gradient) of Sturton-le-Steeple. Their locations and sizes have been carefully designed to intercept overland flows, with water held in the basins before being released at a controlled rate to the existing drainage ditches after the peak of the rainfall event. The two basins combined would provide an attenuation capacity of approximately 4300m3 to potentially address the flooding issue reported by the local residents. As it is a grassland area infiltration and evapotranspiration are

		likely to occur. A Surface Water Drainage Strategy has is proposed for the Proposed Development in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** detailing appropriate use of a Sustainable Drainage System on site. The Proposed Development is for temporary renewable energy generation and storage. Buildings are limited and, due to their operation requirements its not reasonable to require BREEAM very good-excellent standards or equivalent nor urban greening methods. Whilst there is some conflict with parts 1h and 2 of this policy, bearing in mind its temporary and a nationally important renewable energy project, the Applicant is of the opinion that in

		the planning balance benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh this limited policy conflict. It is however worth noting that substantial additional tree planting is proposed, nevertheless. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant parts of Policy ST48.
POLICY ST49: Renewable Energy Generation	1. Development that generates, shares, transmits and/or stores zero carbon and/or low carbon renewable energy including community energy schemes will be supported subject to the satisfactory resolution of all relevant site specific and cumulative impacts upon: a) location, setting and position in the wider landscape, resulting from its siting and scale; b) natural and heritage assets and their settings; c) air and water quality; d) hydrology and hydrogeology; e) the best and most versatile agricultural land;	The Proposed Development is supported by the following ES Chapters which discuss each of the points raised in the policy in detail: - Chapter 3 – Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process **[EN010163/APP/6.2.3]**; - Chapter 9 – Cultural Heritage **[EN010163/APP/6.2.9]**; - Chapter 14 – Air Quality **[EN010163/APP/6.2.14]**; - Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and

	f) existing highway capacity and highway safety; g) noise, light, glare, smell, dust, emissions or flicker; h) aviation and radar; i) recreation and local amenity. Proposals must take into account operational and approved developments, as well as any proposed intensification to operational or approved proposals. 3. All renewable energy development will be expected to provide details of the expected power generation based upon expected yield or local self-consumption to enable effective monitoring of the district's contribution to the national zero carbon targets. 4. A decommissioning programme applied by a Condition to any planning permission granted will be required to demonstrate that the site can be returned to an acceptable state, three years after cessation of operations.	Drainage **[EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**; - Chapter 13 – Transport and Access **[EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**; - Chapter 15 – Land Use and Agriculture **[EN010163/APP/6.2.15]**; - Chapter 7 – Ecology and Biodiversity **[EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**; - Chapter 11 – Noise and Vibration and Chapter 16 – Glint and Glare **[EN010163/APP/6.2.11]**; and - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity **[EN010163/APP/6.2.6]**. Policy parts 2a and b have been excluded from the table as they related solely to wind turbines. As confirmed in Section 1 and 7 of the Planning Statement, the DCO Application is for the installation of ground mounted solar array and co-located associated BESS to provide a

		renewable energy scheme totalling 600MW equating to the annual energy consumption of approximately 180,000 households (roughly half of the homes in Nottinghamshire County). An Outline Decommissioning Plan accompanies the submission at **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** which sets out how the site will be returned to its current state once the Proposed Development has come to the end of its operational life. A detailed DP will be secured through a Requirement of the DCO. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy ST49.
POLICY ST50: Flood Risk and Drainage	1. Proposals are required to consider and, where necessary, mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on flood risk, on-site and off-site, commensurate with the scale and impact of the development. Proposals, including	Roughly 50% of the Order Limits lie within low-risk Flood Zone 1, approximately 5% lies within medium risk Flood Zone 2 and around 45% of the site lies with high-risk Flood Zone

	change of use applications, must be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (where appropriate), which demonstrates that the development, including the access and egress, will be safe for its lifetime, without increasing or exacerbating flood risk elsewhere and where possible will reduce flood risk overall. 2. Where relevant, proposals must demonstrate that they pass the Sequential Test and if necessary the Exceptions Test in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and ensure that where land is required to manage flood risk, it is safeguarded from development. **Surface Water Flood Risk** 4. All development where practicable should incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in line with national standards. These should: a) be informed by the Lead Local Flood Authority, sewerage company and relevant drainage board; b) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation	3a. A **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been carried out in accordance with the previously mentioned policy requirements included in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**. In addition to the FRA a **Sequential and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** have also been undertaken because part of the Site includes development in high-risk Flood Zone 3a. The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative

	and management for the development's lifetime; c) prevent surface water discharge into the sewerage system; d) maximise environmental gain through: enhancing the green/blue infrastructure network, including urban greening measures, contributing to biodiversity net gain where possible, and, securing amenity benefits along with flood storage volumes; e) seek to reduce runoff rates in areas at risk from surface water flooding, and that any surface water is directed to sustainable outfalls.	brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development. A summary of flood risk from all sources is contained within ES **Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8], Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Flood Risk Sequential Assessment and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** that confirm the Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not

		affected by heritage constraints, habitat, ecology and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are. Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test. In terms of design, the Proposed Development has embedded a response to the Site's flood risk. This includes: • 8m easements to all watercourses and 9 metres from IDB assets; • Substations and BESS located outside of high-risk Flood Zone 3; • Conversion units, where possible located in low-risk Flood Zone 1. If this is not possible conversion units will be raised 200mm above 0.1%

		AEP flood level; • Non-flood sensitive infrastructure (PV arrays, cabling etc) sequentially located outside 1 in 100 plus climate change annual probability extent or where this is not possible restricted to areas which experience less than 1m depth of flooding during same event; • Sensitive and electrical equipment on solar panels elevated by legs so it's not less than 0.6m above surrounding flood level; and • Flood defences protecting the Proposed Development can be inspected and maintained by the operator statutory undertaker ensuring their functionality through the Proposed Development's operational lifetime. In terms of attenuation to maintain existing runoff rates, permeable surfacing will be provided for the Site access and a gravel filled trench will be

		installed along parts of the access track where there is a potential for concentration of excess flows. These trenches will act as attenuation and treatment prior to infiltration. A filter drain is proposed running along the centre of the Site, directing flows into an attenuation basin in the south-western corner. This filter drain will collect runoff from the hardstanding electrical equipment area. Grass and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels is also proposed. Finally, two large detention basins have been strategically placed within the Site on land to the west (up-gradient) of Sturton-le-Steeple. Their locations and sizes have been carefully designed to intercept overland flows, with water held in the basins before being released at a controlled rate to the existing drainage ditches after the peak of the rainfall event. The two basins combined would provide an attenuation capacity of approximately 4300m3 to potentially address the

