

Steeple Renewables Project

Report on the Interrelationships with other National
Infrastructure Projects

EN010163/EN/8.7

Revision: A (Clean)



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1.Introduction

1.1.1 Section 8 of Annex E to the Rule 6 letter set out that:

“Recognising the potential for the information available on other National Infrastructure Projects to change during the examination, including those already consented, the ExA requests the applicant provide a ‘Report on the interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects’ that is updated during the Examination”.

1.1.2. It went on to set out that:

“The content of this report is to include the matters set out in Annex G under the heading of ‘Report on the interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects’ to expand upon the information provided in Environmental Statement Appendix 2.3: Cumulative Sites Long List and Short List [APP-088]”.

1.1.3. In addition, Section 3 of Annex G to the Rule 6 letter set out that the Report on the interrelationship with other National Infrastructure Projects should include:

- ***“An overview of the proposed development and the other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects identified on the Cumulative Schemes Plan [APP-142], including the timings, construction phasing, grid connection and start of operation.***
- ***The approach taken by the applicant to coordinate the proposed development with the other projects, including during the examination.***
- ***A plan showing the order limits for the proposed development and the other projects and the locations of the main features of each, including solar arrays, energy storage facilities, substations, electrical cable routes, grid connection, environmental mitigation areas, temporary construction and decommissioning areas, and construction haulage routes.***
- ***The Development Consent Order provisions required for the proposed development to be implemented satisfactorily in relation to other projects.***
- ***Mitigation measures shared with other projects, the specific measures included in those for the proposed development, and how they are secured.***
- ***Any other information on the other projects relied on for the cumulative impact assessment, the level of detail, and any changes since the application.***
- ***A summary of the matters coordinated with the other projects, setting out the matters that have been agreed, any inconsistencies or outstanding matters, and the next steps to be taken to resolve them”.***

1.1.4. Each of these matters are addressed in the following sections.

2. Updates to Cumulative Position since Application Submission

- 2.1. The long list of ‘other development’ set out in the Environmental Statement (Appendix 2.3 Cumulative Sites Long List and Short List [APP-088]) was collated prior to finalisation of the Environmental Statement, and was up-to-date and frozen on the 1st March 2025. A plan was included in the Environmental Statement - Figure 2.2 Cumulative Schemes Plan (APP-142) which illustrated other projects within 15km of the Proposed Development.
- 2.2. Since that time there has been one further National Infrastructure projects which has come forward within 15km of the Proposed Development, based on an updated cut-off date off 20th January 2026. A ‘Pre-Application Stage One Consultation’ has been started in relation to the proposed STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) Fusion, located at the former West Burton Power Station site, adjacent to the Proposed Development. The Pre-Application Stage One Consultation is taking place from 14th January through to 11th March 2026. The Consultation Overview Document issued as part of the Pre-Application Stage One Consultation sets out that this is expected to be the first of three rounds of consultation for the project, before an application submission in 2029. Given this is only the first of three rounds of consultation, the level of detail provided regarding the emerging proposals is limited. On that basis, it is not considered that it would be possible for a detailed cumulative impact assessment to be undertaken in relation to the project. Were the Proposed Development to be consented there would however be a requirement for such cumulative assessment work to take place in due course as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process which will subsequently be required in relation to the STEP project. Our position is that this aligns with PINS Advice Note on Cumulative Assessment.

Tier 3 developments in that guide are those other existing and or approved development which are

- projects on the Planning Inspectorate’s programme of projects where a scoping report has not been submitted
- identified in the relevant Development Plan and emerging Development Plans, with appropriate weight given as they near adoption, recognising that there will be limited information available on the relevant proposals
- identified in other plans and programmes, as appropriate, which set the framework for future development consents or approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward

STEP does not appear on the Planning Inspectorate’s programme of projects, it is mentioned in Bassetlaw’s local plan only in passing to the extent that the programme is such an early stage that it would not affect the spatial strategy until the local plan’s review in 2028. This means that there is only the possibility that STEP is Tier 3 due to it being identified in other plans and programmes. STEP is identified in some plans and programmes, including the UKAEA Strategy. This would arguably not be a plan that sets the framework for “future development consents”. However, even assuming that STEP is Tier 3, the Applicant considers that there is insufficient information to provide any meaningful assessment. The PINs guidance states that assessments should “consider all Tier 3 other existing and or approved development where possible”. The Applicant does not consider it possible.

