



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 7

Other Documents

7.2 Inter-Relationships
with Other NSIPs Report

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 Inter-Relationships with Other NSIPs Report forms part of an application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (the 'Act') for a Development Consent Order (the DCO Application) for the Scheme.
- 1.1.2. 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.
- 1.1.3. 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).
- 1.1.4. 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').
- 1.1.5. 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 section with the proposed overhead line.
- 1.1.6. 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.

- 1.1.7. The purpose of this Inter-Relationships with Other NSIPs Report is to describe the Scheme's interaction with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) that are considered reasonably foreseeable at the time of submission. This report is based on publicly available information.
- 1.1.8. This document should be read alongside information that is contained within the other application documents and plans, specifically the assessment of cumulative effects which formally assesses the impacts of cumulative schemes within each topic-specific chapter of the ES. This report is intended to supplement, not replace, that assessment.

1.2. Structure of the Report

- 1.2.1. This report is structured as follows:
 - Section 2 identifies the projects considered, setting out the key details of the project including its temporal and spatial relationship to the Scheme; and
 - Section 3 summarises the engagement and coordination between the Applicant and these other projects.

2. Overview of Projects Considered

- 2.1.1. **Table 2-1** identifies the projects considered for inclusion in this report, with further details of each of these projects as of the point of DCO submission. The timescales set out in **Table 2-1** are indicative and derived from publicly available information on each of the projects.
- 2.1.2. **Figure 2-1** illustrates the spatial relationship between these projects and Meridian Solar Farm.
- 2.1.3. The A47 Wansford to Sutton promoted by National Highways was granted consent on 17th February 2023, however, following the Spending Review, this project was cancelled in August 2025. Further, the Kilinside Energy Park was withdrawn from the Planning Inspectorate's pre-application services on 30 January 2026. Neither of these projects have been considered further in this report.
- 2.1.4. The following subsections provide a summary of the various projects, including the nature and location of development, the timing of consenting and construction, and where relevant, information on each scheme's grid connection or decommissioning. Assumed overlaps with other projects inform the cumulative scenarios assessed in the ES.

