



Lime Down

Solar Park

Introduction to the Application

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document provides an introduction to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the 'Application') submitted by Lime Down Solar Park Limited (the 'Applicant') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State') for Lime Down Solar Park (the Scheme). The Scheme comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station together with associated development, pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 A DCO is required as the Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the PA 2008 (Ref 1), being an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).
- 1.1.3 This Introduction to the Application has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(q) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2008 (the 'APFP Regulations') (Ref 2), and aims to help the Examining Authority (ExA) and Interested Parties understand the Application by signposting to the documents that comprise the Application.
- 1.1.4 Regulation 5 of the APFP Regulations sets out the documents that all DCO applications should include. Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations sets out the specific documentation required in support of DCO applications for particular types of development including if the application is for a generating station, that is not an offshore generating station. This document sets out and explains the documents prepared to meet the requirements of Regulations 5 and 6 of the APFP Regulations.
- 1.1.5 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) specify which developments are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and schemes relevant to the NSIP planning process are listed under either 'Schedule 1' or 'Schedule 2'. The Scheme is listed under Schedule 2, Part 3(a) – as industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Schedule 1). As the Scheme constitutes EIA development, the EIA Regulations (Ref 3) and the requirements contained therein are applicable.
- 1.1.6 This document is structured as follows:
- a) Chapter 1 – introduces the document and its purpose.
 - b) Chapter 2 – provides an overview of the Applicant.
 - c) Chapter 3 – provides an overview of the Scheme including its context and a description of key components.

- d) Chapter 4 – provides a high-level overview of the Application documentation.

2 The Applicant

- 2.1.1 The Applicant is Lime Down Solar Park Limited. Lime Down Solar Park Limited is a 100% subsidiary of Island Green Power UK Projects Limited, which is in turn a 100% subsidiary of Island Green Power's UK group holding company, Island Green Power Group Limited (IGP). IGP are a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013.
- 2.1.2 The Applicant's mission is to increase global solar energy usage, making more renewable energy possible and saving thousands of tonnes of CO₂ emissions in the process. To date, IGP has delivered 38 solar projects worldwide, totalling more than 1GW of capacity. This includes 17 solar projects across the UK and Republic of Ireland. Recently, IGP has taken two NSIP solar projects (Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project) through the examination stage of the DCO process. Both these projects have recently been granted development consent.

3 The Scheme

3.1 Scheme Description

- 3.1.1 Lime Down Solar Park will comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array electricity generating station. The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure to support the solar PV generating station.
- 3.1.2 The Scheme comprises five land parcels, Lime Down A, B, C, D and E (collectively referred to as the 'Solar PV Sites'), a Cable Route Corridor and works to the existing National Grid Melksham Substation. The Solar PV Sites will comprise land for solar PV and battery storage, associated infrastructure, and landscaping, heritage, surface water and biodiversity mitigation areas.
- 3.1.3 The landscape within and surrounding the Solar PV Sites comprises predominantly agricultural fields and rural villages and hamlets, including Sherston (approximately 300 m north of Lime Down A), Luckington (approximately 830 m west of Lime Down C), Corston (approximately 480 m east of Lime Down D), Hullavington (approximately 700 m south of Lime Down D), and Rodbourne (approximately 150 m southeast of Lime Down E). The town of Malmesbury is located approximately 3 km northeast of Lime Down B.
- 3.1.4 The associated development includes, but is not limited to, Battery Energy Storage (BESS); Conversion Units / 33 kV Sub-distribution Switch Rooms; the development of on-site substations; cabling between areas of solar PV and areas for landscaping and biodiversity mitigation.
- 3.1.5 The Scheme also includes a Cable Route Corridor within which the export connection cables would be located to connect the Solar PV Sites to the National Grid at the existing Melksham Substation, as well as connecting each of the Solar PV Sites.
- 3.1.6 Works at the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation involve the addition of new electrical infrastructure and associated civil works to comprise a new 400 kV feeder bay to receive the Grid Connection Cables for the Scheme.
- 3.1.7 A full description of the Scheme is included in **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.
- 3.1.8 The key components of the Scheme are summarised below:
- a) Solar PV infrastructure comprising solar PV panels and solar PV mounting structures;
 - b) Conversion units (inverters, transformer and switchgear);

- c) BESS;
- d) On-site substations;
- e) Cabling (on-site cables, interconnecting cables, and grid connection cables);
- f) Site accesses;
- g) Highway improvement areas;
- h) Fencing and security;
- i) Ecological mitigation and enhancement areas;
- j) Surface Water Drainage; and
- k) Landscaping.

