



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 1

Application Forms

1.3 Guide to the Application

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

March 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This document provides a guide to Meridian Solar Farm Limited's ('the Applicant') application for a Development Consent Order ('the DCO Application') for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Meridian Solar Farm ('the Scheme'). The Scheme is located within the administrative boundary of South Holland District Council and Lincolnshire District Council.
- 1.1.2. The DCO application is made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ('The Secretary of State') pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008').
- 1.1.3. The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating station with associated infrastructure, including co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Inter-Array Connections to link the land parcels that form the Solar Development Areas, and an up to 13 km overhead line Grid Connection (with one short undergrounded section) which would run north towards a point of connection (PoC) at the proposed Weston Marsh B National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) substation, to the north of Weston.
- 1.1.4. The Solar PV generating station, associated BESS, on-site substations and other associated infrastructure would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D) referred to collectively as the Solar Development Area, as shown in **ES Figure 1-1** (Doc Ref. 6.2).
- 1.1.5. The Inter-Arrays would be the areas within which 132 kV connection cables (the 'Inter-Array Connections') would link the land parcels of the Solar Development Area. The configuration of the Inter-Array Connections (132 kV) would comprise underground cabling between Land Parcels A and B ('the Underground Inter-Array') and an overhead line between Land Parcels C and D ('the Overground Inter-Array').
- 1.1.6. The Grid Connection Route would be the area between the Solar Development Area and the National Grid Weston Marsh B Substation in which a 400 kV overhead line (the 'Grid Connection') would be located. There is one section where the Grid Connection would route underground to avoid conflicts with an existing 132 kV overhead line. Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) would

join the proposed underground cable at that section with the proposed overhead line.

- 1.1.7. The Scheme comprises a generating station of more than 100 MW and the installation of above ground electric lines greater than two kilometres in length and a nominal voltage of 132 kV or greater. The Scheme qualifies as an NSIP under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Act.
- 1.1.8. A full description of the Scheme is provided in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref 6.1).

1.2. Purpose of this Document

- 1.2.1. This Guide to the Application intends to help the Examining Authority ('ExA') and Interested Parties understand the DCO Application by signposting the documents that make up the application and explaining the key concepts and controls for the Scheme. It also explains how to identify information geographically and thematically within the DCO Application.

1.3. The Applicant

- 1.3.1. The Applicant promoting the Scheme is Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of United Kingdom-based investment manager Downing Renewable Developments LLP ('DRD') founded by Downing LLP. DRD was founded to deliver solar, battery storage and onshore wind projects across the UK and Europe.
- 1.3.2. Downing LLP has been investing in renewables since 2010 and has significant experience in owning and operating renewable energy, battery storage and other infrastructure.
- 1.3.3. In September 2022, Downing LLP completed certification for becoming a B Corporation, which means it meets the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability.
- 1.3.4. As a responsible developer, DRD is progressing an approximate six-gigawatt ('GW') pipeline of projects across the UK helping to deliver a low-carbon energy future for the county. DRD's approach is to own, develop and manage these projects throughout their full lifecycle.

1.4. Structure of this Document

- 1.4.1. The structure of this Guide to the Application is as follows:

- Section 2 provides a high-level description of the Scheme;
- Section 3 provides an overview of the DCO application, including the volumes and document referencing;
- Sections 4 to 10 explain the purpose of each document submitted as part of the application;
- Section 11 describes some of the key concepts used within the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref 3.1) and **Volume 2 - Plans** (Doc Ref 2.1 - Doc Ref 2.12);
- Section 11 explains the mitigation route map and the control documents included within the application; and
- Section 12 explains how to identify information included in the application both geographically and thematically.

2. The Scheme

2.1. Overview

2.1.1. The Scheme is made up of the following areas:

- **Solar Development Area:** The solar PV panels, associated BESS, on-site substations and other associated infrastructure would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D) referred to collectively as the 'Solar Development Area', as shown in **Figure 1-1** of this Non-Technical Summary.
- **Inter-Array Connections:** The Inter-Arrays would be the areas within which single circuit 132 kV connection cables (the 'Inter-Array Connections') would link the land parcels of the Solar Development Area. The configuration of the Inter-Array Connections would comprise underground cabling between Land Parcels A and B ('the Underground Inter-Array') and an overhead line between Land Parcels C and D ('the Overground Inter-Array').
- **Grid Connection Route:** The Grid Connection Route would be the area between the Solar Development Area and the National Grid Weston Marsh B Substation in which a 400 kV overhead line (the 'Grid Connection') would be located. There is a section where the Grid Connection would route underground to avoid conflicts with an existing 132 kV overhead line. Two Cable Sealing End Compounds would join the proposed underground cable with the proposed overhead line.

2.1.2. The Site constitutes the total land area within the Order Limits of the Scheme, including the Solar Development Area, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. A summary of the areas for each part of the Scheme is provided below:

- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel A: 197 ha
- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel B: 335 ha
- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel C: 205 ha
- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel D: 330 ha
- Underground Inter-Array between Land Parcel A & B: 15 ha
- Overhead Inter-Array between Land Parcel C & D: 46 ha
- Grid Connection Route: 510 ha

- Site (total): 1,616ha¹

2.1.3. The Scheme includes the construction, operation and decommissioning of the infrastructure listed above. The Scheme will have an operational life of 40 years from the date of final commissioning.

2.1.4. A full description of the Scheme is set out in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The following subsections provide a summary of each of the core components that form the Scheme.

2.2. Solar Development Areas

2.2.1. The solar PV panels, as well as associated infrastructure, such as solar stations, and On-Site Substation and BESS Compounds, would be located across the Solar Development Area. In addition, land would be retained within the Solar Development Area for habitat management, landscape planting, biodiversity enhancements and setbacks from areas of existing vegetation, heritage assets and utilities. Solar PV panels will therefore not be installed to cover the full extent of the Solar Development Area.

2.2.2. The exact locations and specifications of solar PV panels and other associated infrastructure have not yet been determined and will only be decided upon when the detailed design of the Scheme is completed, which will occur after determination of the DCO Application. Therefore, for the purposes of the ES, where flexibility needs to be retained until the detailed design work is complete, conservative assumptions have been used that provide for a reasonable 'worst-case' scenario. This approach is referred to as the 'Rochdale Envelope'.