		flooding issue reported by the local residents. As it is a grassland area infiltration and evapotranspiration are likely to occur. A Surface Water Drainage Strategy is proposed for the Proposed Development in **ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** detailing appropriate use of a Sustainable Drainage System on site. This includes: • Free draining through perimeter gaps around all panels, meaning no increase in surface water flood risk elsewhere; • Wildflower and grassland planting below solar panels will be plated to prevent soil erosion; • Water will be allowed to drip onto the ground below the panels in

		several locations rather than a concentrated runoff, again prevent soil erosion; • Access tracks will be of a permeable construction allowing surface water runoff to percolate into the ground; and • Associated electrical infrastructure with the panels (and some solar panel parcels) will be sited on concrete pads surrounded by gravel filled filter trenches, constructed to limit lateral water flow, replacing loss of natural infiltration caused by concrete bases by storing surface water in the gravel sub-base prior to infiltration into the ground as currently takes place. Bearing in mind surface water falling on the Site is not attenuated, the Proposed Development is concluded to provide an overall betterment to surface water drainage in comparison to the existing surface water runoff

		regime. Measures employed to mitigate impacts related to flood risk, drainage, groundwater and surface water during both the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. The detailed CEMP, to be secured by a DCO Requirement should consent be granted, will detail compliance with relevant Guidance for Pollution Prevention ('GPP'), and Water Management Plan ('WMP') of pre-, during and post construction water quality monitoring based on a combination of visual observations and reviews of the Environment Agency's automatic water quality

		monitoring network. Methods for safe storage of materials, plans to deal with accidental pollution and spills and pollution control measures incorporated into the construction and decommissioning phase. Drainage and flood risk are also committed to the outline CEMP and DP, with detailed management plans secured by a DCO Requirement. Taking into account embedded and additional mitigation measures the residual significance of the effect of the construction, operational, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on flood risk and surface water drainage is not considered significant. Risks of accidental pollution incidents affecting water quality of surface water and groundwater bodies are minimised to an acceptable level. Policy part 3 has been excluded from this table as the Proposed

		Development is not within the River Ryton Flood Management Impact Zone. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with the relevant parts of Policy ST50.
POLICY ST51: Protecting Water Quality and Management	1. In line with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater bodies will be protected and where possible enhanced. Development adjacent to, over or in, a main river or ordinary watercourse will be supported where proposals consider opportunities to improve the river environment and water quality where possible by: a) actively contributing to enhancing the status of the waterbody through positive actions or ongoing projects; b) naturalising watercourse channels; c) improving the biodiversity and ecological connectivity of watercourses; d) safeguarding and enlarging river buffers with appropriate habitat in accordance with Policy	Measures employed to mitigate impacts related to flood risk, drainage, groundwater and surface water during both the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4], ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. The detailed CEMP, to be secured by a DCO Requirement will detail compliance with relevant Guidance for Pollution Prevention ('GPP'), and Water Management Plan ('WMP') of pre-, during and post construction water

	ST37; and e) mitigating diffuse agricultural and urban pollution. 2. Proposals within a Source Protection Zone will need to demonstrate that the Sherwood Sandstone Principal Aquifer and its groundwater resources and groundwater quality will be protected throughout the construction and operational phase of development, by demonstrating the satisfactory resolution of all relevant identified impacts. 3. All proposals must ensure that appropriate infrastructure for water supply, sewerage and sewage treatment, is available or can be made available at the right time to meet the needs of the development. Proposals should: a) utilise the following drainage hierarchy: i. into the ground (infiltration); ii. to a surface water body; iii. to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system;	quality monitoring based on a combination of visual observations and reviews of the Environment Agency's automatic water quality monitoring network. Methods for safe storage of materials, plans to deal with accidental pollution and spills and, pollution control measures incorporated into the construction and decommissioning phase. Drainage and flood risk are also committed to the outline CEMP and DP, with detailed management plans secured by a DCO Requirement. Taking into account embedded and additional mitigation measures the residual significance of the effect of the construction, operational, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on flood risk and surface water drainage is not considered significant. Risks of accidental pollution incidents affecting water quality of surface water and groundwater bodies are

	iv. to a combined sewer. b) ensure that foul and surface water flows are separated with foul water being disposed to a public sewer or to a private self-treatment plant and that the design of the waste disposal system will be safe over the lifetime of the development. c) ensure that development that discharges water into a watercourse incorporates appropriate water pollution control measures; d) ensure that drainage design take into account an appropriate climate change allowance as agreed with the relevant authority(s); e) ensure that infiltration based SuDS incorporate appropriate water pollution control measures; f) consider use of water recycling, rainwater and storm water harvesting, wherever feasible, to reduce demand on mains water supply.	minimised to an acceptable level. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy ST51.
POLICY ST52: Transport	1. The Council will work with Nottinghamshire County Council and other transport	A Transport Assessment has been submitted in support of the Proposed

Infrastructure	infrastructure partners to: a) support and facilitate the delivery of measures identified in the Local Transport Plan and the Bus Service Improvement Plan for the district; b) deliver the transport infrastructure which improves movement within and to Bassetlaw, including measures that help support delivery of the site allocations identified by this Local Plan as identified by the Bassetlaw Infrastructure Delivery Plan 20232 ; c) ensure that the impacts of new development on the strategic and local road network, including the A57 and A1, are adequately identified through a vision statement and Improvement Plan, and are appropriately and proportionately mitigated through partnership working with the Local Highways Authority, relevant neighbouring planning and highways authorities, and National Highways; d) support, in association with major development, the delivery of new or improved roads, such as a distributor road and sustainable transport improvements, linked	Development at **ES Appendix 13.1 [EN010163/APP/6.3.13].** Consultation has been undertaken with Nottinghamshire County Council (as well as National Highways and Doncaster Council) Highway Officers to seek agreement in terms of the assessment approach and mitigation measures. The Site is located in a rural area with good access to the Strategic Road network and seeks to use the same transport route as the neighbouring West Burton Power Station and Sturton-le-Steeple quarry. A total of 26no. access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. 2no. of the accesses will serve primary construction compounds and 3no. will serve the secondary construction compounds. The remaining 21no.