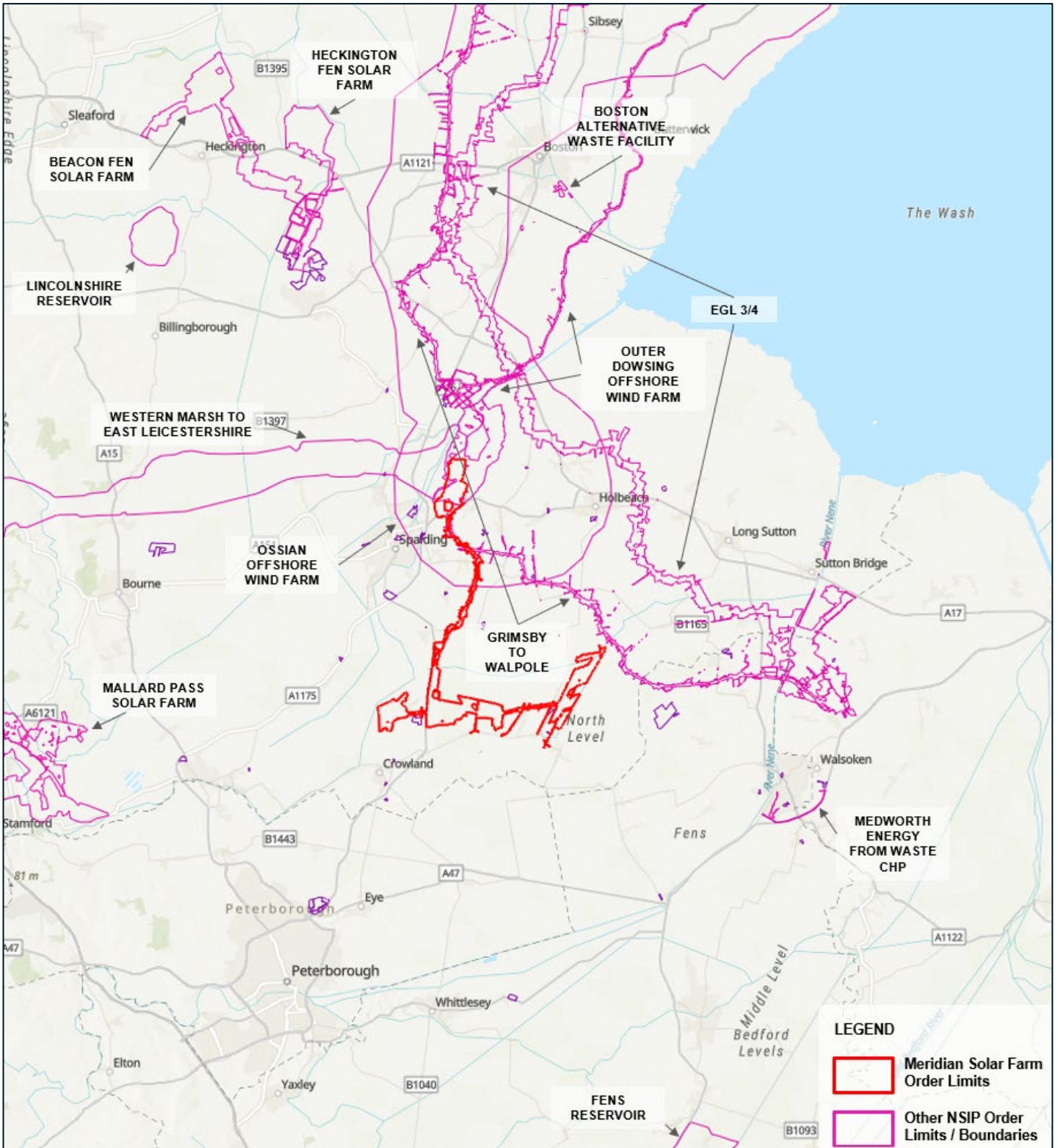


Figure 2-1 Location of Other NSIPs within 25km of the Scheme

Table 2-1 Overview of Projects

Project Name	Promoter	Distance to Meridian Solar Farm	Stage of Application	Latest Environmental Information Available	Date Application Submitted/Due/Decision	Spatial Relationship	Temporal Relationship	Considered in Cumulative Effects Assessment
Grimsby to Walpole	National Grid Electricity Transmission	Overlap	Pre-Application	PEIR	Expected submission June 2027	Yes	Potential - Construction is assumed to commence in 2029 and continue to 2033. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Cultural Heritage • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Hydrology and Flood Risk • Landscape and Visual • Noise and Vibration • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Traffic and Access • Electric and Magnetic Fields
Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire	National Grid Electricity Transmission	Overlap	Pre-Application	Scoping Report submitted November 2025.	Expected submission March 2028	Yes	Potential - Construction assumed to be undertaken between 2030-2034. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Cultural Heritage • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Hydrology and Flood Risk • Landscape and Visual • Noise and Vibration • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Traffic and Access • Electric and Magnetic Fields

Project Name	Promoter	Distance to Meridian Solar Farm	Stage of Application	Latest Environmental Information Available	Date Application Submitted/Due/Decision	Spatial Relationship	Temporal Relationship	Considered in Cumulative Effects Assessment
Ossian Transmission Infrastructure	Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Ltd	Overlap	Pre-Application	Scoping Report submitted February 2025.	Expected submission October 2027	Potential	Potential - Unknown. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Cultural Heritage • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Hydrology and Flood Risk • Landscape and Visual • Noise and Vibration • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Traffic and Access
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind	GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind)	1.3km NE	Post-Decision	Environmental Statement	DCO granted 10 February 2026	No	Potential - construction could begin in 2027. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Hydrology and Flood Risk • Landscape and Visual • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Traffic and Access
Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 (EGL3/4)	National Grid Electricity Transmission	4km E	Pre-Application	PEIR	Expected submission August 2026	No	Potential - Unknown. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage • Ecology and Biodiversity • Hydrology and Flood Risk

Project Name	Promoter	Distance to Meridian Solar Farm	Stage of Application	Latest Environmental Information Available	Date Application Submitted/Due/Decision	Spatial Relationship	Temporal Relationship	Considered in Cumulative Effects Assessment
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and Visual • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Traffic and Access
Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility	Medworth CHP Limited	13km SE	Post-Decision	Environmental Statement	DCO Granted 20 February 2024	No	Potential- according to the ES for this scheme construction was predicted across 2023-2026. Based on the scheme not gaining consent until 2024, this is assumed to shift to 2025-2028. However, overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Socio-Economics and Land Use
Boston Alternative Energy Facility	Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd	13km N	Post-Decision	Environmental Statement	DCO Granted 6 July 2023	No	Potential – start of construction is unknown. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Socio-Economics and Land Use
Beacon Fen Energy Park	Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited	14km NW	Recommendation	Environmental Statement	Decision expected before end of 2026	No	Potential - Construction to start in 2027, lasting 2.5 - 5 years. Overlap is assumed for a	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture & Soils • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health

Project Name	Promoter	Distance to Meridian Solar Farm	Stage of Application	Latest Environmental Information Available	Date Application Submitted/Due/Decision	Spatial Relationship	Temporal Relationship	Considered in Cumulative Effects Assessment
							worst case assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Waste
Heckington Fen Solar Park	Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited	15km NW	Post-Decision	Environmental Statement	DCO Granted 24 January 2025	No	Potential - Unknown. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture & Soils • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Waste
Lincolnshire Reservoir	Anglian Water	15km NW	Pre-Application	N/A	Expected submission November 2028	No	Potential - Construction to start 2031/32. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and Biodiversity • Human Health • Socio-Economics and Land Use
Mallard Pass Solar Project	Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited	16km SW	Post-Decision	Environmental Statement	DCO Granted 12 July 2024	No	Potential - The earliest construction would start is 2026, lasting 24 months. Overlap is assumed for a worst case assessment.	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture & Soils • Human Health • Socio-Economics and Land Use • Waste
Fens Reservoir	Cambridge Water & Anglian Water	25km S	Pre-Application	Scoping Report submitted 24 October 2024	Expected submission February 2027	No	Potential - Currently estimated that the earliest construction could commence is 2028. Overlap is assumed for a	Yes - Potential for significant environmental effects that merit consideration within the CEA. Topics considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Health • Socio-Economics and Land Use

Project Name	Promoter	Distance to Meridian Solar Farm	Stage of Application	Latest Environmental Information Available	Date Application Submitted/Due/Decision	Spatial Relationship	Temporal Relationship	Considered in Cumulative Effects Assessment
							worst case assessment.	