2.2.3. **ES Figure 2-2: Illustrative Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections Layout Plan** (Doc Ref. 6.2) provides a visual representation of the distribution of solar PV panels and associated infrastructure across the Solar Development Area that could be constructed within the defined maximum design parameters.

¹ Note the sum of parts for the areas of the Scheme exceeds the total area of the Order Limits due to an overlap of the Grid Connection Route with Solar Development Area Land Parcel B.

2.3. Inter-Array Connections

Underground Inter-Array Connection

- 2.3.1. The Underground Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels A and B would comprise a 132 kV underground cable, to be installed within a trench of up to 2 m wide and 2 m deep. The cable duct would have a minimum of 0.9 m ground cover to allow continued agricultural use of the land post-construction. The total length of the Underground Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels A and B is approximately 1.1 km.
- 2.3.2. Trenched (open cut) and trenchless (bored) crossings may be required at locations where existing watercourses, roads and utilities are crossed. For trenchless crossings, a maximum depth of 7 m has been assumed. A minimum depth of 3 m would also apply to any trenchless crossings below watercourses.

Overhead Inter-Array Connection

- 2.3.3. The Overhead Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels C and D would comprise a 132 kV single circuit overhead line with a wood pole design, located approximately every 120 m along the connection route.
- 2.3.4. Whilst this is a typical span length for the proposed wood pole type, span distances would vary dependent on the proposed alignment to take account of topography and routeing to avoid constraints in the area. The total length of the Overhead Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels C and D is approximately 3.1 km.
- 2.3.5. The proposed height of poles would vary between 6.7m and 15m above ground level, dependent on the topography and span length of the proposed alignment.

2.4. Grid Connection Route

- 2.4.1. The Grid Connection would comprise a 400 kV single circuit overhead line with a steel lattice pylon design. A short underground section would be provided where an existing 132 kV overhead line crosses the Grid Connection Route.
- 2.4.2. For the proposed overhead line, a pylon would be located approximately every 350 m. Span distances would vary dependent on the proposed alignment to take account of topography, crossings and routeing to avoid constraints in the area. The pylons heights vary between 44.5 m and 58.6 m above ground. In addition to this, a 7.4 m vertical limit of deviation has been set.

- 2.4.3. Each leg of the pylon will be supported by a foundation. Depending on ground conditions, this may comprise either a concrete pad foundation or a piled foundation.
- 2.4.4. A temporary stoned working area would be provided at each pylon base to accommodate construction activities, such as steel delivery, assembly and installation.

2.5. Weston Marsh B Substation

- 2.5.1. The point of connection to the National Grid will be at the planned Weston Marsh Substation. This substation is not proposed as part of the Meridian Solar Farm DCO Application and will be consented and delivered separately by National Grid Electricity Transmission ('NGET').
- 2.5.2. The Grid Connection would connect to the proposed 400 kV National Grid Weston Marsh B Substation which is being delivered by National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- 2.5.3. The Order Limits of the Scheme incorporate flexibility with regards to the final location of the Weston Marsh Substation and the connection of the overhead line to it. It is assumed that the connection will be overhead. However, if undergrounding is required, the same parameters as set out for the Cable Sealing End Compounds and the underground 400 kV cable at the 132 kV overhead line crossing would be applied.
- 2.5.4. Further detail regarding engagement with NGET and the grid connection is set out in the **Inter-Relationships with Other NSIP Projects** (Doc Ref. 7.2), the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3) and the **Grid Connection Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.5).

3. Structure of the DCO Application

3.1. Volumes

- 3.1.1. A full list of documents within the DCO Application is set out in the **Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4). Further detail on the documents that form part of the DCO Application is provided in the following sections.
- 3.1.2. All of the DCO Application documents can be located online on the Planning Inspectorate’s website for the Scheme: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169/documents>
- 3.1.3. The documents have been grouped into Volumes 1 to 7, corresponding with the Planning Inspectorate’s Guidance: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents, the contents of which are discussed in this document. **Table 3-1** sets out the title and description of each Volume.

Table 3-1 DCO Application Volumes

Document Volume	Contents
Volume 1 - Application Forms	The completed Application Form, Cover Letter, this Guide to the Application, Navigation Document, Section 55 Checklist and Electronic Application Index.
Volume 2 – Plans	The plans, drawings and sections as required by the APFP Regulations and further plans provided to support the application.
Volume 3 - Draft DCO	The Draft DCO sets out the legal powers that the Applicant is seeking, the Explanatory Memorandum explains the provisions in the Draft DCO, accompanied by the SI Validation Report and the Schedule of Other Consents and Licenses.
Volume 4 – Compulsory Acquisition	The volume includes the documents setting out the land to be acquired or used for the Scheme, with reports justifying the seeking of compulsory acquisition powers and evidence to support the availability of funding to enable the acquisition, including the Statement of Reasons, Funding Statement, and Book of Reference.

Document Volume	Contents
Volume 5 - Consultation	The Consultation Report and its appendices set out the methodology and outcomes of the pre-application consultations undertaken to support the Scheme.
Volume 6 – Environmental Statement	The Environmental Statement and its appendices provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Scheme on the environment and a description of mitigation measures proposed to reduce any adverse effects. Plans showing environmental features and proposed mitigation are also included.
Volume 7 - Other Documents	The additional documents that support the DCO Application as required by Regulation 6 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations') and considered by the Applicant to be required to support the application in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(q) of APFP Regulations.

3.2. Document Numbering and Referencing

- 3.2.1. Documents are numbered in sequence with the respective Volumes, with the volume number being the first digit of a document number. This is followed, where relevant, by the document number. For example, documents within Volume 1: Application Forms are numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc.
- 3.2.2. The Environmental Statement ('ES') is contained in Volume 6 and comprises three parts; the ES Chapters (Doc Ref. 6.1), ES Figures (Doc Ref. 6.2) and ES Appendices (Doc Ref. 6.3). Each ES Chapter has a corresponding set of figures and appendices. As an example, each set would be referenced as follows:
- **ES Chapter 1: Introduction** (Doc Ref. 6.1)
 - **ES Figure 1-1** (Doc Ref. 6.2)
 - **ES Appendix 1-3: EIA Statement of Competence** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
- 3.2.3. When revised documents are submitted in the future during the Examination, these will be given a revision number alongside the document number. The revision number will be included in an updated version of the **Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4).