	where appropriate; e) support and facilitate measures that improve the management of the strategic and local highways network including through demand management, traffic management and calming initiatives required as a result of site allocations identified by this Local Plan; f) support and where appropriate, enable sustainable transport measures that improve access to/from proposed major development around Worksop, Retford and Harworth & Bircotes; g) support plans for enhanced active travel connectivity within Worksop Central, Retford town centre and Harworth & Bircotes town centre and to surrounding areas; h) promote through major development the delivery of a more comprehensive network of multi user transport nodes; 2. Proposals for new development which have significant transport implications that either arise from the development proposed or cumulatively with other development proposals	access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and 5no. construction accesses will be used during operation. Traffic flows are expected to take place over 730 working days (construction period) and during a peak construction phase day traffic vehicle trips will consist of staff car, shuttle bus, LGV and HGV movements. It is estimated that the construction of the Proposed Development would result in around 12,887 one-way (25,774 two-way) delivery construction vehicle movements, and 42,000 one-way (84,000 two-way) workforce construction vehicle movements over the full 24-month (730 days) construction period. This equates to an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) value of 152 vehicles (comprising 36 delivery trips and 116 workforce trips) based on 109,774 trips divided by 730 days (equivalent of 24

	will need to submit a Transport Assessment or a Transport Statement, and where relevant a Travel Plan alongside an application. These documents will need to take into account Nottinghamshire County Council guidance and national Planning Practice, and where appropriate, the scope should be agreed with National Highways. 3. Appropriate provision for works and/or contributions may be required towards 1a-1h of this policy to provide an adequate level of accessibility by all modes of transport and to mitigate the impacts of development upon the transport network. Consideration should be given to the cumulative impact of relevant development both in Bassetlaw and within neighbouring authorities, and how this links to planned infrastructure improvements. This should take into account the Infrastructure Delivery Plan 20232 and Local Plan Transport Assessments, which, where relevant, will inform the scoping of the Transport Assessment and Travel Plan. 4. Where relevant, evidence obtained from a site-specific Transport Assessment or	months construction period). **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Proposed Development in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay; pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. There are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access receptors. Significant cumulative effects are also not expected to arise. **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads

	Transport Statement will inform the number and phasing of homes to be permitted on proposed development sites and will be established (and potentially conditioned) through the planning application process, in consultation with the highway authority. 5. Proposals that prejudice the efficient and safe operation of the local and strategic highway network or future improvements to transport infrastructure identified through mechanisms within Policy ST56 and/or the Local Transport Plan, will not be supported.	to ensure access roads are suitable for transportation of components to the site. The CTMP is secured by a DCO Requirement and also includes a construction worker plan that sets out measures and controls for staff vehicles. This includes measures to discourage and limit access to the Order Limits by car and instead promotes the use of a shuttle bus from local worker accommodation and car sharing to minimise additional vehicles on local roads. The potential use of water-borne and rail transport instead of road transport for all phases of the Proposed Development has been considered. Whilst use of both alternative is possible in the supply of the Proposed Development, the final leg of deliveries during construction will be undertaken by roads set out in the study area. For example, larger equipment, such as transformers or batteries, will be transported to the Humber docks by
POLICY ST53: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Travel	1. Development that contributes towards a sustainable, safe, active transport network and offers a range of public transport and active travel choices will be supported. Development should, where appropriate: a) assist in the improvement of transport infrastructure to help all communities in Bassetlaw have opportunities to travel without a car for everyday journeys; b) provide well-designed, safe and convenient access for all, giving priority to the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other users in a way	

	which would not: i. compromise the free flow of traffic on the public highway, pedestrians, public transport and cycling or any other transport mode; or ii. exacerbate traffic congestion on the existing highway network or increase the risk of accidents or endanger the safety of road users including pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users; c) minimise additional travel demand by car through sustainable travel measures identified in a Travel Plan and associated Action Plan(s), where the securing of a Travel Plan Coordinator may be necessary to facilitate the payment of monitoring fees and to pay for the delivery of additional sustainable travel measures/initiatives if modal share targets are not achieved; d) encourage forms of active travel through connection to, and extension of, existing pedestrian, cycle and equestrian routes, where practicable; e) respond to the transport needs for specific	sea (Hull, Immingham, Goole) but the final delivery will be via the strategic and local highway network as set out in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**. In total there are 25 PRoWs that traverse or abut the Order Limits, which are set out **in Table 13.7 of ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. PRoWs within the Site will remain open for the duration of construction period and diversions are not proposed unless required for short durations to protect public health and safety. When this is necessary, work could be undertaken when the relevant PRoW is unlikely to be used, such as during the nighttime, and opened during the daytime when the PRoW is more likely to be used so far as practicable to do so. **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has also assessed the operational phase of the

	groups in the community, such as older people and those with disabilities; and f) encourage the use of flexible transport services that combine public and community transport services, ensuring that locally based approaches are delivered to meet the needs of communities.	Proposed Development. During operation, staff will not be permanently based on the site. There will be approximately seven trips per day by engineers for maintenance typically by 7.5t van or 4x4 vehicles. Should large replacement parts be required, this may require an ad hoc HGV delivery. In light of this, effects on accidents and highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay and amenity and hazardous loads during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible, not significant and no cumulative impacts anticipated. Existing PRoWs will remain open during the operational phase of the Proposed Development and two new permissive paths will be created to improve connectivity within the Site, as well as active travel through the promotion of pedestrian and cycle access. These enhancements are set out in **ES**

		Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]. Traffic during the decommissioning phase is currently proposed to egress the Site using the inverse of the construction route(s) but this will be agreed in advance of the decommissioning phase following the 40-year lifetime of the Proposed Development. Vehicle trips are not expected to exceed the number set out in the construction phase. Effects will be short term, temporary, equivalent to or no worse than negligible or minor construction phase impacts; they are not significant in EIA terms. In light of this, effects on accidents and highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay, amenity and hazardous loads during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible, not

		significant and no cumulative impacts anticipated. Mitigation measures for decommissioning are the same as for the construction phase. This includes a PRoW Management Plan as well as Traffic Management Measures including signage and a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit at all access junctions. A Decommissioning Plan based on measures in **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to decommissioning as secured by DCO Requirement. PRoW will be managed in a similar way to the construction phase ensuring user safety and continued access for PRoW users. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policies ST52 and ST53.

Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2021)		
SO4 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources, permitted mineral reserves and associated minerals infrastructure	Protect the County's potential mineral resources of local and national importance, permitted mineral reserves and associated minerals infrastructure from development which would prevent or hinder their future use.	No mineral development is proposed within the Order Limits. In terms of Mineral Safeguarding Areas ('MSA'), the Proposed Development affects a relatively small area of sand and gravel deposits with the majority of the Order Limits falling outside a MSA. It is therefore very unlikely that these small areas would be required for mineral extraction during the temporary operational life of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is unlikely to sterilise any significant volumes of safeguarded mineral due to the limited amount of ground disturbance at depth. At the end of its operational life, the Proposed Development will be decommissioned, ground structures removed and the site restored. Deep foundations or excavations are not required by the Proposed
SP7 – Mineral Safeguarding, Consultation Areas and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	**Minerals Safeguarding Areas** 1. Locally and nationally important mineral resources, permitted reserves, allocated sites and associated minerals infrastructure will be safeguarded from needless sterilisation by non-minerals development through the designation of minerals safeguarding areas as identified on the Policies Map. 2. Non-minerals development within minerals safeguarding areas will have to demonstrate that mineral resources will not be needlessly sterilised as a result of the development and that the development would not pose a serious	

	hindrance to future extraction in the vicinity. 3. Where this cannot be demonstrated, and where there is a clear and demonstrable need for the non-minerals development, prior extraction will be sought where practicable. **Minerals Consultation Areas** 4. District and Borough Councils within Nottinghamshire will consult the County Council as Minerals Planning Authority on proposals for non-minerals development within the designated Mineral Consultation Area, as shown on the Policies Map. 5. The Minerals Planning Authority will resist inappropriate non-minerals development within the Minerals Consultation Areas. 6. Where non-minerals development would cause an unacceptable impact on the development, operation or restoration of a permitted minerals site, mineral allocation, or associated minerals infrastructure, suitable mitigation should be provided by the applicant prior to the completion of the development.	Development. Therefore disturbance is limited to surface layers rather than underlying deposits, thus underlying mineral deposits would not be permanently sterilised and available to exploit if required at a future date. The host Site, along with large areas of Nottingham fall within Petroleum Exploration and Development License ('PEDAL') areas. Oil and gas deposits are found at much greater depths than other minerals and therefore surface development has less potential impact in terms of exploiting the resource. There are no safeguarding areas for hydrocarbons. Existing oil fields are identified and safeguarded with mineral consultation zone around each one. The Proposed Development does not affect an existing oil field or come within a mineral consultation zone. Therefore, the Proposed Development is not considered to have any implications for existing or proposed

		exploration and eventual exploration of oil and gas resource. Sterilisation of mineral resources have been demonstrated not to occur and part of the Proposed Development within the defined MSA will be available for future extraction should this be necessary. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policies SO4 and SP7.
Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (SWNP) (2021-2037)		
Policy 1: Sustainable development, infill and the development boundary (part 2)	2. Development proposals outside the defined development boundaries will be carefully controlled in accordance with national and local planning policies.	Appendix C of the Planning Statement, along with this Appendix D demonstrate how the Proposed Development complies with National and Local policy. Should policy conflict be identified this is addressed in the planning balance and outweighed by the benefits of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with

		Policy 1.
Policy 2a: Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views	1. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should protect the positive attributes of the open countryside and landscape character as identified within the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment and the Sturton Ward Design Code 2020. Where appropriate, mitigation planting should include native species recommended for the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands or Trent Washlands character areas. 4. Development proposals (excluding householder development), should demonstrate they have regard to the guidance in the Sturton Ward Design Code (2020) and where practicable: a) retain existing trees and hedges; and b) use strong planting belts that run horizontal with the contours on sites close to the existing built form; and c) maintain the natural flow of water through water courses and prevent surface water from	Within the Order Limits, no existing trees will be removed, and hedgerow removal is limited to 1070m mitigated by additional new hedgerow and tree planting. New hedgerow and tree planting will improve linkages and strengthening existing planting belts. All watercourse within and near the site will be retained. SUDs surface water drainage will be utilised with no mains foul water connection required by the Proposed Development 6.3.11 and 6.3.12 of the Planning Statement set out that the construction and operational phases would cause notable, significant effects to the landscape character of the site but that these effects would be temporary. Furthermore, the Proposed Development includes notable planting of new trees, woodland and hedgerows, as well as species rich planting across the

	being connected to the foul sewerage network.	majority of the Site. This is discussed and further detail can be found in **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6].** Paragraph 5.10.5 of NPS EN-1 states: *"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"*. The Proposed Development includes the retention of woodland, trees, watercourses and ditches on the site as well as the majority of existing hedgerows. Planting of new trees woodland, hedgerows and species-rich planting across the majority of the site mitigates hedgerow loss and forms part of the various landscape, ecological and biodiversity enhancements with further information provided in **ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity**

		[EN010163/APP/6.2.7]. Policy parts 2 and 3 have been excluded from the table as they are not relevant to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant parts of Policy 2a.
Policy 2b: Enhancing biodiversity	1. Proposals which would improve existing environmental assets and enhance biodiversity will be supported. The following enhancements will be particularly supported: a) strengthening hedgerows (gapping up), field boundaries and maintaining the natural flow of water through water courses to provide more robust blue-green habitat 'corridors'; and b) planting wildflower meadows and strips; and c) encouraging native tree and shrub planting on suitable sites, especially species that provide good berry or nectar sources; and d) providing sustainable urban drainage schemes (SuDS) (e.g. rain gardens, ponds and	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process. Design decisions have been informed by outcomes of statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement, ongoing environmental assessments, engineering and design considerations, and collaboration with other developers. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Proposed Developments design response to the local context to develop a good design that

	wetland creation) in new schemes and 'retrofitting' where appropriate; and e) providing habitat improvements (i.e. nest or bat boxes) to benefit all bats and bird species of conservation concern such as swifts, swallow, house martin and house sparrows; and f) protecting existing dry ditches which are essential to the sustainable management of surface water. 2. Proposals that would result in the net loss of biodiversity will not be supported. Development should aim to achieve a net biodiversity gain in accordance with local and national planning policy. If significant ecological impacts are identified, appropriate mitigation or compensation measures will be required. These measures should be targeted to benefit local conservation priorities as identified in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity. A range of 'designed-in' primary ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are part of the design of the Proposed Development. Biodiversity features have been considered iteratively as the detail of the Proposed Development has evolved, and the incorporated biodiversity measures form an integral part of the Proposed Development, designed specifically to avoid or reduce biodiversity effects wherever possible, and to build biodiversity enhancement into the