2.2. Grimsby to Walpole

2.2.1. The Grimsby to Walpole project is a new high-voltage electricity transmission line promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) as part of its Great Grid Upgrade. The project comprises:

- Approximately 140 km of new 400 kV transmission lines overhead lines;
- A new 400 kV substation to be built in the vicinity of the existing Grimsby West 400 kV substation in North East Lincolnshire;
- Two new 400 kV Lincolnshire Connection substations located south-west of Mablethorpe (referred to as Lincolnshire Connection Substation A and Lincolnshire Connection Substation B);
- Two new 400 kV substations located in Weston Marsh (referred to as Weston Marsh Substation A and Weston Marsh Substation B) as well as a new 400kV underground cable connecting the two substations;
- A new 400 kV substation in proximity to the existing Walpole Substation (referred to as Walpole B Substation); and
- Replacement of short sections of existing 400 kV overhead line and local changes to lower voltage distribution networks.

2.2.2. The Grimsby to Walpole project is at the pre-application stage with an application for development consent due to be submitted in June 2027. It has held several public consultations to date; including its Stage 1 Consultation between January 2024 and March 2024, and a Stage 2 Consultation between June 2025 and August 2025. During the Stage 2 Consultation, NGET was still considering whether one or two new substations would be required at Weston Marsh and committed to undertaking further consultation once more detail was available. A targeted consultation on its proposals for two new substations at Weston Marsh was subsequently held between November 2025 and December 2025.

2.2.3. The alignment of the 400 kV transmission line presented as part of NGET's Stage 2 Consultation overlaps with the Scheme's Grid Connection Route between Weston Hills and Weston. While the current alignment shared publicly by NGET as of November 2025 shows an area of overlap in the routing near Weston Marsh, direct engagement with NGET has confirmed there is a routing approach for the two projects which would mean they can align parallel through this section. If that routing change is not made by NGET however, then the Applicant

has retained flexibility as set out in further detail at paragraph 2.2.5 below to manage the interaction towards the projects (see **Figure 2-2**). The Applicant would route overhead line within the western side of the corridor with Grimsby to Walpole retaining the alignment to the east toward the Weston Marsh A Substation.