4. Volume 1 – Application Forms

- 4.1.1. The **Cover Letter** (Doc Ref. 1.1) introduces the DCO Application and the **Section 55 Checklist** (Doc Ref. 1.5) demonstrates how it fulfils the conditions for acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate under Section 55 of the PA 2008. The Schedule of Compliance with Section 55 will be completed by the Planning Inspectorate on receipt of the DCO Application.
- 4.1.2. The **Application Form** (Doc Ref. 1.2) is a standard form that provides a high-level summary of the Scheme and the documents that have been submitted. The form originates from Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009.
- 4.1.3. The **Guide to the Application** (Doc Ref. 1.3) is this document. It provides a guide to the Scheme, the Applicant, the DCO Application documents and the key concepts and controls for the Scheme.
- 4.1.4. The **Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4) provides a summary of the structure of the DCO application and identifies the latest version of each document. It provides a full list of documents submitted to date and is a ‘live’ document that will be updated at each deadline throughout the Examination Period to show revision history and corresponding examination library references.
- 4.1.5. The **Electronic Application Index** (Doc Ref. 1.6) is the technical index that facilitates efficient management and publication of the application documents by the Planning Inspectorate.

5. Volume 2 – Plans

- 5.1.1. There are twelve sets of plans as described below. Each plan includes a key which explains the use of symbols, lines and shading to denote features and information within the plans. As defined in Regulation 5(4) of the APFP Regulations and PINS Advice Note Six, where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, a key plan is provided to enable the reader to understand the relationship between the different sheets.
- 5.1.2. The **Location Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.1) identifies the location of the Scheme and its Order Limits. The Order Limits are defined by a red line which demarcates the geographical extent of land and powers required to construct, operate and decommission the Scheme.
- 5.1.3. To assist with navigating the plans, the Scheme has been divided into two sections; Section A and Section B. These sections are defined on the **Master Key Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.2).
- 5.1.4. Section A contains the plans and drawings across the Solar Development Areas and Inter-Array Areas which are located at the southern end of the Order Limits. Section B contains the plans and drawings showing the Grid Connection, the 400kV overhead line connecting the solar development area to the planned Weston Marsh B Substation.
- 5.1.5. The **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3) show the extent of the individual works which may be carried out. For some 'works', limits of deviation are identified – the concept is explained further at **Section 11.4** of this document.
- 5.1.6. The **Land and Crown Land Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.4) correspond to the **Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.3) and, in summary, set out:
 - a. The limits of land to be acquired or used permanently or temporarily;
 - b. The land to be acquired or used permanently for construction , operation, and maintenance works for the Scheme;
 - c. Any temporary or permanent rights to be acquired over the land; and
 - d. Any Crown Land within the Order Limits.
- 5.1.7. The **Special Category Land Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.5) identify the special category land within the Order limits. In this case, there is land within the Order Limits that is held as common land which falls within the definition of special category land. These plans also show the type of powers sought in relation to the land, which includes acquisition of permanent rights.

- 5.1.8. The **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.6) show any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets and any diversions, or extinguishment of rights of way, both temporarily and permanently.
- 5.1.9. The **Traffic Regulation Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.7) show the speed limits, clearways and other restrictions that would be applied to new or altered highways within the Order limits to regulate traffic.
- 5.1.10. The **Indicative and Illustrative Layout Plans and Sections** (Doc Ref. 2.8) provide details of specific aspects of the Scheme, including the Solar Development Areas, Grid Connection, BESS, crossings, and Inter Array Areas.
- 5.1.11. The **Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation** (Doc Ref. 2.9) shows the location of sites of nature conservation within and nearby to the Order limits.
- 5.1.12. The **Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites or Features of the Historic Environment Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.10) shows the location of heritage features within and nearby to the Order limits.
- 5.1.13. The **Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.11) shows the location of waterbodies that have been identified in a River Basin Management Plan within and nearby to the Order limits.
- 5.1.14. The **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.12) shows the location of and any impact to hedgerows and trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders, including trees subject to tree preservation orders as listed and described in Schedule 10 of the **Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1).

6. Volume 3 – Draft Development Consent Order

- 6.1.1. The **Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1) sets out the powers that the Applicant is seeking to enable the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme. It sets out the parameters for which development would be permitted. The Draft DCO consists of 6 Parts and is accompanied by 14 Schedules as outlined below.
- 6.1.2. The **Explanatory Memorandum** (Doc Ref. 3.2) explains the purpose and effect of each provision in the draft DCO.
- 6.1.3. The following Parts are included in the Draft DCO:
- Part 1: Preliminary
 - Part 2: Principal Powers
 - Part 3: Streets
 - Part 4: Supplemental Powers
 - Part 5: Powers of Acquisition
 - Part 6: Miscellaneous and General
- 6.1.4. The following Schedules are included in the Draft DCO:
- **Schedule 1 – Authorised Development** lists the works that would be authorised by the DCO, which are shown in the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3)
 - **Schedule 2 – Requirements** which sets out the requirements the Applicant would be required to accord with when implementing the authorised development.
 - **Schedule 3 – Legislation To Be Disapplied** sets out specific legislation and statutory instruments to be disapplied by the DCO insofar they relate to the authorised development.
 - **Schedule 4 – Streets Subject to Street Works** lists the streets that may be subject to the street works described in Article 9 of the DCO and shown on the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc Ref. 2.6).
 - **Schedule 5 – Alteration of Streets** lists the streets that may be altered as described in Article 11 of the DCO and shown on the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc Ref. 2.6).