		Proposed Development. These designed-in measures are identified on the basis of the baseline and post-development conditions and include: • Within the Proposed Solar Areas, priority habitats (such as hedgerows, trees, arable field margins, woodland, watercourses, ponds and scrub) will be retained and incorporated into semi-natural habitat buffers. A schedule of proposed buffers to these habitats is provided in **ES Chapter 7 : Ecology & Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**. This will retain habitat for protected / notable species, and ensure retention of habitat connectivity through the Proposed Development and the local landscape; • Arable habitats where the solar arrays will be placed will be converted to modified grassland. Field margins around the solar arrays will be retained

		/ created to neutral grassland with appropriate wildflower mixes used if necessary to increase floristic diversity; • Clarborough Tunnel SSSI is adjacent to the Site's southern boundary and the part of the Site adjoining the SSSI will be excluded from development and incorporated into the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area for enhancement to species-rich grassland. This create / enhance existing habitats that would complement the SSSI and improve ecological connectivity; • Buildings and trees with bat and barn owl suitability will be retained, thereby avoiding direct impacts upon potential bat roosts; • All badger setts will be retained safeguarded by a suitable buffer during construction, operation and decommissioning phases; • Protective fencing will be

		installed around sensitive important ecological features; • Mammal gaps will be incorporated into security fencing within the Proposed Solar Areas to allow access by badger and other SPI mammals; and • Directional drilling will be employed for cabling beneath watercourses and hedgerows during construction, to avoid damage to linear habitats. Additional mitigation, the detail of which will be informed by the final design layout and construction programme, includes: • Where access crossing points on ditches / drains are required, these will be clear span structures unless otherwise stated; • Production of an appropriate lighting strategy for all phases of development;

		• Standard measures for pollution prevention and dust management incorporated into **ES Appendix 4.1 – outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** for the construction and **ES Appendix 4.2 – outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** for the decommissioning phase; • Appropriate timing of certain works to avoid impacts on features, for example favouring vegetation clearance outside of the bird nesting period; • Precautionary methods of working to avoid disturbance, damage, killing / injury, such as precautionary vegetation clearance methods in areas suitable for reptiles; • Securing and implementing protected species licences, such as for badgers, where impacts to avoid an offence under the relevant legislation cannot be avoided;

		• Precautionary pre-works checks for great crested newts on suitable terrestrial habitat being impacted within 250 m of Ponds 15 and 18. Note – no likelihood of an offence in respect of great crested newts is anticipated and there is no likelihood of a licence being required; and • Measures in the Western and Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Areas that will mitigate impacts on ground nesting birds; primarily skylark. Enhancement measures include: • Habitat creation in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area will include wildflower grassland, species-rich hedgerows, scrub, ponds and ditches; • Habitat improvements such as infilling of gaps in hedgerows, and improvements to plant species diversity by additional planting/seeding in retained habitats; • Improved management of

		retained habitats, such as grasslands within the LWS within the Site, management of hedgerows to favour breeding birds and to increase their potential for dormouse, and management of woodlands to improve their biodiversity value; and • Installation of other wildlife features such as bat and bird boxes. Details of work necessary to retain, create and manage retained and new ecological features during and after construction are provided in **ES Appendix 4.1 - Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 7.14 Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan [EN010163/APP/6.3.7.14]** for the Proposed Development. A skylark mitigation strategy is presented in **ES Appendix 7.13 [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**, which shows further details and the locations of the

		measures at the Site which include: • Skylark plots within large arable fields; • Enhanced arable field margins to create wildflower grassland of increased width; and • Beetle banks within large arable fields. SUDs will also be used for surface water disposal. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 2b.
Policy 4: Reducing the risk of flooding	1. All development proposals are required to consider and, when necessary, address the effect of the proposed development on flood risk both on-site and offsite, commensurate with the scale and impact of the development. This should be demonstrated through a flood risk assessment where appropriate and in accordance with national policy. 2. Proposals for flood management or other	Roughly 50% of the Order Limits lie within low-risk Flood Zone 1, approximately 5% lies within medium risk Flood Zone 2 and around 45% of the site lies with high-risk Flood Zone 3a. A **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been carried out in accordance with the previously

	infrastructure which lower the risk of flooding will be supported, subject to the proposal not resulting in an increase in flood risk elsewhere. 3. Surface water management should be undertaken, where necessary and practicable, through the utilisation of appropriate SuDS techniques which mimic natural drainage patterns and, where appropriate, achieve net gains for nature through the creation of ponds and wetlands near watercourses and the introduction or enhancement of blue-green corridors. For SuDS techniques which are designed to encourage infiltration, a site-specific infiltration test will be required to ensure that the water table is low enough. 4. All developments should be designed to achieve, where appropriate, a net decrease in surface water run-off rates, including through green infrastructure provision such as the planting of native trees and bushes. 5. Development which builds to the optional Building Regulations requirement of 110 litres of water per person per day will be supported.	mentioned policy requirements included in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**. In addition to the FRA a **Sequential and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** have also been undertaken because part of the Site includes development in high-risk Flood Zone 3a. The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development.

		A summary of flood risk from all sources is contained within ES **Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8], Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** and **Flood Risk Sequential Assessment and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** that confirm the Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat, ecology and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are.

		Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the Sequential Test. In terms of design, the Proposed Development has embedded a response to the Site's flood risk. This includes: • 8m easements to all watercourses and 9 metres from IDB assets; • Substations and BESS located outside of high-risk Flood Zone 3; • Conversion units, where possible located in low-risk Flood Zone 1. If this is not possible conversion units will be raised 200mm above 0.1% AEP flood level; • Non-flood sensitive infrastructure (PV arrays, cabling etc) sequentially located outside 1 in 100

		plus climate change annual probability extent or where this is not possible restricted to areas which experience less than 1m depth of flooding during same event; • Sensitive and electrical equipment on solar panels elevated by legs so it's not less than 0.6m above surrounding flood level; and • Flood defences protecting the Proposed Development can be inspected and maintained by the operator statutory undertaker ensuring their functionality through the Proposed Development's operational lifetime. In terms of attenuation to maintain existing runoff rates, permeable surfacing will be provided for the Site access and a gravel filled trench will be installed along parts of the access track where there is a potential for concentration of excess flows. These trenches will act as attenuation and

		treatment prior to infiltration. A filter drain is proposed running along the centre of the Site, directing flows into an attenuation basin in the south-western corner. This filter drain will collect runoff from the hardstanding electrical equipment area. Grass and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels is also proposed. Finally, two large detention basins have been strategically placed within the Site on land to the west (up-gradient) of Sturton-le-Steeple. Their locations and sizes have been carefully designed to intercept overland flows, with water held in the basins before being released at a controlled rate to the existing drainage ditches after the peak of the rainfall event. The two basins combined would provide an attenuation capacity of approximately 4300m3 to potentially address the flooding issue reported by the local residents. As it is a grassland area infiltration and evapotranspiration are

		likely to occur. A Surface Water Drainage Strategy is proposed for the Proposed Development in **ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]** and **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** detailing appropriate use of a Sustainable Drainage System on site. This includes: • Free draining through perimeter gaps around all panels, meaning no increase in surface water flood risk elsewhere; • Wildflower and grassland planting below solar panels will be plated to prevent soil erosion; • Water will be allowed to drip onto the ground below the panels in several locations rather than a concentrated runoff, again prevent soil

		erosion; • Access tracks will be of a permeable construction allowing surface water runoff to percolate into the ground; and • Associated electrical infrastructure with the panels (and some solar panel parcels) will be sited on concrete pads surrounded by gravel filled filter trenches, constructed to limit lateral water flow, replacing loss of natural infiltration caused by concrete bases by storing surface water in the gravel sub-base prior to infiltration into the ground as currently takes place. Bearing in mind surface water falling on the Site is not attenuated, the Proposed Development is concluded to provide an overall betterment to surface water drainage in comparison to the existing surface water runoff regime. Measures employed to mitigate

		impacts related to flood risk, drainage, groundwater and surface water during both the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix 4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. The detailed CEMP, to be secured by a DCO Requirement should consent be granted, will detail compliance with relevant Guidance for Pollution Prevention ('GPP'), and Water Management Plan ('WMP') of pre-, during and post construction water quality monitoring based on a combination of visual observations and reviews of the Environment Agency's automatic water quality monitoring network. Methods for safe storage of materials, plans to deal with accidental pollution

		and spills and pollution control measures incorporated into the construction and decommissioning phase. Drainage and flood risk are also committed to the outline CEMP and DP, with detailed management plans secured by a DCO Requirement. Taking into account embedded and additional mitigation measures the residual significance of the effect of the construction, operational, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on flood risk and surface water drainage is not considered significant. Risks of accidental pollution incidents affecting water quality of surface water and groundwater bodies are minimised to an acceptable level. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 4.
Policy 5: Design principles	1.As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should	As detailed in the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]** and

	demonstrate a high design quality that will contribute positively to the character of the Ward and respond positively to the Sturton Ward Design Code (Appendix I). 2. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should: d) use native trees and hedgerows where possible in landscaping schemes and boundary treatments; and f) be of a scale and mass that is sympathetic to heritage assets and their setting in accordance with National and District policies; and 3. Where development on the edge of a settlement meets the requirements of national and local planning policies and Policies 1,7 and 8 of this Plan, its design should respond positively to the following criteria insofar as they apply to the particular proposal: b) appropriate landscaping is used to soften the development;	Section 6 of the Planning Statement, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process. Design decisions have been informed by outcomes of statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement, ongoing environmental assessments, engineering and design considerations, and collaboration with other developers. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the Proposed Developments design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable. This has included: • Delivery of significant amounts of affordable renewable energy to support policy objectives and national targets for reducing carbon emissions

		to net zero by 2050; • Delivery of improved energy resilience, affordability and security by diversifying energy production and stored energy; • Contribution towards strategy improvements to local ecology and biodiversity; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to surrounding landscape, limiting impact on views for key landscape receptors, residential properties and recreational routes; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to heritage assets and settings; • Safeguard surrounding hydrological systems and resilience to flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere taking into account impacts of climate change; • Develop a Proposed Development sensitive to existing land

		quality; and • Provide safe access, minimise impact on the local highway network; and protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way ensuring continued safe use. The design process, basis of design decisions, and evolution of the Scheme's design is summarised in in **ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]**. The Proposed Development includes the retention of hedgerows, woodland, ditches and ponds on the site where possible, and the planting of new trees woodland, hedgerows and species-rich planting across the majority of the site as well as various ecological and biodiversity enhancements as detailed in **ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**.

		With regards Cultural Heritage, the design of the Proposed Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. An assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Heritage Assets, including a description of the heritage assets significance, is included within **ES Chapter 9 : Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** in accordance with NPS EN-1 paragraphs 5.9.9 to 5.9.12 and NPS EN-3 paragraphs 2.10.107 to 2.10.119. Residual impacts upon the setting of designated assets are limited to 6 designated heritage assets and are less than substantial see **ES Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** . In the case of

		the Proposed Development, which is time limited (NPS EN-3 2.10.160), the significant public benefits of the Proposed Development in terms of renewable energy generation and climate change benefits clearly outweigh the reversible less than substantial harm to the No.6 identified designated heritage assets and low level less than substantial residual harm to non-designated heritage assets. Policy parts 2a, b, c, e, g, 3a, c and 4 have been excluded from this table as they are not relevant for the Proposed Development; they relate more to proposals for housing development. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant requirements of policy 5.
Policy 6: Protecting the historic environment	1. Development proposals will be supported where they preserve or enhance the Conservation Area, listed buildings and other heritage assets as set out in Appendix C and	**ES Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage [EN010163/APP/6.2.9]** summarises the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on the historic

	where they comply with the following criteria: a) the development or alteration proposed does not have a detrimental effect on the heritage asset concerned; and b) the heritage asset is sensitively and fully incorporated into the development proposal.	environment. There are 2no. Conservation Areas within the 3km search area used in the EIA assessment. Neither conservation area will be impacted by the proposed development. Only No.6 designated heritage assets are considered to be impacted by the Proposed Development: • Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm Scheduled Monument (minor adverse); • Grade I Listed Church of St Martin (minor adverse); • Grade II* Listed Church of St Peter and St Paul (moderate adverse); • Grade II* North Leverton Windmill (minor adverse); and, • Grade II Listed Manor

		Farmhouse (minor adverse). The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to minimise harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings through embedded mitigation, avoiding archaeological sensitive areas entirely or preserves them in situ i.e. by mounting solar panels in concrete feet. Residual impacts upon the setting of designated assets are limited to 6 designated heritage assets. In the case of the Proposed Development, the significant public benefits of the Proposed Development in terms of renewable energy generation and climate change benefits clearly outweigh the reversible less than substantial harm to the 6no. identified designated heritage assets and low level less than substantial residual harm to non-designated heritage assets.