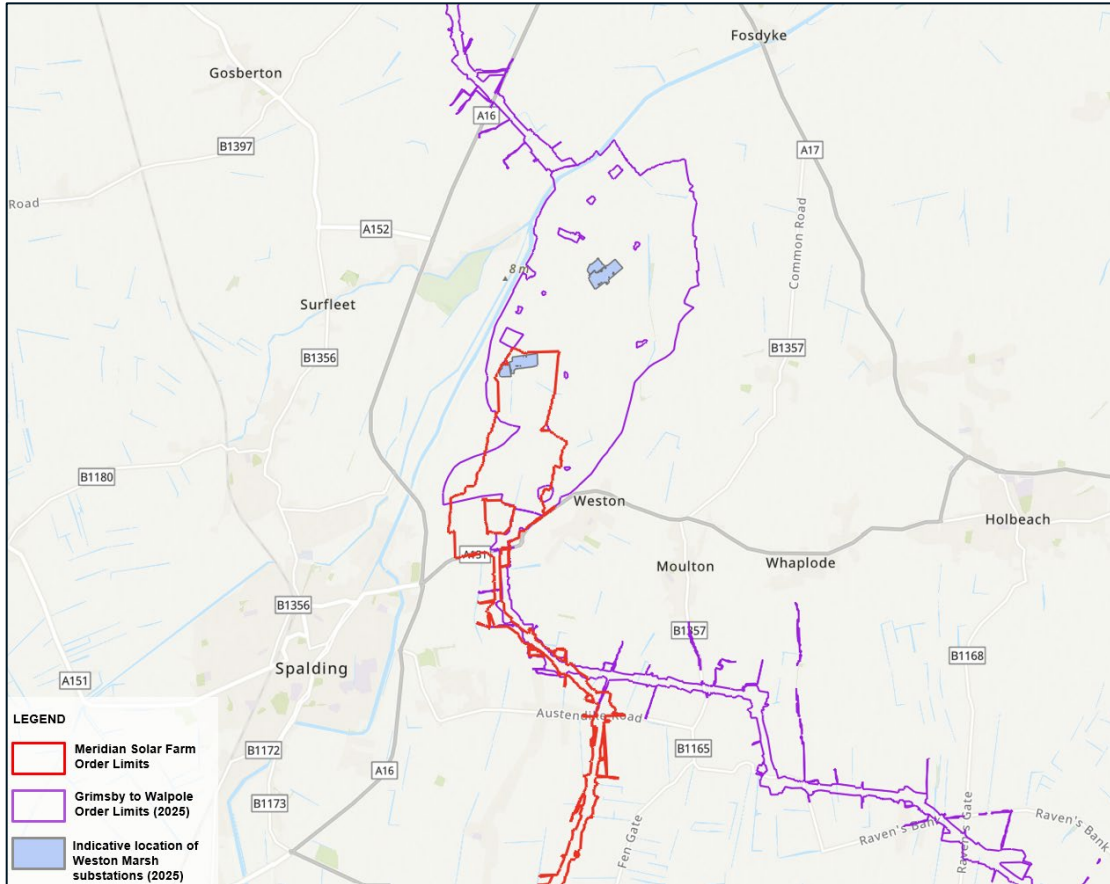


Figure 2-2 Location of the Grimsby to Walpole project in relation to the Meridian Solar Farm

- 2.2.4. There is also overlap between the Scheme and an existing 400 kV overhead line with lattice pylons (2WS). This segment of overhead line would be dismantled as part of the Grimsby to Walpole project and modified to connect into the Weston Marsh B Substation.
- 2.2.5. As NGET’s proposals remain indicative, the Applicant has sought flexibility within the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3) for the Grid Connection Route to the north of High Road near Weston. This flexibility would allow for the Applicant to reroute its overhead line within the Order Limits to respond to design refinements as part of the Grimsby to Walpole project. The Applicant has also sought flexibility within Work No. 14 as shown on the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3) to underground within

this area should this be the most appropriate option to ensure the Scheme can connect to the Weston Marsh B Substation. Further detail justifying the flexibility sought is set out in the **Statement of Reasons** (Doc Ref. 4.1).

- 2.2.6. NGET intends to bring forward its proposals for the Weston Marsh A Substation ahead of the wider Grimsby to Walpole project to facilitate the timely connection of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm by 2030. Consents will be required under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Electricity Act 1989 separately to the DCO Application. Should permission not be granted, they will be incorporated in the DCO Application for Grimsby to Walpole.
- 2.2.7. The Applicant continues to work with the Grimsby to Walpole project team to manage any potential design interfaces between the two projects. Details of engagement with the Grimsby to Walpole project team are provided in Section 3.

2.3. Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

- 2.3.1. Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire is another project that forms part of National Grid's Great Grid Upgrade near to the Scheme. It comprises approximately 60 km of new overhead high voltage transmission lines between Lincolnshire and the West Midlands, with two new substations constructed (WMEL-A and WMEL-B). The proposal would also include the reconductoring of approximately 55 km existing transmission infrastructure.
- 2.3.2. A Stage 1 consultation for the project occurred between June 2025 and August 2025 which included potential route corridors which connected into the search area presented at Weston Marsh as part of the Grimsby to Walpole proposals at the time. It is anticipated that a more refined route will be presented as part of its Stage 2 Consultation planned for 2026.
- 2.3.3. The swathes presented as part of the Stage 1 Consultation overlaps with the Scheme at the Weston Marsh B Substation. The emerging preferred corridor from Western Marsh to East Leicestershire indicates that the overhead line would approach Weston Marsh B Substation from the west.
- 2.3.4. NGET intends to submit the DCO application for Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire in 2028, with construction commencing in 2029 and concluding by 2033. The Applicant continues to work with the NGET to manage any potential design interfaces between the two projects.

2.4. Ossian Transmission Infrastructure

- 2.4.1. Ossian Transmission Infrastructure refers to the onshore infrastructure associated with the Ossian Offshore Windfarm promoted by SSE Renewables, including the high voltage direct current onshore export cables, landfall structures, HVDC onshore export cables, and onshore converter stations.
- 2.4.2. The scheme would make landfall on the Lincolnshire coast. From there, underground transmission cables would connect to two separate grid connection points. One would be the Lincolnshire Connection Substation A, located in East Lindsey, and the other would be one of the two Weston Marsh substations.
- 2.4.3. Based on the information available, there is not expected to be a physical overlap between the Ossian Transmission Infrastructure and the Meridian Solar Farm infrastructure. It is expected that the Ossian Transmission Infrastructure would connect from the north and therefore into Weston Marsh A Substation. Notwithstanding, there may be an overlap of construction activity (such as on the road network) when both projects construct their respective connections into the Weston Marsh Substations. Any such interaction is considered within the cumulative effects assessment contained within **ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** (Doc Ref. 6.1).
- 2.4.4. The offshore windfarm will be consented separately, with an application submitted to Scottish Government in June 2024. A decision is still to be made. A separate application will be made for the subsea cables and onshore transmission infrastructure through an application for development consent. The promotor submitted a request for a Screening Opinion in February 2025. It was subsequently followed by a non-statutory consultation in March 2025.
- 2.4.5. The promotor expects to submit the DCO application in October 2027, with a decision expected in early 2029 and construction subsequently commencing.
- 2.4.6. The project would become operational in the early 2030s, with a projected lifetime of 35 years. As set out within the **Outline CTMP** (Doc Ref. 7.13), there is an opportunity to combine mitigation in order to reduce cumulative impacts during the construction phase. Further details (if deemed appropriate and feasible) will be set out within the Framework CTMP(s) or potentially as part of a joint CTMP post-consent once further details in relation to the Ossian Transmission Infrastructure are known.