- **Schedule 6 – Streets and Public Rights of Way** lists the streets and public rights of way which the Applicant may prohibit the use of, restrict the use of, authorise the use of or alter or divert, as described in Article 13 of the Draft DCO and shown on the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc Ref. 2.6).
- **Schedule 7 – Access to Works** describes the permanent and temporary means of access for the Scheme.
- **Schedule 8 – Traffic Regulation Measures** sets out the speed limits, clearways and other restrictions that would be applied to streets within the Order limits. It should be read in conjunction with the **Traffic Regulation Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.7).
- **Schedule 9 – Modification of Compensation and Compulsory Purchase Enactments for the Creation of New Rights and Imposition of New Restrictive Covenants** describes the modifications proposed to the provisions of the Land Compensation Act 1973 for the purchase of land and interests in land for the Scheme.
- **Schedule 10 – Hedgerows to be Removed** lists all hedgerows to be removed as part of the Scheme. This should be read in conjunction with the **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.12).
- **Schedule 11 – Documents and Plans to be Certified** contains a list of the documents to be certified if the DCO is made by the Secretary of State.
- **Schedule 12 – Arbitration Rules** sets out the process for arbitration.
- **Schedule 13 – Protective Provisions** includes provisions to protect the interests of various statutory undertakers. In this case, there are three sets of protective provisions; for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers, for the protection of operators of electronic communications code networks, and for the protection of drainage authorities.
- **Schedule 14 – Procedure for the Discharge of Requirements** sets out the process for implementing the requirements set out in Schedule 2.

6.1.5. The Applicant requires a range of consents and licences to construct and operate the Scheme. Some of these are included in the **Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1), and would therefore be granted as part of the consent if the DCO is made by the Secretary of State. However, there are a range of other consents from different regulatory bodies that will be sought

separately to the DCO. The **Schedule of Other Consents and Licences** (Doc Ref. 3.3) sets out the intended strategy for obtaining the other approvals required to implement the Scheme.

- 6.1.6. The **Statutory Instrument Validation Report** (Doc Ref. 3.4) is provided to demonstrate compatibility of the DCO with the relevant Statutory Instrument Template. All DCOs must be made in the form of a Statutory Instrument because they include legislative provisions and powers to amend or exclude other statutory provisions.

7. Volume 4 – Compulsory Acquisition

- 7.1.1. The Applicant would need to obtain and use statutory powers to compulsory acquire land and rights over land, and to possess and use land temporarily to implement the Scheme. In order to do so, the Applicant is required to provide evidence that the use of these powers would be justified, proportionate and in the public interest, and this evidence is set out in the **Statement of Reasons** (Doc Ref. 4.1), the **Funding Statement** (Doc Ref. 4.2) and the **Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.3) as explained below.
- 7.1.2. The **Statement of Reasons** (Doc Ref. 4.1) sets out the compelling case in the public interest which would justify the Applicant's exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition to acquire land and rights permanently and to use land temporarily to construct, operate and maintain the Scheme.
- 7.1.3. The **Funding Statement** (Doc Ref. 4.2) explains how the Scheme, including compulsory acquisition and compensation, would be funded.
- 7.1.4. The **Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.3) identifies all parties who own or occupy land and/or have an interest in or right over the land affected by the Scheme, and/or who may be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as defined in section 57 of the PA 2008. It is structured in five parts in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements. The five parts are described below:
- a. Part 1: Names and addresses for service of each person within Categories 1 and 2 as defined in section 57 of the Planning Act 2008 in respect of any land inside the Order limits. Category 1 interests are owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers of land. Category 2 interests are those who have an interest in the land or who have the power to sell and convey the land or release the land.
 - b. Part 2: Names and addresses for service of each person within Category 3. A person is within Category 3 if the Applicant thinks that, if the order were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim. A relevant claim for these purposes means a claim under: Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (c. 26); section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965; or section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008.
 - c. Part 3: Names of all those entitled to easements or other private rights over land which it is proposed shall be extinguished, suspended or interfered in the DCO.

- d. Part 4: Any Crown interest in land which is proposed to be used for the purposes of the DCO for which the application is being made.
- e. Part 5: Land the acquisition of which is subject to special parliamentary procedure, is special category land, or is replacement land.

7.1.5. The **Land Rights Tracker** (Doc Ref. 4.4) provides a summary of engagement and negotiations between the Applicant and Persons with an Interest in Land ('PILs'). The Land Rights Tracker is an iterative document that will be updated throughout the examination period to reflect ongoing discussions.

8. Volume 5 – Consultation

- 8.1.1. The **Consultation Report** (Doc Ref. 5.1) provides an account of the pre-application consultation activities undertaken to support the Scheme. This includes details of the statutory consultation, which the Applicant is required to undertake in accordance with PA 2008, other non-statutory consultations held by the Applicant, and how the Applicant has had regard to the comments when developing the Scheme.
- 8.1.2. There are 12 sections within the Consultation Report, comprising the following:
- Section 1: Executive Summary
 - Section 2: Introduction
 - Section 3: Overview of Early Engagement (February 2024)
 - Section 4: Stage One Consultation (30 May – 11 July 2024)
 - Section 5: Consultation under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations
 - Section 6: Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
 - Section 7: Stage Two Consultation (24 April – 8 June 2025)
 - Section 8: Section 47 Stage Two Consultation: Responses Received and Issues Raised
 - Section 9: Section 42 Stage Two Consultation: Responses Received and Issues Raised
 - Section 10: Ongoing Engagement
 - Section 11: Targeted Consultation (24 September – 22 October 2025)
 - Section 12: Additional Targeted Consultation (8 January – 5 February 2026)
 - Section 13: Conclusion
- 8.1.3. The Consultation Report is supported by a number of appendices which are described in **Table 8-1**.

Table 8-1 Appendices to the Consultation Report

Appendix	Contents
Appendix A: Consultation Compliance Checklist	A checklist of relevant legislation and policy with confirmation that the Applicant has complied with it.