- 2.3. The following changes to the status of some of the National Infrastructure projects within 15km of the Proposed Development shown on ES Figure 2.2 have also occurred since March 1st 2025:
 - *EN010142 - Tillbridge Solar*: This application has moved from the Recommendation to the Decision stage of the DCO application process. The DCO was granted 14 October 2025.

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- *EN010162 – Great North Road Solar*: This application has moved from the Pre-application stage to the Examination stage of the DCO application process.
 - *EN010159 - One Earth Solar Farm*: This application has moved from the Pre-application to the Recommendation stage of the DCO application process.
- 2.4. It is noted that the Rule 6 letter identified that ***‘Since submission of the application, other schemes have also been accepted for examination that could be of relevance including but not necessarily limited to Fosse Green Energy and Tween Bridge Solar Farm’.***
- 2.5. In each instance however these projects lie beyond the 15km distance illustrated on the Cumulative Schemes Plan. Fosse Green Energy (EN010154) is located at a distance of 20km from the Proposed Development. Tween Bridge Solar Farm (EN010148) is located at a distance of 24km from the Proposed Development.

3. Assumptions regarding construction timings/phasing and grid connection/start of operation

- 3.1. The following Table sets out the assumptions made regarding the construction timings/phasing and the grid connection/ start of operation for the Proposed Development and the other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects within 15km identified on the Cumulative Schemes Plan [APP-142].

Table 3-1: Assumptions made regarding construction timings for the Proposed Development

Project	Assumed Construction Timings/Phasing	Assumed Grid Connection/ Start of Operation
EN010163 - Steeple Renewables Project	Start: Q4 2027 End: Q4 2029 Duration: 24 months Source: (para 1.5 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, [APP-089]).	Start: 2029 End: 2069 Duration: 40 years Source: (para 1.5 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, [APP-089]).
EN010133 - Cottam Solar Project Limited	Start: Q4 2024 End: Q4 2026 Duration: 24 months Source: (para 2.3.0 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, [RE5-020]).	Start: 2026 End: 2066 Duration: 40 years Source: (para 2.3.1 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, [RE5-020]).
EN020034 -North Humber to High Marnham (NHHM)	Start: 2027 End: 2031 Source: (para 4.3.2 of Scoping Report) Duration: 48 months Source: (assumed based on start and end date).	Start: 2031 Source: (para 4.3.2 of Scoping Report) End: 2111 (assumed based on start and duration). Duration: 80 years Source: (para 4.6.1 of Scoping Report)
EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park	Start: Q1 2025 End: Q1 2028 Duration: 36 months Source: (para 2.2.1 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP5-023]).	Start: Q1 2028 End: Q1 2088 Duration: 60 years Source: (para 2.1.4 of Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP2-035])

