Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.1 ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

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

March 2026

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8. Cultural Heritage

8.1. Introduction

8.1.1. This chapter presents the results of an assessment of the likely significant effects on Cultural Heritage during the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. This assessment considers the potential for physical impacts of the Scheme on the significance of recorded and unrecorded heritage assets within the Site and the impacts on the significance of heritage assets as a result of changes to their setting.

8.1.2. The chapter also presents an overview of the baseline Cultural Heritage assessment and identifies potential measures to mitigate any identified impacts on Cultural Heritage. Consideration of effects on significance and consideration of harm is presented in the Heritage Statement of Harm which is included in Appendix E to the **Planning Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.1)

8.1.3. The assessment is based on the Scheme design as outlined within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6-1).

8.1.4. This chapter is supported by the following ES figures (Doc Ref. 6.2):

- **Figure 8-1: Designated Heritage Assets Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections.**
- **Figure 8-2: Non-Designated Heritage Assets Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections.**
- **Figure 8-3: Designated Heritage Assets Grid Connection Route.**
- **Figure 8-4: Non-Designated Heritage Assets Grid Connection Route.**
- **Figure 8-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential.**

8.1.5. This chapter is supported by the following ES appendices (Doc Ref. 6.3):

- **ES Appendix 8-1: Cultural Heritage Legislation, Policy and Guidance.**
- **ES Appendix 8-2: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA).**
- **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage.**
- **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment.**

8.1.6. This chapter is supported by the following other documents submitted with the DCO Application:

- **Planning Statement Appendix E: Heritage Statement of Harm** (Doc Ref. 7.1).

- **Outline Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.10).
- **Outline Operational Environment Management Plan (OEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.11).
- **Outline Decommissioning Environment Management Plan (DEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.12).

8.2. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

8.2.1. Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Cultural Heritage relevant to the Scheme is set out in **ES Appendix 8-1 Cultural Heritage Legislation, Policy and Guidance** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.3. Stakeholder Engagement

8.3.1. To establish the methodology and approach to assessment for the Scheme, a scoping exercise was completed in Spring 2024. The results of this were formally presented within the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 30 May 2024 (refer to **ES Appendix 1-1** (Doc Ref. 6.3)).

8.3.2. A Scoping Opinion, appended as **ES Appendix 1-2** (Doc Ref. 6.3), was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024. A review of the key comments raised in the Scoping Opinion and how they have been addressed is provided in Table 8-1 below.

Table 8-1: Scoping Opinion responses in relation to Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Planning Inspectorate	Conservation areas: The potential for likely significant effects on all relevant Conservation Areas should be assessed within the ES.	All Conservation Areas potentially affected by the Scheme have been considered as part of the assessment. Tools such as the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and site visits have been used to determine setting and the extent of intervisibility.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** - Section 8.6 Section 8.9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	Archaeological surveys: Trial trenching will be required to test 'blank areas' (i.e. where archaeology is not identified through desk-based assessment or geophysical surveys). It states that trial trenching blank areas on other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) has resulted in the identification of significant areas of archaeology. Should access not be possible, the ES should detail (and assess) any necessary flexibility and mitigation required to accommodate any risk.	A programme of archaeological evaluation, developed in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor from LCC, has been undertaken within the Solar Development Area Archaeological evaluation trenching has been undertaken as part of the assessment phase of the Scheme. The preliminary results of this have been used to inform the impact assessment and development of a mitigation strategy. Archaeological evaluation trenching has been guided by the results of the desk-based research, aerial assessment and geophysical survey.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8.5 Section 6.6 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Archaeological surveys: The Applicant should make effort to agree the need for intrusive investigations with relevant consultation bodies. Where necessary, intrusive investigations should be undertaken prior to submission of the DCO application.	All efforts have been made to gain access to support the assessment. Details of limitations of the results are provided.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8.5 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	Potential impacts: The ES should consider potential impacts including noise, visual, vibration, landscaping, lighting. All elements of the Proposed Development should be considered including haul roads and construction compounds. Both below ground and above ground impacts should be assessed.	Consideration of likely significant effects on Cultural Heritage assets as result of noise and vibration, ecological and landscape mitigation, lighting and visual intrusion have been assessed in this chapter.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8.9
	Indirect effects: The ES should identify and assess any likely significant indirect effects on the historic environment, for example, changes in drainage patterns or compression of the ground from infrastructure which could affect below ground heritage assets or lead to subsidence of above ground buildings and monuments.	Assessment of indirect effects that may occur as a result of changes in the ground conditions have been considered in this chapter.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	The ES should identify any Cultural Heritage receptors which could be impacted by noise and vibration from the Proposed Development and assess any likely significant effects on such receptors. Consideration should be given to receptors along the construction traffic access routes. This assessment could be presented either within the Traffic and Access chapter or the Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES.	The assessment of noise and vibration is presented in **ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The results of this assessment have been used to consider which, if any heritage assets would be impacted by noise and vibration from the Scheme.	**ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9
Lincolnshire County Council	The figures should show the location of non-designated assets in relation to the red line boundary with identifying labels.	These figures form part of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and are presented in **ES Figures 8-1 and 8-2** (Doc Ref. 6.2).	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Figure 8-1; ES Figure 8-2.**
	A full competent LiDAR and air photo analysis is required.	This has been produced for the Solar Development Area, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. The results are included in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and are summarised in this chapter.	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	A Study Area, 1km is not sufficient. We recommend Historic Environment Record (HER) data for a 2km radius is required from	Following consultation with the Built Heritage Office from LCC a study area of 1km from the boundary of the Solar Development Area and Inter-Array	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8.4