- 3.1.9 Subject to being granted development consent and following a final investment decision, the earliest that construction of the Scheme could start is in 2027. Construction of the Solar PV Sites and Grid Connection Cables would start in tandem. The installation of the Grid Connection Cables would require up to approximately 18 months, and the construction of the Solar PV Sites would require an estimated 24 months. The operation and maintenance phase is anticipated to commence in 2029.
- 3.1.10 The design life of the Scheme is 60 years with decommissioning expected to take place 60 years after final commissioning (the design life is therefore anticipated to be 2029-2089). When the operation and maintenance phase ends, the Solar PV Sites would be decommissioned and the land returned to its original use and condition as far as practicable. All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time.
- 3.1.11 A more detailed description of the components of the Scheme and programme of works is provided in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.

3.2 The Order Limits

- 3.2.1 The Order Limits comprise approximately 1,237 ha of land located largely within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council, with small areas of existing highway within the administrative area of South Gloucestershire Council as shown on the **Location Plan [EN010168/APP/2.1]**.
- 3.2.2 The Order Limits are set within a rural landscape, characterised by gently undulating agricultural land with arable fields, hedgerows, scattered woodlands, and woodland blocks. Its landform comprises gently rolling

topography, generally rising westwards, with a series of small valleys and flatter land between these. In the areas surrounding the Order limits, there are several individual farm holdings, rural dwellings, and small commercial business properties.

- 3.2.3 Nearby residential receptors include farm dwellings and associated buildings in the immediate vicinity of the Order limits, as well as small rural villages and hamlets and the town of Chippenham near the Cable Route Corridor. Recreational receptors in proximity to the Order limits include nature reserves, historic buildings, local sports grounds, golf clubs, equestrian centres, Castle Combe Race Circuit, and annual events such as the Badminton Horse Trials and festival events at the Charlton Park Estate. There is a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and long-distance recreational routes within or in proximity to the Order limits.
- 3.2.4 The Order limits include the Solar PV Sites, Cable Route Corridor, Existing National Grid Melksham Substation and Highway Improvement Areas:

Solar PV Sites

- 3.2.5 The Solar PV Sites are located entirely within the administrative boundary of Wiltshire Council and cover a total area of 749 ha. The Solar PV Sites are as follows:
- a) Lime Down A comprises an area of 94.3 ha;
 - b) Lime Down B comprises an area of 70 ha;
 - c) Lime Down C comprises an area of 241 ha;
 - d) Lime Down D comprises an area of 212.5 ha; and
 - e) Lime Down E comprises an area of 131.3 ha.

Cable Route Corridor

- 3.2.6 The Cable Route Corridor runs for approximately 22 km from Lime Down D to the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation, as well as connecting each of the Solar PV Sites. It covers a total area of approximately 463.2 ha.
- 3.2.7 The Cable Route Corridor is 50 m wide along the majority of its length with an increase in width up to 665 m at a number of locations including utility, road and rail crossings. The width of the Cable Route Corridor allows for a degree of flexibility as the Scheme design develops, as set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.
- 3.2.8 The land within the Cable Route Corridor is predominantly agricultural and, where practicable, cable routing would be to the edge of fields to minimise environmental impacts.

Existing National Grid Melksham Substation

- 3.2.9 The Existing National Grid Substation is owned and operated by National Grid. It comprises a hard-standing area of approximately 12.8 ha with existing electrical and supporting infrastructure present.

Highway Improvement Areas

- 3.2.10 The Highway Improvement Areas comprise various sections of existing highway within the administrative areas of Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council to facilitate access to the Solar PV Sites and Cable Route Corridor with a total area of 17.8 ha (with a 5.9 ha overlap with the Cable Route Corridor). Works within these areas will comprise improvements to the existing highway, minor works to enable construction vehicle movements, and provision of visibility splays.