		Policy part 2 has been excluded from this table as it is only applicable for Proposed Developments that are gardens, open spaces and fields to the south of North and South Wheatley and lie within the Conservation Area. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 6.
Clarborough Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) (2016-2031)		
Policy 5: Reducing the Risk of Flooding	1. Development, which is consistent with other development plan Policies within Clarborough and Welham, will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the scheme will not have a detrimental impact on surface water run-off and sewage discharge networks in the village. 2. Development in flood sensitive areas and those which feed into flood sensitive areas will be designed and constructed to prevent any increase in the level of flood risk on the site. 3. The development proposed should be self-sufficient through the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.	Roughly 50% of the Order Limits lie within low-risk Flood Zone 1, approximately 5% lies within medium risk Flood Zone 2 and around 45% of the site lies with high-risk Flood Zone 3a. A **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3]** has been carried out in accordance with the previously mentioned policy requirements included in **ES Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**. In addition to the FRA a **Sequential and**

	4. Development will only be permitted where it does not result in the loss of an open watercourse. 5. Development which utilises permeable surfacing will be encouraged.	**Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** have also been undertaken because part of the Site includes development in high-risk Flood Zone 3a. The Applicant is also of the opinion the Proposed Development satisfies the Exception Test demonstrated by wider sustainability benefits that includes significant low cost renewable energy generation meeting climate change objectives that outweigh low flood risk harm to the Proposed Development; not increasing flood risk elsewhere; likely betterment over existing surface water runoff regime and no reasonable available suitable alternative brownfield sites or roof tops that would provide the same scale of renewable energy as the Proposed Development. A summary of flood risk from all sources is contained within ES **Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8],**

		Flood Risk Assessment [EN010163/APP/5.3] and **Flood Risk Sequential Assessment and Exception Test [EN010163/APP/7.5]** that confirm the Site is at risk from both fluvial (low-medium) and surface water (very low-medium) flooding sources. Whilst some flood risk matters may be sequentially preferable at the identified alternative sites (fluvial sources), no alternative site is without some flood risk, when all sources are considered. However, the DCO site is more sequentially preferable in wider sustainable development terms, as it is not affected by heritage constraints, habitat, ecology and landscape constraints to the same degree as the alternative sites assessed are. Therefore, as there are no available sequentially preferable sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate the whole Proposed Development, the Proposed Development satisfies the

		Sequential Test. In terms of design, the Proposed Development has embedded a response to the Site's flood risk. This includes: • 8m easements to all watercourses and 9 metres from IDB assets; • Substations and BESS located outside of high-risk Flood Zone 3; • Conversion units, where possible located in low-risk Flood Zone 1. If this is not possible conversion units will be raised 200mm above 0.1% AEP flood level; • Non-flood sensitive infrastructure (PV arrays, cabling etc) sequentially located outside 1 in 100 plus climate change annual probability extent or where this is not possible restricted to areas which experience less than 1m depth of flooding during same event;

		• Sensitive and electrical equipment on solar panels elevated by legs so it's not less than 0.6m above surrounding flood level; and • Flood defences protecting the Proposed Development can be inspected and maintained by the operator statutory undertaker ensuring their functionality through the Proposed Development's operational lifetime. In terms of attenuation to maintain existing runoff rates, permeable surfacing will be provided for the Site access and a gravel filled trench will be installed along parts of the access track where there is a potential for concentration of excess flows. These trenches will act as attenuation and treatment prior to infiltration. A filter drain is proposed running along the centre of the Site, directing flows into an attenuation basin in the south-western corner. This filter drain will collect runoff from the hardstanding

		electrical equipment area. Grass and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels is also proposed. Finally, two large detention basins have been strategically placed within the Site on land to the west (up-gradient) of Sturton-le-Steeple. Their locations and sizes have been carefully designed to intercept overland flows, with water held in the basins before being released at a controlled rate to the existing drainage ditches after the peak of the rainfall event. The two basins combined would provide an attenuation capacity of approximately 4300m3 to potentially address the flooding issue reported by the local residents. As it is a grassland area infiltration and evapotranspiration are likely to occur. A Surface Water Drainage Strategy is proposed for the Proposed Development in **ES Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010163/APP/6.2.8]**

		and **ES Appendix 8.2 Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN010163/APP/6.3.8]** detailing appropriate use of a Sustainable Drainage System on site. This includes: • Free draining through perimeter gaps around all panels, meaning no increase in surface water flood risk elsewhere; • Wildflower and grassland planting below solar panels will be plated to prevent soil erosion; • Water will be allowed to drip onto the ground below the panels in several locations rather than a concentrated runoff, again prevent soil erosion; • Access tracks will be of a permeable construction allowing surface water runoff to percolate into the ground; and • Associated electrical

		infrastructure with the panels (and some solar panel parcels) will be sited on concrete pads surrounded by gravel filled filter trenches, constructed to limit lateral water flow, replacing loss of natural infiltration caused by concrete bases by storing surface water in the gravel sub-base prior to infiltration into the ground as currently takes place. Bearing in mind surface water falling on the Site is not attenuated, the Proposed Development is concluded to provide an overall betterment to surface water drainage in comparison to the existing surface water runoff regime. Measures employed to mitigate impacts related to flood risk, drainage, groundwater and surface water during both the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Appendix 4.1 outline CEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**, **ES Appendix**