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	the main site boundary and any proposed connection route options.	Connections and 2km from the boundary of the Grid Connection Route has been used to collect HER and other data in support the production of the HEDBA. This is considered to be sufficient and proportionate to understand the nature of previously recorded heritage assets within the Site and the surrounding area. However, designated assets beyond this distance have still been considered by taking a more flexible approach to understanding of the wider historic landscape and the setting of heritage assets between the study areas and 5km from the Site.	
	The Decommissioning Phase states that "*Decommissioning impacts are likely to be similar to any temporary impacts identified in relation to the construction phase of the Scheme. It is not anticipated that these effects would be significant*." The Council does not agree, there are of course no temporary impacts on archaeology, it is a non-renewable resource. There is no information on the specific ground impacts of how	An assessment of decommissioning phase effects has been completed and reported in the ES.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	infrastructure and the solar arrays will be removed or information regarding the impacts of refits throughout the 40-year lifetime of the Scheme.		
	Areas where archaeology will be mitigated through preservation in situ must be fenced off and subject to a programme of monitoring throughout the construction, operation and the decommissioning phases, and there will be no ground disturbance whatsoever which may disturb or affect the archaeological remains, including plant movement or storage. Fencing will need to remain in place and be maintained throughout the lifetime of the scheme including decommissioning and refits. There will need to be an Archaeological Clerk of Works and the management strategy for the preservation in situ areas will need to be included in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure the protection measures stay in place throughout the development.	A preliminary approach to mitigation has been developed using the data gathered from the desk-based and field evaluation phases. The requirement for detailed management strategy and an Archaeological Clerk of Works will be informed by the further results of the evaluation and the detailed understanding of the significance and extent of the archaeology within the Site. The final results of the archaeological evaluation will be used to inform the Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy which is expected to be submitted by Deadline 1.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-10