Appendix	Contents
Appendix B: Non-Statutory Consultation Materials	Copies of the materials produced for non-statutory consultation and feedback received.
Appendix C: Statement of Community Consultation	A copy of the Statement of Community Consultation.
Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices	A copy of the notices published under Sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Materials	Copies of the materials produced for statutory consultation.
Appendix F: Section 46 Notification to Planning Inspectorate	A copy of the letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate and its acknowledgment.
Appendix G: Section 42 Consultees	A list of the prescribed consultees identified and consulted, including copies of each type of letter sent.
Appendix H: Section 42 and 44 Applicant's Responses	A summary of feedback received during consultations under Section 42 and 44 of the Planning Act 2008, and the Applicants responses to the issues raised.
Appendix I: Section 47 and 48 Applicant's Responses	A summary of feedback received during consultations under Sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and the Applicants responses to the issues raised.
Appendix J: Targeted Consultation Material	Copies of the materials produced for targeted consultation.
Appendix K: Targeted Consultation Applicant's Response	A summary of the feedback received during targeted consultation and the Applicant's responses to the issues raised.
Appendix L: Additional Targeted Consultation – Materials and Applicant's Response	Copies of the materials produced for the targeted consultation held in January and February 2026 along with a summary of the feedback received during targeted consultation and the Applicant's responses to the issues raised
Appendix M: Applicant's Response to Section 51 Advice	Details how the Applicant has taken into account the advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate under Section 51 of the PA 2008.

9. Volume 6 – Environmental Statement

- 9.1.1. The Applicant has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') to consider the significant effects the Scheme could have on the environment. The **Environmental Statement (ES)** (Doc Refs. 6.1 to 6.3) reports the findings of the EIA. It is accompanied by a **Non-Technical Summary** (Doc Ref. 6.1).
- 9.1.2. The ES also contains information on the Scheme, including a detailed description and how it would be constructed, reasonable alternatives considered and the consultation and engagement activities that the Applicant undertook as part of undertaking the EIA.
- 9.1.3. The EIA and ES are legal requirements and accord with relevant legislation and current guidance. The scope of the ES was considered by the Planning Inspectorate (in consultation with statutory consultees) through a Scoping Opinion. A copy of the Scoping Opinion forms an appendix to the ES (**ES Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion** (Doc Ref. 6.3)).
- 9.1.4. The ES is divided into three parts, those being the **ES Chapters** (Doc Ref. 6.1), **ES Figures** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and **ES Appendices** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
- 9.1.5. The 18 chapters in the ES are topic-specific. These chapters are:
- Glossary and Abbreviations
 - Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: The Scheme
 - Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution
 - Chapter 4: Overview of the EIA Process
 - Chapter 5: Agriculture and Soils
 - Chapter 6: Air Quality
 - Chapter 7: Climate Change
 - Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage
 - Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity
 - Chapter 10: Human Health
 - Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk
 - Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual
 - Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration

- Chapter 14: Socio-Economics and Land Use
- Chapter 15: Traffic and Access
- Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics
- Chapter 17: Effect Interactions
- Chapter 18: Summary of Likely Significant Effects

- 9.1.6. The **ES Non-Technical Summary** (Doc Ref. 6.1) summarises the findings of the ES in non-technical language. This document provides a short form executive summary for each of the ES chapters.
- 9.1.7. The ES Chapters are accompanied by **ES Figures** (Doc Ref. 6.2) where necessary, comprising a series of figures, photographs and other illustrative material to support the EIA. The ES Chapters are also accompanied by **ES Appendices** (Doc Ref. 6.3) where necessary, to support the findings of the EIA. **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** (Doc Ref. 6.1) is accompanied by **ES Appendix 9-14: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
- 9.1.8. The ES Figures and ES Appendices are cross-referenced within the respective ES Chapters and listed in the **Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4).

10. Volume 7 – Other Documents

- 10.1.1. Volume 7 comprises the additional documents that support the DCO Application for the Scheme.
- 10.1.2. The **Planning Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.1) and its appendices assess the Scheme against relevant planning policies including those set out in the applicable National Policy Statements ('NPS'). In this case, these are the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and the NPS for Electricity Networks (EN-5). The Planning Statement includes a planning balance judgement to conclude the overall acceptability of the Scheme.
- 10.1.3. The Planning Statement is accompanied by the following appendices:
- **Appendix A: Planning History** describes the consenting history of land within the Order limits.
 - **Appendix B: National Policy Statement Accordance Tables** assesses the Scheme's compliance with the relevant NPSs.
 - **Appendix C: NPPF and Local Policy Accordance Tables** assesses the Scheme's compliance with the NPPF and local policy.
 - **Appendix D: Site Selection Report** describes how the site for the Scheme was identified and selected.
 - **Appendix E: Heritage Harm Statement** assesses the potential harm that the Scheme poses to heritage assets within and nearby to the Order limits.
 - **Appendix F: Mineral Safeguarding Assessment** assess the potential for the Scheme to affect safeguarded mineral resources within the Order Limits.
- 10.1.4. The **Inter-Relationship with Other NSIP Projects** (Doc Ref. 7.2) describes the relationship between the Scheme and other projects in the vicinity of the scheme. It summarises engagement and coordination between the Applicant and the promoters of the identified projects.
- 10.1.5. The **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3) describes how good design has been taken into account from the inception of the Scheme, and how this design approach is reflected in the proposal is subject to this application. It describes how the design has evolved in response to public and stakeholder consultation and engagement.

- 10.1.6. The **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4) Report contains the design-related principles and commitments proposed by the Applicant to integrate the Scheme into its surrounds. It records any embedded design mitigation measures and establishes the design parameters which must be adhered to as part of the detailed design for the Scheme.
- 10.1.7. The **Grid Connection Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.5) is a prescribed document in accordance with Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations. The Statement details the status of the Grid Connection Agreement between the Applicant and NGET.
- 10.1.8. The **Statutory Nuisance Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.6) identifies the matters set out in section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisances and considers whether the Scheme would engage one or more of these matters. Where any nuisances may potentially arise, the Statement sets out proposals for mitigation.
- 10.1.9. The **Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register** (Doc Ref. 7.7) records all of the design, construction, operation and decommissioning commitments proposed by the Applicant in its ES and other supporting Application documents.
- 10.1.10. The **EMF Compliance Report** (Doc Ref. 7.8) describes how the Scheme will adhere to Electromagnetic Field Guidance.
- 10.1.11. The **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9) demonstrates that the Scheme adheres to biodiversity net gain requirements as set out by the Environment Act 2021.
- 10.1.12. The **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.10) sets out the framework for controlling environmental impacts during the Scheme's construction.
- 10.1.13. The **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.11) sets out the framework for controlling environmental impacts during the Scheme's operation.
- 10.1.14. The **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.12) sets out the framework for controlling environmental impacts during the Scheme's decommissioning phase.
- 10.1.15. The **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.13) sets out the approach to carrying out temporary traffic management for the safe construction of the Scheme. It also explains management measures available to

reduce the impact on the local community (including journey time reliability, access, severance and safety).