EN010162 – Great North Road Solar	<p>Start: 2026</p> <p>Source: (assumed based on 18-month delay post consent)</p> <p>End: 2028</p> <p>Source: (based on assumed start date and duration)</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Source: (Table 5.11 of Chapter 5 – Development Description [APP-048])</p>	<p>Start: 2029</p> <p>Source: (based on assumed end date for construction)</p> <p>End: 2069</p> <p>Source: (based on assumed start date and duration)</p> <p>Duration: 40 years</p> <p>Source: (para 5.6.11 of Chapter 5 – Development Description of the ES [APP-048])</p>
EN010142 - Tillbridge Solar	<p>Start: 2025</p> <p>Source: (para 2.3.1 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP5-015])</p> <p>End: 2028</p> <p>Source: (assumed based on start date and duration)</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Source: (para 2.3.1 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP5-015])</p>	<p>Start: 2028</p> <p>Source: (para 2.4.1 of Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP6-026])</p> <p>End: 2088</p> <p>Source: (assumed based on start date and duration)</p> <p>Duration: 60 years</p> <p>Source: (para 2.4.1 of Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP6-026])</p>
EN010088 - West Burton C power station	<p>*Start: Q3 2020</p> <p>End: Q3 2024</p> <p>Duration: 48 months</p> <p>(para 4.5.2 of Chapter 4: The Proposed Development of the ES [APP-033])</p> <p>*It is noted that the project was not implemented in line with the assumptions set out in its submission. The DCO has 7 years to commence from 11th November 2020. As a ‘worst-case’, it is assumed that the construction period could therefore align with</p>	<p>*Start: 2024</p> <p>(assumed based on end date and duration)</p> <p>End: 2063</p> <p>Duration: 40 years</p> <p>(para 4.7.1 of Chapter 4: The Proposed Development of the ES [APP-033])</p> <p>*It is noted that the project was not implemented in line with the assumptions set out in its submission. The DCO has 7 years to commence from 11th November 2020. As a ‘worst-case’, it is assumed that the</p>

	that of the Steeple Renewables Project.	operational period could therefore align with that of the Steeple Renewables Project.
EN010132 - West Burton Solar	<p>Start: Q4 2024</p> <p>End: Q4 2026</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Source: (para 2.3.1 of Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP6-021])</p>	<p>Start: Q4 2026</p> <p>End: Q4 2066</p> <p>Source: (para 2.3.1 of Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP6-001])</p> <p>Duration: 40 years</p> <p>Source: (assumed based on start date and duration)</p>

4. Approach taken by the applicant to coordinate the proposed development with the other projects

- 4.1.2. This section describes the ways in which the Applicant and promoters of other schemes have coordinated when developing the schemes, examination and post decision stages.
- 4.1.3. Of the other schemes within 15km of the Proposed Development set out on the Cumulative Scheme Plan [APP-142], all but the NHHM and Great North Road Solar, have been through examination and received consent. As such there has been limited opportunity to discuss opportunities to work collaboratively when developing the respective schemes.
- 4.1.4. However, there has been interaction and discussion with the promoters of West Burton Solar during the examination of that scheme in 2024. Discussions were held regarding the form of a cooperation agreement and protective provisions. Furthermore information regarding the location of the West Burton Solar cable corridor was provided to the Applicant so that account could be taken of this in the design of the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.5. Of the remaining schemes that have already received development consent (Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park, Tillbridge Solar and West Burton C Power Station) it was identified that the Proposed Development would have no physical interaction with these schemes with the majority of the above ground development , with the exception of West Burton C Power Station, being located to the east of the river Trent in Lincolnshire.
- 4.1.6. Great North Road Solar is located to the south of the Proposed Development and connecting into Staythorpe substation to the east of Newark. There is no physical interaction with the scheme and as such there has been no discussions with the promoters of the scheme.
- 4.1.7. With regard to coordination with NHHM scheme, as set out orally at ISH1 and in the written summaries of ISH1, meetings have been ongoing since November 2024. The Proposed Development has been through statutory consultation and has been accepted for examination. The NHHM is within the preapplication stage, the Applicant has made representations to the localised consultation and statutory consultation stages, promoting the movement of the NHHM route as far west as possible.
- 4.1.8. Discussions are ongoing with the promoters of the NHHM and development of the respective positions within this examination will be reported within a bespoke tracker specifically focussed upon discussions between the two parties.
- 4.1.9. A plan showing the order limits for the Proposed Development and the other nearby National Infrastructure projects has been prepared and is included as **Appendix 1** to this Report.