3.3 Environmental and Planning Constraints Within and Surrounding the Order Limits

- 3.3.1 Key environmental and planning constraints within and surrounding the Order Limits are shown in the **ES Volume 2, Figure 2-3: Environmental and Planning Constraints [EN010168/APP/6.2]**.
- 3.3.2 There are no statutory internationally designated ecological sites located within 10 km of the Order Limits. However, there are four statutory internationally designated ecological sites located within 30 km. These include the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, and Salisbury Plain SPA.
- 3.3.3 There are four statutory nationally designated ecological sites located within 5 km of the Order Limits including Harries Ground, Rodbourne Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Corston Quarry and Pond Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Sutton Lane Meadows SSSI, and Conygre Mead LNR.
- 3.3.4 There are 37 non-statutory locally designated sites located within 2 km of the Order Limits which include 36 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and one Protected Road Verge.
- 3.3.5 The Order Limits are situated within and in proximity to a number of local to national landscape character areas. The northern boundary of Lime Down A and western boundary of Lime Down B and Lime Down C are located within 10 m of the Cotswold National Landscape (previously an Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)). Minor highway improvement works within the Highway Improvement Areas would be undertaken within the Cotswold National Landscape.

- 3.3.6 The Order Limits are situated within the Severn River Basin Management Plan area, specifically within the Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams Management Catchment. The majority of the Solar PV Sites and Cable Route Corridor are located within Flood Zone 1 with a low risk of fluvial flooding. However, there are also limited areas of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 with a medium and high risk of fluvial flooding, respectively, within Lime Down B, C, D and E and the Cable Route Corridor. Likewise, the Solar PV Sites and Cable Route Corridor are generally at a very low risk to surface water flooding with limited areas of low to high risk along watercourses and drains.
- 3.3.7 There are several watercourses and drains located within or in proximity to the Order limits. Watercourses within the Solar PV Sites include Gauze Brook, running through the eastern extent of Lime Down D, and Gabriel's Well River, running through the centre of Lime Down E, as well as various unnamed drains. The River Avon is located approximately 240 m north of Lime Down A. The Cable Route Corridor is intersected by various tributaries associated with the River Avon.
- 3.3.8 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields, or Protected Wrecks within 2 km of the Solar PV Sites and 250 m of the Cable Route Corridor. No designated heritage assets are located within the Solar PV Sites, however, a total of 261 Listed Buildings, five Scheduled Monuments, and eight Conservation Areas, are located within 2 km. In addition, there are 134 Listed Buildings, four Scheduled Monuments, eight Conservation Areas, and two Registered Parks and Gardens located within 250 m of the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.3.9 There are 47 records of non-designated archaeological assets within the Solar PV Sites according to the Wiltshire Historic Environment Records, as well as an additional 53 areas of potential archaeological interest and 37 Historic Landscape Character units. There are 588 records of non-designated archaeological assets within the Cable Route Corridor.

4 Overview of Application Documents

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The documents submitted as part of the Application have been separated into seven volumes as detailed in **Table 4-1**. A full list of the documents and further details on their contents, as well as their compliance with all relevant regulations, guidance and legislation, is provided in the preceding chapters of this document. The documents provided meet the requirements of the APFP Regulations.

Table 4-1 Summary of Documents

Volume	Description
Volume 1: Application Information	Provides details of the application information required by the Planning Inspectorate as part of the DCO process. Includes the completed application form, cover letter, electronic index, guide to the application and section 55 checklist, demonstrating that the Application can be accepted pursuant to section 55 of the PA 2008.
Volume 2: Plans and Drawings	Contains the plans as required by the APFP Regulations and other plans, including the Location Plan, Works Plans, Land Plan, identifying the location and land required for and affected by the Scheme.
Volume 3: Draft Development Consent Order	Contains the draft Statutory Instrument containing legal powers sought by the Applicant to construct, operate and maintain the Scheme.
Volume 4: Compulsory Acquisition Information	Provides details of, and justification for, the powers of acquisition that are sought by the Applicant in order to construct, maintain, operate and decommission the Scheme. Includes details of land interests and funding for the Scheme.
Volume 5: Consultation Report	Includes the Consultation Report and its appendices detailing the consultation undertaken by the Applicant and how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation responses received.

Volume	Description
Volume 6: Environmental Statement	Sets out the assessments undertaken by the Applicant to assess the likely significant effects of the Scheme on the environment, and details of mitigation measures proposed to reduce any adverse effects.
Volume 7: Other Documents	Contains additional documents relating to the Scheme, including both those required by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations, and those considered by the Applicant to be required to support the Application in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(q) of the APFP Regulations.