- 10.1.16. The **Outline Soil Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.14) details how impacts on soil quality will be mitigated.
- 10.1.17. The **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.15) provides details on the mitigation measures proposed for the management of impacts on Public Rights of Way.
- 10.1.18. The **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.16) outlines the proposed management of the landscape and ecological elements of the Project. It focusses on the management requirements for the land within the Order limits acquired in the long-term that performs specific landscape and ecological mitigation functions.
- 10.1.19. The **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.17) describes how opportunities to enhance benefits for skills, supply chain and employment will be adopted.
- 10.1.20. The **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.18) describes the measures to be adopted to ensure fire safety during construction, operation and decommissioning of the BESS.
- 10.1.21. The **Outline Site Waste Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.19) describes how construction waste derived from the Scheme will be managed.
- 10.1.22. The **Potential Main Issues for Examination** ('PMIE') (Doc Ref. 7.20) sets out the issues or points of contention between the Applicant and key stakeholders which will inform the later Initial Assessment of Principal Issues developed by the Examining Authority.

11. Understanding Key Concepts within the Draft DCO and Plans

11.1. Overview

11.1.1. This section describes the key concepts used within the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) and Volume 2 - Plans.

11.2. Authorised Development and Numbered Works

11.2.1. The ‘works’ that would be authorised by the DCO are described in **Schedule 1 – Authorised Development** to the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1). The geographical extent of each work is illustrated on the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3). Against each definition of a work within Schedule 1 is a number which corresponds to the works presented on the Works Plans.

11.2.2. There is no prescribed approach to dividing a scheme into numbered works. The Applicant has assigned Works No. 1 to 7 for works associated with the Solar Development Area, Work No. 8 for works associated with the above-ground Inter-Array Connection, and Works No. 9 to 16 for works associated with the Grid Connection.

11.2.3. **Figure 11-1** shows an example of the Works Plans for the Grid Connection.

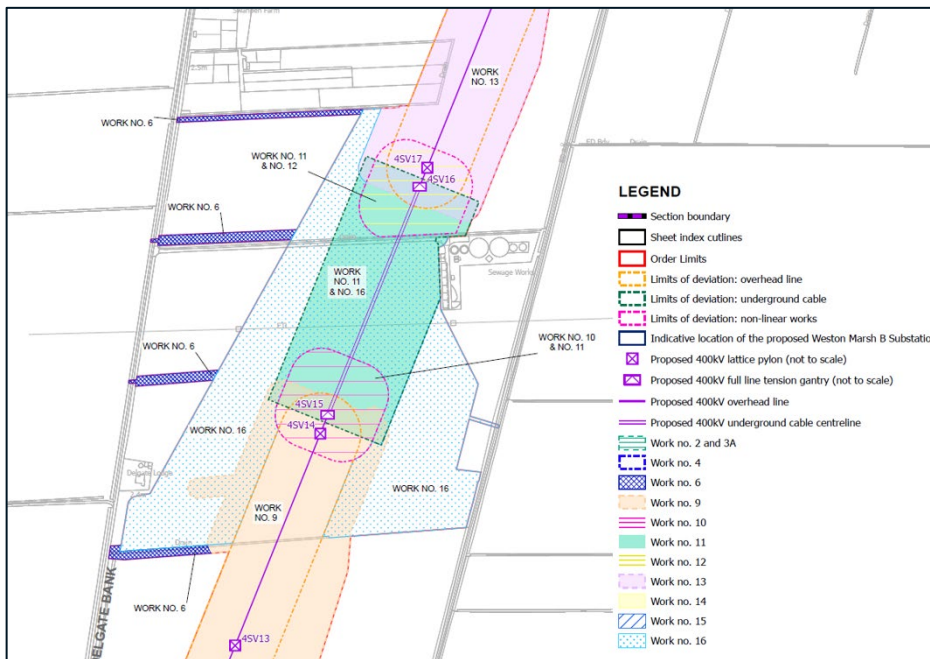


Figure 11-1 Example of the Works Plans for the Grid Connection

11.3. Associated Development

- 11.3.1. Section 115 of the PA 2008 allows for Associated Development to be consented as part of a single application for development consent. Associated Development is development included within the DCO Application which is associated with and subordinate to the principal development.
- 11.3.2. The components of the Scheme considered to form the Authorised Development, including those components that are Associated Development, are listed in Schedule 1 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) and the **Explanatory Memorandum** (Doc Ref. 3.2).

11.4. Limits of Deviation and Design Parameters

- 11.4.1. Article 6 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) outline the use of limits of deviation by the Scheme. The limits of deviation are designed to ensure that the DCO, if granted, includes a proportionate amount of flexibility for certain aspects of the consented project, allowing a degree of 'deviation' from certain plans and drawings.
- 11.4.2. Limits of deviation are necessary because consent is being sought whilst the Scheme is still in preliminary design stage. In accordance with standard industry practice, a contractor will be appointed to carry out the detailed design after the DCO application has been submitted. It is therefore imperative that the consent has sufficient flexibility built in to ensure that the Scheme can be implemented and delivered in due course without the risk of a breach in the terms of the DCO.
- 11.4.3. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that the consent is drafted in terms which can accommodate unforeseeable physical site conditions. Such as, for example, geological and ground conditions complications, which could necessitate a design change.
- 11.4.4. The general approach of having limits of deviation in a DCO is well precedented in applications accepted by the Planning Inspectorate across other solar energy projects.
- 11.4.5. **Figure 11-1** illustrates the approach to demarcating the limits of deviation on the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3).
- 11.4.6. The Applicant proposes further control of flexibility through the use of **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.5). The Design Parameters describe the measures which the detailed design must be designed in accordance with. For example, the

Design Parameters set out the maximum dimensions for key elements of the Scheme including the lattice towers, substation, solar stations and PV panels.