5. Development Consent Order provisions required for the proposed development to be implemented satisfactorily in relation to other projects

- 5.1.2. The following Table sets out the provisions that are being advanced, if any, and the mechanism employed in relation to the Proposed Development and the other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects within 15km identified on the Cumulative Schemes Plan [APP-142].

Project	Mechanism(s) being pursued
EN010133 - Cottam Solar Project Limited	The Proposed Development has no interaction with this project therefore there is no provision of any form within the Steeple Renewables Project DCO.
EN020034 - North Humber to High Marnham	The potential for a major impact upon the developable area of the Proposed Development is the crux of the issue between the parties. Discussions are progressing in relation to potential for a more westerly alignment of the NHHM scheme and with a view to agreeing a set of Protective Provisions . There is the possibility that a side agreement may be required/agreed however this very much depends upon the discussions between the parties.
EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park	The Proposed Development has no interaction with this project therefore there is no provision of any form within the Steeple Renewables Project DCO.
EN010162 – Great North Road Solar	The Proposed Development has no interaction with this project therefore there is no provision of any form within the Steeple Renewables Project DCO.
EN010142 - Tillbridge Solar	The Proposed Development has no interaction with this project therefore there is no provision of any form within the Steeple Renewables Project DCO.
EN010088 - West Burton C power station	The Proposed Development has no interaction with this project therefore there is no provision of any form within the Steeple Renewables Project DCO.
EN010132 - West Burton Solar	The West Burton Solar cable corridor has been accounted for in the design of the Proposed Development. There is potential for interaction between the two projects in the area immediately south of the quarry access road (West Burton Work Nos 4,5A, 5A vii). Discussions on a set of Protective Provisions is well advanced with West Burton Solar and will be agreed before the close of the examination. The development of a cooperation agreement is at an advance stage as well, to control the interaction between the two projects. This seeks to focus upon the temporary laydown area for West Burton Solar and the substation for the Proposed Development.

5.2. Mitigation measures shared with other projects

- 5.2.2. The mitigation measures that are proposed as part of the Proposed Development have been developed solely as part of the iterative design process employed by the Applicant. No measures or features included in the Proposed Development form part of, or are relied upon, by any other development.