5 Volume 1 – Application Information

- 5.1.1 The **Covering Letter and Schedule of Compliance with Section 55 [EN010168/APP/1.1]** introduce the Application and provide a brief overview of the Scheme. The Section 55 Checklist has been completed by the Applicant to evidence how the Application fulfils the criteria for acceptance for development consent under section 55 of the PA 2008.
- 5.1.2 The **Application Form [EN010168/APP/1.2]** provides a high-level summary of the Scheme, and the documents submitted as part of the Application, as required under Regulation 5(1) of the APFP Regulations and Section 37(3)(b) of the PA 2008.
- 5.1.3 The **Introduction to the Application [EN010168/APP/1.3]** (this document) provides an overview of all the documents submitted as part of the Application.
- 5.1.4 The **Electronic Index [EN010168/APP/1.4]** provides a list of all the filenames, sizes and regulation numbers for each document submitted as part of the Application.
- 5.1.5 The **Guide to the Application [EN010168/APP/1.5]** provides an application document schedule to enable the Examining Authority (ExA) and Interested Parties to understand the Application as it evolves through examination. The Guide will be updated throughout the examination and submitted at each deadline if requested by the ExA.

6 Volume 2 – Plans and Drawings

- 6.1.1 There are 11 sets of plans that form part of the Application and provide supporting information necessary to meet the regulatory requirements of the PA 2008. These are listed below.
- 6.1.2 The **Location Plan [EN010168/APP/2.1]** identifies the location of the Scheme.
- 6.1.3 The **Land Plan [EN010168/APP/2.2]** and sets out the location of the plots included in the **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]**. These plans identify:
- a) The land required for, or affected by, the Scheme.
 - b) Where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any right to use land.
 - c) Any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights.
 - d) Where the land includes special category land and replacement land, that special category and replacement land.
- 6.1.4 The **Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3]** provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(j) of the APFP Regulations set out the works required to construct and operate the Scheme. The areas on the **Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3]** are numbered, and these correspond to the numbered works set out in Schedule 1 of the **Draft Development Consent Order [EN010168/APP/3.1]** which are proposed to be authorised by the DCO.
- 6.1.5 The **Streets Plan [EN010168/APP/2.4]**, **Public Rights of Way Plan [EN010168/APP/2.5]** and **Access Plan [EN010168/APP/2.6]** provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(k) of the APFP Regulations show details of any temporary stopping up of streets, roads and PRoW, and any new or altered means of access.
- 6.1.6 The **TPO and Hedgerow Plan [EN010168/APP/2.7]** identifies trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order and important hedgerows, in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations. These plans should be read alongside Schedule 12 of the draft DCO.
- 6.1.7 The **Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plan [EN010168/APP/2.8]** and **Statutory or Non-statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation Plan [EN010168/APP/2.9]** are provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(l) of the APFP Regulations. The assessment of the Scheme's impact on these sites is contained in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010168/APP/6.1]**,

ES Volume 1, Chapter 11 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010168/APP/6.1] and corresponding **ES Volume 2, Figures [EN010168/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN010168/APP/6.3]**.

- 6.1.8 The **Statutory and Non-statutory Sites or Features of the Historic Environment Plan [EN010168/APP/2.10]** is provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(m) of the APFP Regulations and identify any statutory or non-statutory features of the environment likely to be affected by the Scheme. The assessment of the Scheme's impact on these sites is contained in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [EN010168/APP/6.1]** and its corresponding **ES Volume 2, Figures [EN010168/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN010168/APP/6.3]**.
- 6.1.9 The **Crown Land Plan [EN010168/APP/2.11]** illustrates the Crown Land affected by the Scheme in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(n) of the APFP Regulations and should also be read in conjunction with the **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]**.

7 Volume 3 – Draft Development Consent Order

7.1.1 The **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** contains the legal powers that the Applicant is seeking to enable the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme. This includes powers for compulsory acquisition and temporary possession of land. The draft DCO comprises 6 Parts and 16 Schedules as set out below:

- a) Schedule 1 – Authorised Development
- b) Schedule 2 – Requirements
- c) Schedule 3 – Legislation to be disappplied
- d) Schedule 4 – Streets subject to street works
- e) Schedule 5 – Alteration of streets
- f) Schedule 6 – Streets and Public Rights of Way
- g) Schedule 7 – Access to works
- h) Schedule 8 – Traffic Regulations Measures
- i) Schedule 9 – Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired
- j) Schedule 10 – Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for the creation of new rights and imposition of new restrictive covenants
- k) Schedule 11 – Land of which temporary possession may be taken
- l) Schedule 12 – Hedgerows to be removed
- m) Schedule 13 – Documents and plans to be certified
- n) Schedule 14 – Arbitration rules
- o) Schedule 15 – Protective Provisions
- p) Schedule 16 – Procedure for discharge of requirements

7.1.2 A Draft DCO Statutory Instrument Validation is also provided.

7.1.3 The **Explanatory Memorandum [EN010168/APP/3.2]** explains the purpose and effect of each provision in the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** including why it is considered necessary, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of the APFP Regulations.