- 11.4.7. The Environmental Statement has assessed the 'worst case' scenario permitted by the Design Parameters i.e. the greatest height/width/depth of a structure.

11.5. Compulsory Acquisition and Class of Rights

- 11.5.1. The Applicant will be seeking powers of compulsory acquisition in order to implement the Scheme. At a high level, the Applicant will be seeking powers for:

- Permanent acquisition of land and rights;
- Temporary acquisition of land and rights; and
- Temporary acquisition of land and permanent acquisition of rights.

- 11.5.2. To define the activities and rights upon which the Applicant could exercise the compulsory acquisition powers, classes of rights have been developed. These are defined in the **Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.3) and illustrated on the **Land Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.4).

11.6. Requirements

- 11.6.1. The requirements set out in **Schedule 2 - Requirements** to the **Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1) are akin to planning conditions attached to a planning permission. They set out the requirements that the Applicant would be required to accord with when implementing the development authorised by the DCO. They may relate to different stages of the Scheme (i.e. detailed design, construction, operation and decommissioning).

- 11.6.2. Schedule 14 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) sets out the procedure for the discharge of requirements, including the relevant timeframes for the sign off of any requirements by the relevant local planning authority.

12. Mitigation Route Map and Control Documents

12.1. Overview

- 12.1.1. This section describes the mitigation route map, which is the framework for mitigating, monitoring and controlling the effects of the Scheme. It comprises a series of 'control documents' which present the mitigation measures identified within the DCO application that must be implemented during the design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
- 12.1.2. In addition to the control measures that are included as part of the DCO application, there will be a series of controls that will provide further mitigation as required by other consents, licences and permits that the Applicant will seek separately. The other approvals likely to be required by the Applicant in addition to the DCO are set out in the **Schedule of Other Consents and Licences** (Doc Ref. 3.3).
- 12.1.3. The mitigation route map is illustrated in **Figure 12-1**.

Meridian Solar Farm Mitigation Route Map

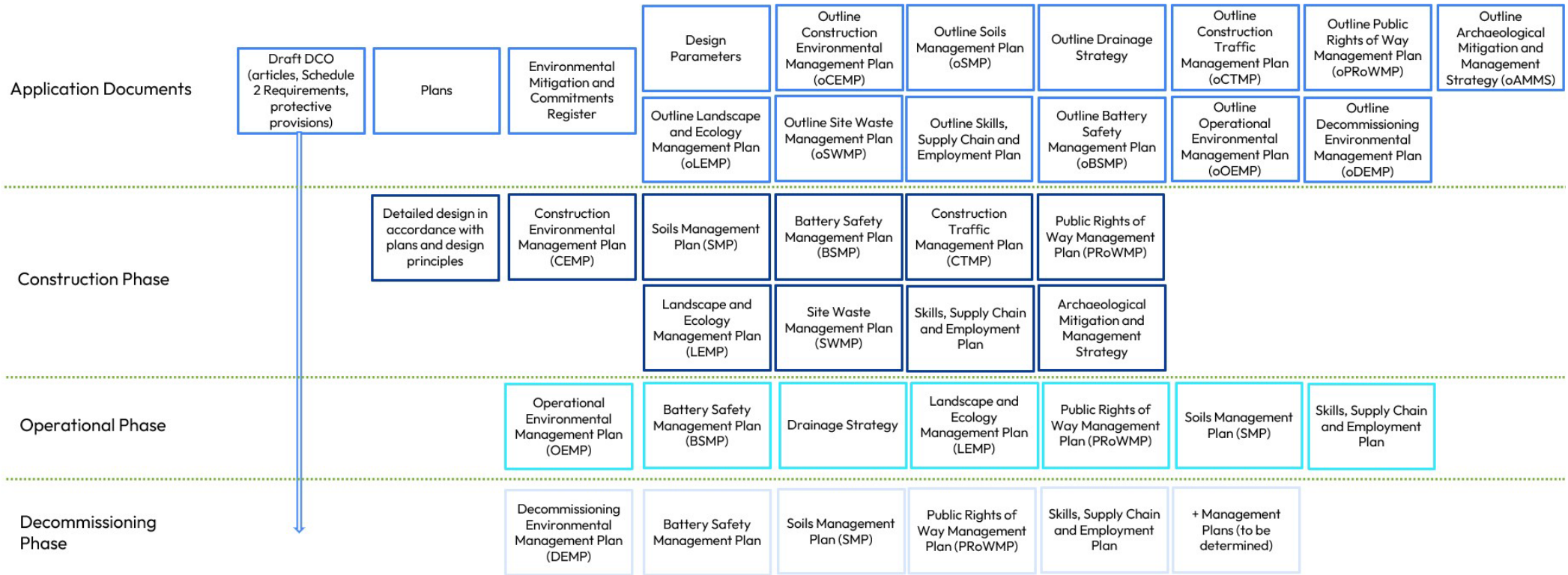


Figure 12-1 Mitigation Route Map

- 12.1.4. Each document referenced in **Figure 12-1** is secured within the Draft DCO by means of an article or a specific requirement within Schedule 2.
- 12.1.5. The figure also illustrates which of these documents has been submitted as part of the DCO application and their relevance to each phase of the Scheme.
- 12.1.6. Following acceptance of the DCO application, some control documents may be subject to amendment during the examination process as a result of continued stakeholder engagement and any matters for change arising through the examination process itself.
- 12.1.7. Should the DCO application be granted, the Applicant would progress the detailed design of the Scheme in line with the commitments and mitigation measures outlined within the control documents. The commitments proposed by the Applicant are summarised in the **Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register** (Doc Ref. 7.7).

12.2. Management Plans

- 12.2.1. Some control documents have been submitted as 'outline' versions which contain the processes and frameworks for managing impacts or establishing measures, and will be further developed post-consent as more detailed information is available. Final versions will be subsequently submitted to the relevant authority prior to the beginning of construction, operation or decommissioning. The timing of when a management plan is to be submitted is stipulated within the Schedule 2 Requirements, and the procedure for their review and approval is set out within Schedule 14 which forms part of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1).
- 12.2.2. The following subsections describe how the Scheme is controlled at its various stages.