		4.4 outline OEMP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4] and **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**. The detailed CEMP, to be secured by a DCO Requirement should consent be granted, will detail compliance with relevant Guidance for Pollution Prevention ('GPP'), and Water Management Plan ('WMP') of pre-, during and post construction water quality monitoring based on a combination of visual observations and reviews of the Environment Agency's automatic water quality monitoring network. Methods for safe storage of materials, plans to deal with accidental pollution and spills and pollution control measures incorporated into the construction and decommissioning phase. Drainage and flood risk are also committed to the outline CEMP and DP, with detailed management plans

		secured by a DCO Requirement. Taking into account embedded and additional mitigation measures the residual significance of the effect of the construction, operational, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on flood risk and surface water drainage is not considered significant. Risks of accidental pollution incidents affecting water quality of surface water and groundwater bodies are minimised to an acceptable level. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 5.
Policy 6: Improve Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment	1. All development outside the development boundary which is directly related to improving or extending cycling, walking or bridleways will be permitted where the proposals: 3. Where applicable, development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they protect and enhance existing green infrastructure assets affected by the	A Transport Assessment has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development at **ES Appendix 13.1 [EN010163/APP/6.3.13].** Consultation has been undertaken with Nottinghamshire County Council (as well as National Highways and Doncaster Council) Highway Officers

	development and show the opportunities taken to improve linkages both to existing and new green infrastructure assets and to residential areas.	to seek agreement in terms of the assessment approach and mitigation measures. The Site is located in a rural area with good access to the Strategic Road network and seeks to use the same transport route as the neighbouring West Burton Power Station and Sturton-le-Steeple quarry. A total of 26no. access points will be used for the construction phase with details provided in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. 2no. of the accesses will serve primary construction compounds and 3no. will serve the secondary construction compounds. The remaining 21no. access points will serve the dedicated haul routes and 5no. construction accesses will be used during operation. Traffic flows are expected to take place over 730 working days

		(construction period) and during a peak construction phase day traffic vehicle trips will consist of staff car, shuttle bus, LGV and HGV movements. It is estimated that the construction of the Proposed Development would result in around 12,887 one-way (25,774 two-way) delivery construction vehicle movements, and 42,000 one-way (84,000 two-way) workforce construction vehicle movements over the full 24-month (730 days) construction period. This equates to an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) value of 152 vehicles (comprising 36 delivery trips and 116 workforce trips) based on 109,774 trips divided by 730 days (equivalent of 24 months construction period). **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has assessed the impact of vehicle movements generated by the Proposed Development in terms of severance; driver delay; pedestrian delay;

		pedestrian and cyclist amenity; fear and intimidation; accidents and safety; abnormal and hazardous loads. There are not expected to be any significant residual effects to Transport and Access receptors. Significant cumulative effects are also not expected to arise. **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]** has been submitted in support of the Proposed Development. It includes measures to manage construction vehicle access and routing to the order limits. This includes traffic routing avoiding Sturton-le-Steeple village and routing for abnormal loads to ensure access roads are suitable for transportation of components to the site. The CTMP is secured by a DCO Requirement and includes a construction worker plan that sets out measures and controls for staff vehicles. This includes measures to

		discourage and limit access to the Order Limits by car and instead promotes the use of a shuttle bus from local worker accommodation and car sharing to minimise additional vehicles on local roads. The potential use of water-borne and rail transport instead of road transport for all phases of the Proposed Development has been considered. Whilst use of both alternative is possible in the supply of the Proposed Development, the final leg of deliveries during construction will be undertaken by roads set out in the study area. For example, larger equipment, such as transformers or batteries, will be transported to the Humber docks by sea (Hull, Immingham, Goole) but the final delivery will be via the strategic and local highway network as set out in **ES Appendix 13.2 outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.13]**. In total there are 25 PRoWs that

		traverse or abut the Order Limits, which are set out **in Table 13.7 of ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]**. PRoWs within the Site will remain open for the duration of construction period and diversions are not proposed unless required for short durations to protect public health and safety. When this is necessary, work could be undertaken when the relevant PRoW is unlikely to be used, such as during the nighttime, and opened during the daytime when the PRoW is more likely to be used so far as practicable to do so. **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010163/APP/6.2.13]** has also assessed the operational phase of the Proposed Development. During operation, staff will not be permanently based on the site. There will be approximately seven trips per day by engineers for maintenance typically by 7.5t van or 4x4 vehicles. Should large replacement parts be

		required, this may require an ad hoc HGV delivery. In light of this, effects on accidents and highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay and amenity and hazardous loads during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible, not significant and no cumulative impacts anticipated. Existing PRoWs will remain open during the operational phase of the Proposed Development and two new permissive paths will be created to improve connectivity within the Site, as well as active travel through the promotion of pedestrian and cycle access. These enhancements are set out in **ES Appendix 7.14 outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010163/APP/6.3.7]**. Traffic during the decommissioning phase is currently proposed to egress the Site using the inverse of the

		construction route(s) but this will be agreed in advance of the decommissioning phase following the 40-year lifetime of the Proposed Development. Vehicle trips are not expected to exceed the number set out in the construction phase. Effects will be short term, temporary, equivalent to or no worse than negligible or minor construction phase impacts; they are not significant in EIA terms. In light of this, effects on accidents and highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay, amenity and hazardous loads during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible, not significant and no cumulative impacts anticipated. Mitigation measures for decommissioning are the same as for the construction phase. This includes a PRoW Management Plan as well as

		Traffic Management Measures including signage and a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit at all access junctions. A Decommissioning Plan based on measures in **ES Appendix 4.2 outline DP [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]** will be submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to decommissioning as secured by DCO Requirement. PRoWs will be managed in a similar way to the construction phase ensuring user safety and continued access for PRoW users. Within the Order Limits, no existing trees will be removed, and hedgerow removal is limited to 1070m mitigated by additional new hedgerow and tree planting. New hedgerow and tree planting will improve linkages and strengthening existing planting belts. All watercourse within and near the site will be retained. SUDs surface water drainage will be utilised with no

		mains foul water connection required by the Proposed Development 6.3.11 and 6.3.12 of the Planning Statement set out that the construction and operational phases would cause notable, significant effects to the landscape character of the site but that these effects would be temporary. Furthermore, the Proposed Development includes notable planting of new trees, woodland and hedgerows, as well as species rich planting across the majority of the Site. This is discussed and further detail can be found in **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity [EN010163/APP/6.2.6].** Paragraph 5.10.5 of NPS EN-1 states: *"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"*.

		The Proposed Development includes the retention of woodland, trees, watercourses and ditches on the site as well as the majority of existing hedgerows. Planting of new trees woodland, hedgerows and species-rich planting across the majority of the site mitigates hedgerow loss and forms part of the various landscape, ecological and biodiversity enhancements with further information provided in **ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**. The Proposal Development is therefore considered to comply with Policy 6.