8 Volume 4 – Compulsory Acquisition Information

- 8.1.1 The Applicant is seeking statutory powers to acquire land, obtain rights in land, extinguish rights in land, and possess and use land temporarily in order to construct, operate and maintain the Scheme.
- 8.1.2 The **Statement of Reasons [EN010168/APP/4.1]**, as required under Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations, explains that there is a compelling case in the public interest which would justify the Applicant's exercise of compulsory acquisition in order to acquire land and rights permanently, and to use land temporarily to enable the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme.
- 8.1.3 The **Funding Statement [EN010168/APP/4.2]**, required under Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations, details how the Scheme would be funded, including the funding of any compulsory acquisition.
- 8.1.4 The **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]** identifies all parties who own or occupy land and/or who may be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as defined in section 57 of the PA 2008. The **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]** is required under Regulation 5(2)(d) of the APFP Regulations and is structured in five parts in accordance with the APFP Regulations as follows:
- a) Part 1 contains the names and addresses for service of each person within Categories 1 and 2 as set out in section 57 of the PA 2008.
 - b) Part 2 contains the names and addresses for service of each person within Category 3 as set out in section 57 of the PA 2008.
 - c) Part 3 contains the names of all those entitled to enjoy easements or other private rights over land which it is proposed shall be extinguished, suspended or interfered with by the Scheme.
 - d) Part 4 specifies the owner of any Crown interest in the land which is proposed to be used for the purposes of the Order for which the Application is being made.
 - e) Part 5 specifies land to be acquired under the Order which is subject to special parliamentary procedure, special category land, or replacement land. The **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]** confirms that no special category land has been identified in the Order Limits.
- 8.1.5 The **Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker [EN010168/APP/4.4]** provides the details of each person with a landholding within the Order

Limits and explains the status of the negotiations with these affected persons.

9 Volume 5 – Consultation

- 9.1.1 The **Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]** and the **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2]** provide details of the pre-application consultation that has taken place. The report details the non-statutory consultation, the statutory consultation and the targeted consultation that has been undertaken as part of the pre-application process.
- 9.1.2 The **Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]** explains how the Applicant has complied with the requirements set out in the PA 2008, the APFP Regulations and the EIA Regulations. The report is also in accordance with the guidance set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice on the Consultation Report (published August 2024) (Ref 4) and the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (August 2024) (Ref 5).
- 9.1.3 The structure of the **Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]** is as follows:
- a) Chapter 1 – Executive Summary
 - b) Chapter 2 – Introduction
 - c) Chapter 3 – Legislation, guidance and advice
 - d) Chapter 4 – Non-statutory consultation and engagement (October 2023 – October 2024)
 - e) Chapter 5 – Consultation under EIA Regulations
 - f) Chapter 6 – Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025)
 - g) Chapter 7 – Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
 - h) Chapter 8 – Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008
 - i) Chapter 9 – Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008
 - j) Chapter 10 – Account of Feedback and the Applicant's Response to the Statutory Consultation
 - k) Chapter 11 – Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes

l) Chapter 12 – Ongoing Activities and Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

m) Chapter 13 – Conclusion

9.1.4 The **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2]** provide further information to support the **Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]** and comprise the following:

- a. Appendix A – Statement of Compliance
- b. Appendix B – EIA Scoping
- c. Appendix C – Non-statutory Consultation
- d. Appendix D – Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- e. Appendix E – Publication and compliance with the SoCC
- f. Appendix F – Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
- g. Appendix G – Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act
- h. Appendix H – Section 48 Notice
- i. Appendix I – Targeted Consultation