2.5. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

- 2.5.1. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind is an offshore wind farm located off the coast of Lincolnshire. The scheme comprises up to 100 wind turbines and offshore substations, cables, and reactive compensation platforms. NESO confirmed that Outer Dowsing will connect to a Weston Marsh Substation. Therefore, the project includes an approximately 70 km onshore cable corridor from the landfall location at Wolla Bank (north-east Lincolnshire) to a new substation at Weston Marsh.
- 2.5.2. The Order Limits for both the Scheme and Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind do not overlap, but there may be an overlap of construction activity when both projects construct their respective connections into the Weston Marsh Substations (see **Figure 2-3**). It is assumed that Outer Dowsing would connect into Weston Marsh Substation A while Meridian Solar Farm are anticipating a connection into Weston Marsh Substation B. This information reflects current publicly available information. The Applicant would continue to engage with Outer Dowsing should the grid connection strategy change in the future.

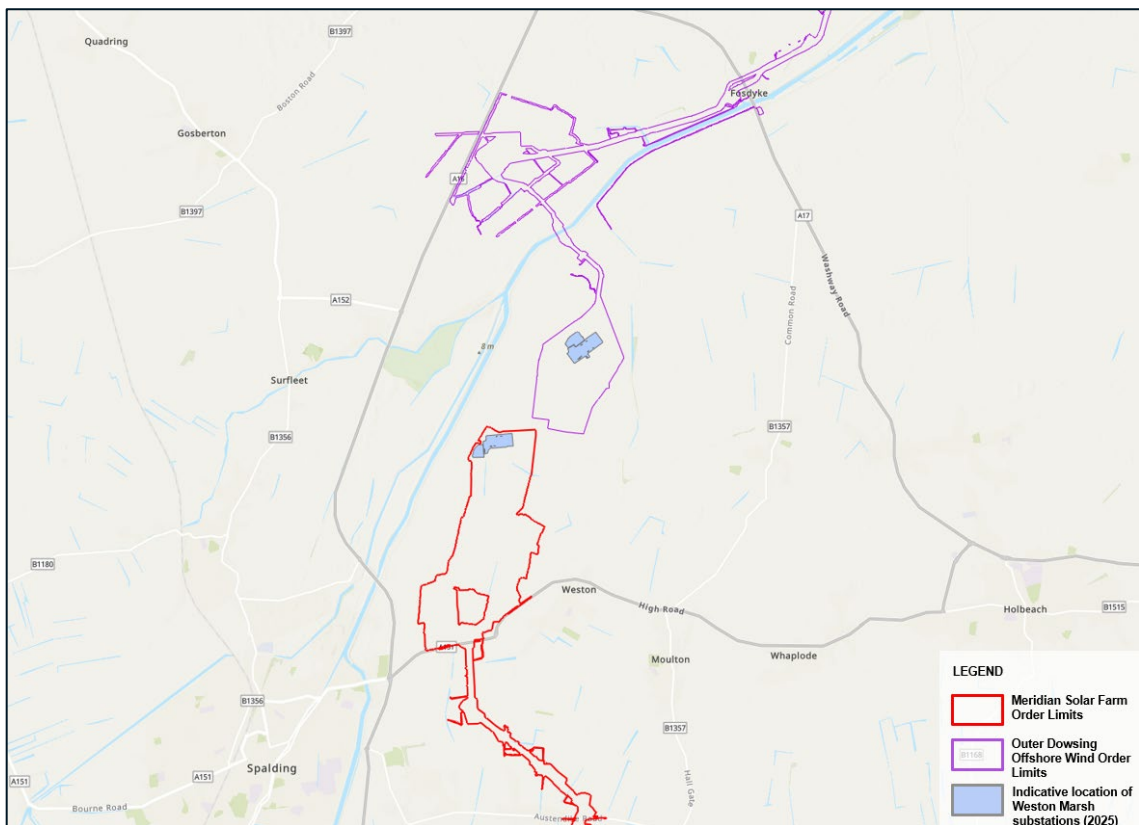


Figure 2-3 Location of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Order Limits in relation to Meridian Solar Farm

- 2.5.3. The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind DCO Application was granted consent in February 2026. It is anticipated that construction of the onshore works would commence in 2027, with the installation of the cable expected to be completed by Autumn 2030. As set out within the **Outline CTMP** (Doc Ref. 7.13), there is an opportunity to combine mitigation in order to reduce cumulative impacts during the construction phase. Further details (if deemed appropriate and feasible) will be set out within the Framework CTMP(s) or potentially as part of a joint CTMP post-consent once further details in relation to the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm are known.
- 2.5.4. Whilst the operational lifespan of Outer Dowsing Offshore Windfarm is anticipated to be 35 years, onshore decommissioning works near the Scheme would be minimal, as onshore cables would be left in-situ.