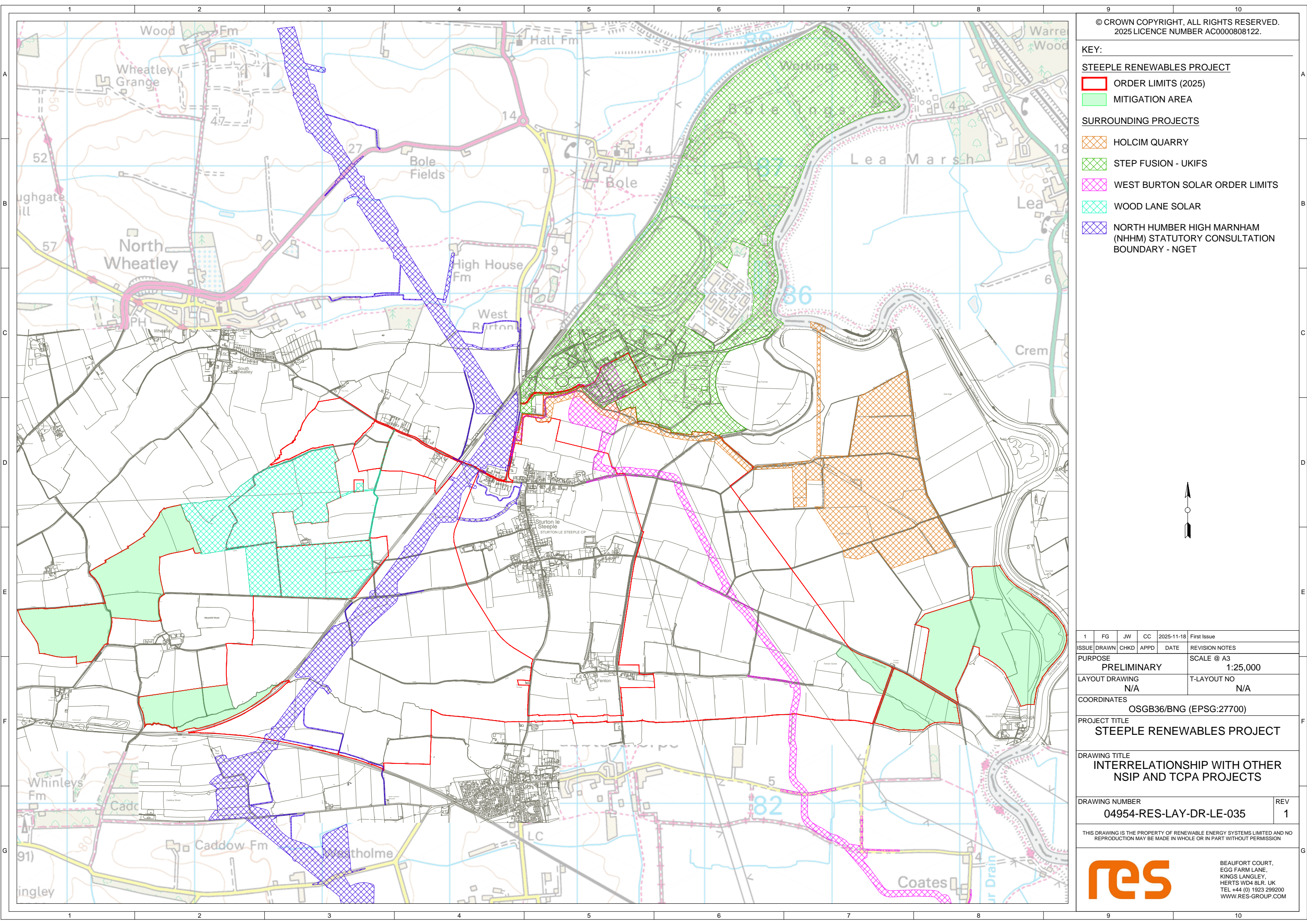
5.3. Any other information on the other projects relied on for the cumulative impact assessment

- 5.3.2. No further information regarding the other nearby National Infrastructure projects has been relied on beyond that which is provided in the Documents for each project set out on the Planning Inspectorate website, or the project websites of the specific developments in question.

5.4. A summary of the matters coordinated with the other projects

- 5.4.2. A summary is provided below of the matters coordinated with the other projects, setting out the matters that have been agreed, any inconsistencies or outstanding matters, and the next steps to be taken to resolve them.
- 5.4.3. With regards to the other schemes within 15km of the Proposed Development and as set out in the Cumulative Scheme Plan [APP-142], all but the NHHM and Great North Road Solar, have been through examination and received consent. As such there has been limited opportunity to discuss opportunities to work collaboratively when developing the respective schemes.
- 5.4.4. Discussions have been held with West Burton Solar and NHHM at differing stages of the development and to differing degrees.
- 5.4.5. West Burton Solar project and the Applicant are in advanced discussions regarding a cooperation agreement that it is envisaged will be secured before the close of this examination.
- 5.4.6. Discussions with the NHHM project team are ongoing and will be reported to the ExA at regular intervals throughout the examination.

Appendix 1: Plan showing the order limits for the Proposed Development and the other nearby National Infrastructure projects



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- KEY:
- STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT**
- ORDER LIMITS (2025)
 - MITIGATION AREA
- SURROUNDING PROJECTS**
- HOLCIM QUARRY
 - STEP FUSION - UKIFS
 - WEST BURTON SOLAR ORDER LIMITS
 - WOOD LANE SOLAR
 - NORTH HUMBER HIGH MARNHAM (NHHM) STATUTORY CONSULTATION BOUNDARY - NGET



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