10 Volume 6 – Environmental Statement

- 10.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to consider the likely significant effects of the Scheme on the environment.
- 10.1.2 The **ES Volume 1 [EN010168/APP/6.1]** and its supporting **ES Volume 2, Figures [EN010168/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN010168/APP/6.3]** detail the findings of the EIA. The Applicant has also prepared an **ES Non-Technical Summary [EN010168/APP/6.4]** to summarise the findings of the EIA in non-technical language.
- 10.1.3 The **ES Volume 1 [EN010168/APP/6.1]** provides a general overview of the Scheme including its context, a description of the development, the alternatives considered, and a background to the consultation process that formed part of the EIA.
- 10.1.4 The **ES Volume 1 [EN010168/APP/6.1]** comprises the following chapters:
- a) Chapter 1 – Introduction
 - b) Chapter 2 – The Order Limits
 - c) Chapter 3 – The Scheme
 - d) Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Evolution
 - e) Chapter 5 – Energy, Need, Legislative Context and Energy Policy
 - f) Chapter 6 – Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology
 - g) Chapter 7 – Climate Change
 - h) Chapter 8 – Landscape and Visual
 - i) Chapter 9 – Ecology and Biodiversity
 - j) Chapter 10 – Arboriculture
 - k) Chapter 11 – Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage
 - l) Chapter 12 – Cultural Heritage
 - m) Chapter 13 – Transport and Access
 - n) Chapter 14 – Noise and Vibration
 - o) Chapter 15 – Air Quality
 - p) Chapter 16 – Socio Economics, Tourism and Recreation
 - q) Chapter 17 – Soils and Agriculture
 - r) Chapter 18 – Human Health

- s) Chapter 19 – Ground Conditions
- t) Chapter 20 – Other Environmental Matters
- u) Chapter 21 – Cumulative and In-Combination Effects
- v) Chapter 22 – Summary of Residual Effects

10.1.5 A series of figures which support the findings of the EIA are provided as part of the ES. The **ES Volume 2, Figures [EN010168/APP/6.2]** are as follows:

Table 10-1 ES Volume 2, Figures

ES Volume 2, Figure Reference
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Figure 4-3: Main Infrastructure Layout Changes between Scoping and PEIR
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Figure 4-5: Indicative Cable Route Corridors
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Figure 8-3: Scheme Landform
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Figure 8-5: Landscape Character Areas
Figure 8-6: Landscape Receptors
Figure 8-7: Visual Receptors
Figure 8-8: Bare Earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
Figure 8-9: Augmented ZTV
Figure 8-10: Viewpoints
Figure 8-11: Private Receptors
Figure 8-12: Transport Receptors
Figure 8-13: PRoW Receptors
Figure 8-14: Baseline Photography and Photomontages (Parts 1, 2 and 3)
Figure 8-15: Cumulative Sites
Figure 9-1-1: International Statutorily Designated Sites within the Search Area
Figure 9-1-2: National Statutorily Designated Sites within 5km of the Solar PV Sites

ES Volume 2, Figure Reference
Figure 9-1-3: Non-Statutorily Designated Sites within 2km of the Solar PV Sites
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- 10.1.6 A series of Appendices which support the findings of the EIA are also provided as part of the ES. The **ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN010168/APP/6.3]** are as follows:

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11 Volume 7 – Other Documents

- 11.1.1 Volume 7 contains additional documents that have been submitted by the Applicant to provide further information to support the Application.
- 11.1.2 The **Statement of Need [EN010168/APP/7.1]** sets out the needs case for the Scheme, drawing on the case made in the relevant National Policy Statements. It also draws upon both established and emerging primary analysis and opinion from respected third parties to ensure that the UK remains on track to meet its legally binding carbon emissions reduction targets, while enhancing national security of electricity supply (and at a cost which, in relation to other electricity generation infrastructure, provides value for money for end-use consumers).
- 11.1.3 The **Planning Statement [EN010168/APP/7.2]** details the Scheme's compliance with national and local planning policy. The Planning Statement contains the following annexes:
 - a) **Annex A: National Policy Accordance Tables:** sets out an appraisal of the Scheme against the policies in the relevant NPS.
 - b) **Annex B: Local Policy Accordance Tables:** sets out an appraisal of the Scheme against relevant and important local policies.
 - c) **Annex C: Sequential and Exception Test:** sets out how the sequential test has been applied at site selection and in the layout of the Scheme, and how the Scheme meets the exception test.
 - d) **Annex D: Planning History:** sets out the relevant planning applications that are located close to the Scheme.
- 11.1.4 The **Design Approach Document [EN010168/APP/7.3]** explains the design evolution of the Scheme from non-statutory consultation up to DCO submission.
- 11.1.5 The **Design Principles and Parameters [EN010168/APP/7.4]** sets out the design principles and parameters for the Scheme which are proposed to be secured through the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]**.
- 11.1.6 The **Grid Connection Statement [EN010168/APP/7.5]** provides the details for connecting the Solar PV Sites to the National Electricity Transmission Systems.
- 11.1.7 The **Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010168/APP/7.6]** identifies the matters set out in section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisance and considers whether the Scheme would engage one or more of those matters.