2.6. Eastern Green Link 3 and 4

- 2.6.1. Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 (EGL 3&4) comprises two offshore and onshore high voltage electricity cables between Scotland and England, promoted by NGET. The scheme is in the pre-application stage, with a Stage Two Consultation held between May and June 2025.
- 2.6.2. The onshore section of the project would be in the form of underground cables. The cables would run between the landfall location on the Lincolnshire Coast to a planned substation in Walpole. The indicative route, published in May 2025, would run from north to south across Spalding Marsh, approximately 1 km north of the Weston Marsh area. The cable would continue to south-east to the planned Walpole substation, approximately 10 km east of Meridian Solar Farm's overhead line. Meridian's Solar Development Area would be approximately 9km from the underground cable at the closest point.
- 2.6.3. NGET intends submit its application for development consent in Summer 2026. The documentation published as part of the Stage Two Consultation anticipates construction commencing in 2029, however, given the extensive length of the project, the documents do not specify the timing of the works closer to the Scheme.

2.7. Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility

- 2.7.1. The Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility (CHP) is a new energy from waste development promoted by Medworth CHP Limited. The

scheme will divert roughly 500,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste from landfill each year and generate over 50 MW of electricity.

- 2.7.2. Development consent was granted in February 2024. The indicative construction programme submitted as part of the application indicates a construction period of approximately 36 months, with works anticipated to commence in 2025. The project is expected to have an operational lifespan of approximately 40 years, followed by a decommissioning period of around one year.
- 2.7.3. The Medworth Energy from Waste CHP will be located at the Algores Waste Industrial Estate in Wisbech, approximately 13 km south-east of the Meridian Solar Farm. There is no physical overlap between the Scheme and the Medworth Energy from Waste CHP. While there may be some temporal overlap during the construction phases of the two projects, given the separation distance, there has not been any need to undertake coordination between the two projects.

2.8. Boston Alternative Energy Facility

- 2.8.1. The Boston Alternative Energy Facility will comprise an energy from waste facility with a lightweight aggregates facility, wharf, waste reception and storage facility and grid connection located on site. The scheme will generate 102 MW of renewable energy, of which 80MW will be exported to the National Grid and the rest will be used by the facility.
- 2.8.2. The scheme will be located at Riverside Industrial Estate in Boston, approximately 13km north of the planned Weston Marsh Substation location. Development consent was granted in July 2023 with construction expected to commence in 2026 with the facility anticipated to enter commercial operation in 2027.
- 2.8.3. Given the distance between the Boston Alternative Energy Facility and Meridian Solar Farm, as well as the anticipated construction and operational programmes, the Applicant does not consider there to be a need to coordinate with the promoter of this project.

2.9. Beacon Fen Energy Park

- 2.9.1. Beacon Fen Energy Park is a nationally significant renewable energy project comprising a 400 MW solar photovoltaic farm, incorporating up to 600 MVA of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity and an on-site substation. The project is being promoted by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited.

- 2.9.2. The application for development consent was submitted in April 2025 and accepted for examination in May 2025. The examination closed in February 2026, and the project is currently at the recommendation stage. A decision on the application is expected before the end of 2026.
- 2.9.3. Subject to consent being granted, construction of Beacon Fen Energy Park is expected to commence in 2027, with a construction period anticipated to last between approximately 2.5 and 5 years.
- 2.9.4. Beacon Fen Energy Park is located approximately 13 km north-west of the Meridian Solar Farm. Based on the information available, there is no expected physical overlap between the Beacon Fen Energy Park infrastructure and the Meridian Solar Farm Scheme, and therefore, the Applicant does not consider there to be a need to coordinate with the promotor of this project.

2.10. Heckington Fen Solar Park

- 2.10.1. Heckington Fen Solar Park is a solar energy project being promoted by Ecotricity Limited. The proposed development comprises the construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a generating capacity of up to 500 MW.
- 2.10.2. The Heckington Fen Solar Park is in Lincolnshire, approximately 15 km north-west of the Meridian Solar Farm. Based on the information available, there is no expected physical overlap between the Heckington Fen Solar Park and the Meridian Solar Farm Scheme and therefore, the Applicant does not consider there to be a need to coordinate with the promotor of this project.
- 2.10.3. Development consent for the Heckington Fen Solar Park was granted in January 2025. Construction is expected to take approximately 30 months. The solar park is anticipated to have an operational lifespan of around 40 years, after which the development would be decommissioned.

2.11. Lincolnshire Reservoir

- 2.11.1. Lincolnshire Reservoir is a water infrastructure project being promoted by Anglian Water. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) confirmed the projects classification as a NSIP. The proposed development comprises the construction, commissioning and operation of a raw water storage reservoir with a capacity of approximately 55 million cubic metres (MCM), together with associated water supply infrastructure.

- 2.11.2. Anglian Water's target is for the reservoir to be operational and in supply by 2039 at the earliest. Statutory consultation on the project is currently planned to take place in 2027, with an application for development consent anticipated to be submitted in late 2028 or 2029.
- 2.11.3. Subject to the grant of development consent, construction of the Lincolnshire Reservoir is expected to commence in 2031 or 2032.
- 2.11.4. The Lincolnshire Reservoir would be located approximately 15km north-west of the Meridian Solar Farm. Based on the information available, there is no expected physical overlap between the Lincolnshire Reservoir project and the Meridian Solar Farm Scheme and therefore, the Applicant does not consider there to be a need to coordinate with the promotor of this project.