12.3. Control Documents at Each Stage of the Scheme

Detailed Design

- 12.3.1. Should the DCO application be granted, the Applicant would produce the detailed design in accordance with the control documents which contain measures relating to the design. These will principally be:
 - **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3);
 - **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.6);

- **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12);
- **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4);
- **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9);
- **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.15);
- **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.16);
- The Limits of Deviation which are defined in Article 6 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) and illustrated on the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3). The Limits of Deviation can apply to the horizontal and vertical movement of components of the Scheme. The maximum extent has been assessed within the ES.

Construction

12.3.2. The control documents setting out the measures to be implemented during the construction phase are:

- **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.6)
- **Traffic Regulation Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.7);
- **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4);
- **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.10);
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.13);
- **Outline Soil Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.14);
- **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.15);
- **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.16);
- **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.17);
- **Outline Site Waste Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.19).
- **Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy** (to be submitted during the examination).

12.3.3. The measures contained within these documents are to appropriately manage and mitigate the impacts that may occur during the construction phase.

Operation

12.3.4. The control documents that provide measures to be implemented during the operational phase are:

- **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref 7.11);**
- **Outline Soil Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.14);**
- **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.15);**
- **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16);**
- **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Doc Ref. 7.17);**
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.18);**
- **Outline Drainage Strategy (Doc Ref. 6.3).**

Decommissioning

12.3.5. During the decommissioning stage, measures will be in place as outlined in the following control documents:

- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.12);**
- **Outline Soil Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.14);**
- **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.15);**
- **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Doc Ref. 7.17);**
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.18).**

13. Identifying Information within the Application

13.1. Overview

13.1.1. In order to aid clarity and understanding, this section provides further guidance on how to locate information relating to cross-cutting themes throughout the DCO application.

13.2. Identifying Information Geographically

13.2.1. Given the linear nature of the Scheme, some sets of plans have been split into two sections to aid navigation:

- Section A: Solar Development Areas and Inter-Array Connections;
- Section B: Grid Connection Route.

13.2.2. The **Master Key Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.2) illustrates which parts of the Scheme are contained within each section.

13.3. Identifying Information Thematically

13.3.1. A number of key themes have been identified by the Applicant and stakeholders during consultation and technical engagement, some of which are cross-cutting through the application. **Table 13-1** comprises a list of the key cross-cutting themes, together with a summary of where these matters are addressed within the application documents.

Table 13-1 Cross-cutting themes and the locations where addressed within the DCO application

Theme	Location within the DCO application
Site Selection, Alternatives and Design Evolution	<p>ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1) identifies the reasonable alternatives considered by the Applicant during the development of the Scheme.</p> <p>Appendix D: Site Selection Report (Doc Ref. 7.1) sets out the Applicant's approach to site selection including the criteria considered to identify the Site.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) sets out how the design of the Scheme has evolved. It sets out the background to the Scheme, how the design has changed</p>

Theme	Location within the DCO application
	<p>based on consultation feedback and technical assessments, and the approach to delivering good design outcomes.</p> <p>The Statement of Reasons (Doc Ref. 4.1) sets out the approach to Scheme design and alternatives in the context of the case for compulsory acquisition.</p>
Design Parameters	<p>The Works Plans (Doc Ref. 2.3) show the extent of individual works and the limits of deviation within which the development and works may be carried out. The limits of deviation apply as described in Article 6 of the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1).</p> <p>The parameters of the Scheme are secured within the Design Parameters (Doc Ref. 7.4), for compliance at detailed design.</p> <p>ES Chapter 2: The Scheme (Doc Ref. 6.1) explains how those design elements have been assessed within the ES.</p>
Consultation and Engagement	<p>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 5.1) and its appendices set out the methodology and outcomes of the pre-application consultations undertaken to support the Scheme.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) includes details as to how consultation and stakeholder feedback has influenced the design of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Inter-Relationships with Other Infrastructure Projects (Doc Ref. 7.2) describes the relationship between the Scheme and other Projects in the vicinity of the scheme. It summarises engagement and coordination between the Applicant and the promoters of the identified projects.</p> <p>The Statements of Common Ground (Doc Ref. 7.22) between the Applicant and key stakeholders set out matters agreed and not agreed between the Applicant and key stakeholders.</p> <p>Each of the topic-specific ES Chapters (Doc Ref. 6.1) summarises engagement on matters specific to that ES topic.</p>

Theme	Location within the DCO application
	The Land Rights Tracker (Doc Ref. 4.4) describes the latest position of landowner negotiations.

13.4. Cumulative Effects

- 13.4.1. As outlined within **ES Chapter 4: Overview of the EIA Process** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations)², two types of cumulative effects are assessed and reported as part of the Environmental Statement; inter-project cumulative effects and intra-project cumulative effects.
- 13.4.2. **Inter-project cumulative effects:** where there is the potential for two or more developments that are reasonably foreseeable and/or consented but not yet forming part of the baseline environment, and within close enough proximity to the Scheme, to lead to significant cumulative environmental effects on the same receptor. Each ES Chapter (**ES Chapter 5 to ES Chapter 16** (Doc Ref. 6.1)) provides an assessment of inter-project cumulative effects as a result of the Scheme and other projects.
- 13.4.3. **Intra-project cumulative effects:** also referred to as ‘effect interactions’; these comprise the combined effects of individual impacts from the Scheme which have been identified as part of the assessments reported within **ES Chapter 5 to ES Chapter 16** (Doc Ref. 6.1). Intra-project cumulative effects may result in a new or different likely significant effect or an effect of greater significance than any one of the impacts on their own. For example, this can happen during construction, if a receptor is subjected to noise, dust, and visual impacts associated with site works. **ES Chapter 17: Effect Interactions** (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents the findings of the assessment of intra-project cumulative effects resulting from the Scheme where these are not already considered within topic specific chapters of the ES.

² The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents> [Accessed 9 December 2025]

14. Conclusion

- 14.1.1. This Guide to the Application intends to help the ExA and Interested Parties understand the DCO Application by signposting the documents that make up the application and explaining the key concepts and controls for the Scheme. It is for information only and does not serve as a certified document.
- 14.1.2. At each deadline, the **Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4), described in Section 4 of this Guide, will be updated to reflect the most current versions of documents submitted into the examination alongside any new documentation.