- 11.1.8 The **Consents and Agreements Position Statement** **[EN010168/APP/7.7]** sets out the further consents that will be required outside of the **draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission the Scheme.

- 11.1.9 The **Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.8]** provides details of the biodiversity net gain that could be delivered as a result of the Scheme. The **Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Appendix Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation [EN010168/APP/7.9]** sets out the methodology applied to calculate the biodiversity net gain metrics for the Scheme.

- 11.1.10 The **Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.10]** has been prepared to support the Secretary of State with its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (Habitats Regulations). The Report concludes that with the adoption of mitigation measures there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites either from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Scheme, or in combination with other projects.

- 11.1.11 The **Water Framework Directive Assessment [EN010168/APP/7.11]** details how the Scheme has met the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

- 11.1.12 The **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]** details the measures that will be in place to minimise the environmental impact of the Scheme during construction. Requirement 13 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**.

- 11.1.13 The **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN01068/APP/7.13]** details the measures that will be in place to minimise the environmental impacts of the Scheme during operation. Requirement 14 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Operational Environmental Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13]**.

- 11.1.14 The **Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14]** details the measures that will be in place to minimise the environmental impacts of the Scheme during decommissioning. Requirement 20 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Decommissioning Strategy must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14]**.

- 11.1.15 The **Outline Soil Resources Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.15]** sets out the good practice mitigation principles and procedures that will be applied to specific soil types for the handling, storage and reinstatement of soils used for the Scheme. Requirement 17 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Soil Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Soil Resources Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.15]**.
- 11.1.16 The **Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.16]** sets out the good practice measures that will be implemented to manage waste generated by construction of the Scheme. Requirement 19 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Site Waste Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.16]**.
- 11.1.17 The **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.17]** details how PRow will be managed during the Scheme in terms of both safety and accessibility. Requirement 16 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Public Rights of Way Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.17]**.
- 11.1.18 The **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]** provides a framework for the landscape strategy and ecological mitigation for the Scheme. Requirement 7 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]**.
- 11.1.19 The **Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]** provides ecology-focussed protection and mitigation prescriptions for the construction phase of the Scheme. Requirement 8 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy must be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]**.
- 11.1.20 The **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010168/APP/7.20]** details the potential opportunities created by the Scheme for economic benefits, supply chain and employment. Requirement 18 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is substantially in accordance with the **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010168/APP/7.20]**.

- 11.1.21 The **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.21]** sets out that the safety and property protection fire safety risks associated with BESS. It demonstrates that the Scheme does not give rise to a significant increase in fire risk and any risk can be addressed by ensuring the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme is undertaken in accordance with the **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.21]**. Requirement 6 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Battery Safety Management Plan is substantially in accordance with the **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.21]**.
- 11.1.22 The **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.22]** outlines the traffic management measures that will be implemented to ensure safety and minimise disruption from traffic during the construction of the Scheme. Requirement 15 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** requires that the detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is substantially in accordance with the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.22]**.
- 11.1.23 The **Equality Impact Assessment [EN010168/APP/7.23]** sets out an equality impact screening and assessment of the Scheme.
- 11.1.24 The **Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN01068/APP/7.24]** outlines the potential main issues identified by the Applicant for the examination of the Scheme and the likelihood of these issues being resolved during examination.
- 11.1.25 The **Outline Water Resources Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.25]** provides an early-stage evaluation of quantities of water required for the Scheme during the construction and operation and maintenance phases, and where the Applicant is likely to resource the water.
- 11.1.26 The **Commitments Register [EN010168/APP/7.26]** sets out mitigation measures proposed as part of the Scheme and how these will be secured.

12 References

- Ref 1 Planning Act (2008) (as amended). Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [Accessed 25 July 2025].
- Ref 2 Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made> [Accessed 25 July 2025].
- Ref 3 Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents> [Accessed 25 July 2025].
- Ref 4 Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report>
- Ref 5 Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-preparation-and-submission-of-application-documents> [Accessed 25 July 2025].