2.12. Mallard Pass Solar Project

- 2.12.1. The Mallard Pass Solar Project is a solar energy development for which development consent was granted in July 2024. The project comprises a large-scale solar farm of approximately 530,000 solar panels, with a generating capacity of around 350 MW, together with associated infrastructure including a grid connection to the nearby Ryhall Substation.
- 2.12.2. The main solar area is located in Essendine, approximately 19 km west of the Meridian Solar Farm. Based on the information available, there is no physical overlap between the Mallard Pass Solar Project and the Meridian Solar Farm Scheme. Construction is expected to commence in 2026 and would last 24 months. There is unlikely to be a significant overlap during construction of the two projects and therefore, the Applicant does not consider there to be a need to coordinate with the promotor of this project.

2.13. Fens Reservoir

- 2.13.1. The Fens Reservoir is a proposed water infrastructure project jointly promoted by Cambridge Water and Anglian Water. The proposed development comprises a new raw water storage reservoir with a capacity of approximately 55 million cubic litres, together with associated water supply infrastructure.
- 2.13.2. The Fens Reservoir is currently at the pre-application stage. Submission of the application for development consent is expected in February 2027. Subject to consent being granted, construction is anticipated to commence around 2029 or 2030, with the reservoir expected to become operational in 2036 at the earliest.

2.13.3. The proposed reservoir would be located approximately 25 km south-east of the Meridian Solar Farm. Whilst the two schemes could be constructed at the same time, given the distance of the reservoir to the Scheme and its current stage within the process, the Applicant does not consider it necessary to coordinate at this point in time.

3. Engagement and Coordination

3.1. National Grid Electricity Transmission

- 3.1.1. As the Scheme is reliant on the Grimsby to Walpole project to deliver the connection substation at Weston Marsh, the Applicant has regularly engaged with NGET.
- 3.1.2. A significant number of meetings and workshops have been held between the Applicant and NGET since the acceptance of the Grid Connection Offer in May 2022.
- 3.1.3. The Applicant and NGET increased the regularity of meetings from September 2024, in advance of the Meridian Solar Farm Stage 2 Consultation. The primary intention of this regular and detailed engagement was to seek confirmation of the location, layout and design of the proposed Weston Marsh Substation in order for the Applicant to present the most accurate information available to stakeholders and the community during the consultation.
- 3.1.4. The Applicant and NGET also discussed the potential for a tee connection to the Grimsby to Walpole overhead line. This would represent the most economic and efficient solution for the Scheme as the Grimsby to Walpole line runs adjacent to the Scheme at Land Parcel D. A tee-in would avoid the requirement for a connection directly into the planned Weston Marsh substation, thus substantially reducing the length of the overhead line required. Having initially asked the Applicant to submit a Mod-App for the tee-connection, NGET subsequently advised that it would not provide for a tee-in connection and on this basis, only a connection into the future Weston Marsh Substation was considered deliverable for the grid connection.
- 3.1.5. Following the receipt of the NGET response to the Meridian Solar Stage 2 Consultation, it was determined that NGET's primary concern was regarding the need for technical information to confirm that two overhead lines could be delivered within a shared corridor. Two workshops were subsequently arranged to confirm the feasibility of delivering both OHL's and these we held on:
- 30 June 2025; and
 - 15 July 2025.

- 3.1.6. Through these workshops, representatives from the two project teams worked collaboratively to find solutions in order to ensure that two overhead lines could be delivered at the points of interaction. This meant that both NSIPs could progress without one posing a delivery or operational risks to the other. While the current alignment shared publicly by NGET as of November 2025 shows an area of overlap in the routing near Weston Marsh, direct engagement with NGET has confirmed there is a routing approach for the two projects which would mean they can align parallel through this section. If that routing change is not made by NGET however, then the Applicant has retained flexibility as set out in further detail at paragraph 2.2.5 below to manage the interaction towards the projects.
- 3.1.7. Whilst it was originally intended that an outcome of the first workshops would be for NGET to confirm the location of the Weston Marsh substation, it was announced that there would likely be two substations at Weston Marsh. The indicative locations were not disclosed.
- 3.1.8. A further meeting was held with NGET on 13 August 2025 where the Applicant presented and shared the detail of what would be contained within targeted consultation that ran from 24 September to 22 October 2025. At this point in time, NGET was still considering whether one or two new substations would be required at Weston Marsh and committed to undertaking further consultation once more detail was available, although could not commit as to the timing of that consultation, meaning the Applicant did not consider it appropriate to delay the targeted consultation while waiting for that further release of information by NGET.
- 3.1.9. The targeted consultation contained an updated assumption regarding the point of connection and potential location of one of the Weston Marsh substations. Due to NGET being unable to confirm the location of the substation through engagement since 2022, the Applicant used publicly available information to determine the most likely location of the point of connection for inclusion within its Order Limits.
- 3.1.10. NGET's targeted consultation on the proposal for two new substations at Weston Marsh was subsequently held between November 2025 and December 2025. This included indicative locations of the two substations at Weston Marsh. The location of the substation closest to the Scheme, Weston Marsh B, was sited just beyond the extent of the Order Limits for the Scheme.

- 3.1.11. A design workshop was held on 20 November 2025 to discuss routing options for the Applicant’s Grid Connection Route to connect at the Weston Marsh B Substation and design interaction between the projects. The Applicant subsequently undertook a targeted consultation to incorporate the additional fields required to facilitate a connection into the Weston Marsh B Substation.
- 3.1.12. The Applicant continues to engage with NGET to ensure coordination between its various projects and the Scheme. The Applicant has sought a proportionate degree of flexibility near the Weston Marsh B Substation to account for potential rerouting or undergrounding to manage ongoing design interfaces and phasing coordination as they arise as part of the detailed design process.
- 3.1.13. As set out in the **Outline CEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10) and **Outline CTMP** (Doc Ref. 7.13), there is an opportunity to combine mitigation with other projects, including Grimsby to Walpole and WMEL, during the construction phase in order to reduce cumulative impacts. These opportunities would be considered further post-consent once further details of these projects are better known.
- 3.1.14. **Table 3-1** below outlines the key engagement meetings that were held between the Applicant and NGET to discuss design and the sharing of information:

Table 3-1 Key Engagement Activities and Meetings

Meeting Date	Purpose and Outcome of Meeting
18 July 2024	A Keep in Touch meeting to review progress across respective projects. Included a presentation from both projects on programmes and issues. Confirmation from NGET on location of Weston Marsh was requested, but unable to be forthcoming given design issues and stage of Grimsby to Walpole project which was delivering Weston Marsh. NGET confirmed that opportunity to consent Weston Marsh early via TCPA was being reviewed.
20 September 2024	An update meeting to discuss progression of the projects and to request information relating to siting and design. This included discussion on the Weston Marsh substation location and Meridian Solar Farm Limited’s request for NGET to review the feasibility of a tee connection directly into the new Grimsby to Walpole line.

30 October 2024	A keep in touch meeting to discuss the progression of the Weston Marsh substation design and layout. It was indicated at this meeting that NGET would be able to share design information in December 2024
16 December 2024	A meeting initially indicated to be to discuss the confirmed location of Weston Marsh Substation. At the meeting it was confirmed to Meridian Solar Farm Limited that NGET would not be able to share further detail and that design information would not be forthcoming.
3 March 2025	Communication from NGET that confirmation of the Weston Marsh substation location would not be disclosed and the search area in which it could be located would be substantially increased compared to that shown at the Grimsby to Walpole stage 1 consultation. It was also confirmed by NGET that ‘up to two substations’ would be delivered within the substation siting area to be shown at their Stage 2 Consultation
7 April 2025	An update meeting where Meridian Solar Farm Limited outlined and shared detail relating to the content of the forthcoming Stage 2 Consultation for Meridian Solar Farm
14 April 2025	An update meeting to discuss any work undertaken by NGET in relation to the feasibility of a tee connection into the Grimsby to Walpole overhead line for the Meridian Solar Farm
30 June 2025	A collaborative design workshop to discuss routeing options for the Meridian Solar Grid Connection Route and Grimsby to Walpole overhead line and to discuss options for design approaches where the routes are parallel. The first meeting where two substations in the Weston Marsh area was muted by NGET.

15 July 2025	A follow up meeting to the design workshop to confirm the options discussed on 30 June and agree the preferred options to take forward No confirmation on which substation, or location of them for the connection.
13 August 2025	A meeting where the Applicant ran through the contents of its upcoming targeted consultation, including an updated assumption regarding the point of connection and potential location of one of the Weston Marsh substations.
20 November 2025	A design workshop to discuss routeing options for the Meridian Solar Grid Connection Route to connect at the Weston Marsh B substation and design interaction between the projects
8 December 2025	A follow up meeting to discuss a technical note relating to design interaction and stand off distances where the projects are routed in parallel
12 January 2025	A meeting to discuss the ornithology approach and HRA considerations of the projects
14 January 2025	A meeting to discuss data sharing information requests in relation to the Weston Marsh area

3.2. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

3.2.1. Due to the close proximity of the Meridian Solar Farm and Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project in relation to the points of connection at the Weston Marsh substations, the Applicant has engaged with the Outer Dowsing project team throughout 2025 in order to share project updates.

3.2.2. Meetings between the project teams were held on the following dates:

- 25 June 2025 – a project update meeting to discuss potential interaction of the projects and to discuss the potential for sharing survey data.
- 15 October 2025 – a project update meeting to discuss the Meridian Solar Farm Targeted Consultation.

3.2.3. Following the updated assumption regarding the point of connection for the Scheme as outlined in the Applicant’s Targeted Consultation, it was determined

that no direct overlap of the projects was anticipated. It was however discussed that there could be the potential for cumulative effects in relation to some environmental disciplines (for example traffic and transport) should the construction periods overlap and therefore the teams confirmed that engagement would continue throughout the development of both projects.