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Historic England	It is expected that the two Scheduled Monuments within the Scheme should remain free of panels.	The Scheme design allows the Scheduled Monuments and a 20m buffer around them to be panel free. This is established as part of the Embedded Mitigation and forms part of the assessment assumptions.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8.8, Section 8-9
	The Solar Development Area has complex soils and require a suite of investigative approaches grounded in a sound Desk Based Assessment. Multi-technique geophysical survey, aerial, lidar and cartographic sources and deposit modelling should inform a programme of trial trenching (with regards to which we refer you also to the expertise of the local government archaeological officers/advisors).	A detailed HEDBA has been produced to support the assessment of potential impacts. The results of the HEDBA have been supported by appropriate surveys and informed a programme of evaluation trenching.	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	"*Of key concern in respect of this scheme is to develop a sophisticated understanding of the former estate of the Abbey of Crowland including the scheduled and grade I listed abbey itself, Trinity bridge, former hermitage/chapel sites and the estate boundary markers/crosses including Kenulph's stone. Because the features relating to the Abbey form a group impact upon parts of the estate should to a degree be considered in*	Considerations of the significance of the Abbey of Crowland, its land and its associated landscape have been considered. Potential effects on its significance are considered in this chapter.	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-7, Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	respect of the whole and artificial limits of consideration should not bisect the estate." Furthermore, "*Detailed understanding of the impact of the proposed scheme on the experience of the historic landscape both in its own right and as setting to the Abbey of Crowland and other associated assets is of critical importance in order for the scheme proposals to respond effectively and manage impacts through design*.		
	The deposition of alluvial soils and peat formation can conceal upstanding archaeological features such as pre-historic burial mounds, such features should be considered in any modelling exercise in which depth of cover is considered since they may be particularly exposed to risk." In addition, "*The modelling of past patters (sic) of wet and dry land will aid not only in understanding the character of tis (sic) landscape but also (through deposit modelling) in the prediction of areas of greatest archaeological risk. This was a much wetter landscape at times in the past, a rich source of wetland resources with areas of dry land set within marsh and channel, hence*	A programme of archaeological evaluation has been undertaken using a combination of evaluation trenches and test pits informed by the data collected through desk-based and other surveys, and the mitigation through design work undertaken. The evaluation was appropriate and proportionate to support the assessment of potential impacts to support the EIA process.	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	the crucial importance of deposit modelling to understand the context in which remains may survive across differing periods and in association with different spaces within that landscape.		
	Given the relatively flat topography the visual impact of large structures may need to be considered in respect of the setting of prominent listed churches and towers etc over considerable distances and should not be constrained by fixed radii.	The understanding of the wider historic landscape and the setting of heritage assets has been informed by tools such as the ZTV and site visits to determine setting and the extent of intervisibility.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-4, Section 8-9
Cowbit Parish Council and Deeping St James Parish Council	The project will disrupt the Cultural Heritage of the Meridian Stone on Langary Gate Road, and protective measures should be taken to ensure this, and the surrounding area remains unaffected.	The Meridian Stone was noted and recorded during the site visit. Potential impacts on its historic significance have been considered as part of the assessment.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-7, Section 8-9
Cowbit Parish Council and Deeping St James Parish Council	The historic character of the landscape should not be destroyed by industrial development.	Understanding of the potential impact of the Scheme on the wider historic landscape and the setting of heritage assets within it form part of the assessment.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-7, Section 8-9
Cowbit Parish Council and Deeping St		Further research and liaison with the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre has been undertaken. The field where the	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-8

Consultee	Summary main matter raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
James Parish Council	Preservation of the World War II Dornier crash site.	aircraft crashed has been discounted from being used for solar PV modules but has been retained within the Scheme as a habitat management area.	

8.3.3. Further pre-application engagement was undertaken through the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the statutory consultation. Table 8-2 outlines the main matters raised during the statutory consultation relating to Cultural Heritage and how these have been addressed within the ES. No additional comments with regards to Cultural Heritage were received from statutory stakeholders as part of the targeted consultation which ran from 24 September 2025 to 22 October 2025. Additional comments received from statutory stakeholders as part of the targeted consultation which ran from 8 January to 5 February 2026 are included in Table 8-2 below.

Table 8-2: Key matters raised by prescribed or statutory consultees in relation to main matters raised through the Statutory Consultation in relation to Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Historic England	*"The assessment of impacts upon buried and above ground remains is as discussed below a work in progress, current methodological approaches to assessment as set out in the PIER appear appropriate and fit for purpose, with the benefits of such refinements during the production of the Environmental Statement as may be prompted by the data and the use of professional judgement and expertise."*	The assessment of likely significant effects has been informed by the evaluation works being undertaken across the Scheme.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9
	"We have provided detailed comments on aspects of the fieldwork methodology and in respect of the assessment of visual impacts including the kinetic experience of the landscape. We note that fieldwork is already underway under a Written Scheme of Investigation, building on desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and ongoing deposit modelling work. This is a complex landscape of former wet and dry lands including high potential for waterlogged and salt industry remains. We particularly welcome the use of intrusive fieldwork techniques targeted on those aspects of the site which present the greatest challenges in characterisation and risk management. This focus and adaptive methodological approach (informed by the non-	Evaluation works have been undertaken to support the assessment stage, understand the cultural significance of the Cultural Heritage and development of the mitigation and management strategy. While some evaluation results are still pending, they will be provided when available. Consultation has been ongoing and will continue through the development of the archaeological mitigation and management strategy to ensure significance and sensitivity are appropriately addressed.	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	intrusive phase) will ensure you are well placed to address significance and sensitivity through appropriate design as necessary. The use of specialist expertise in the areas of deposit modelling and ancient salt production (both highly relevant to this landscape) is to be applauded and will deliver a better process and more efficiently detailed scheme."		
	"The site contains two scheduled monuments identified through aerial photographic work, these sites are visible in the current survey work and can now, with the benefit of integrated aerial photography, geophysical survey and lidar, begin to be understood in their ancient landscape context. We welcome the approach taken to the scheduled sites in the emerging design. Further similar sites identified in scheme may we be best addressed with appropriate design and an understanding of significance and sensitivity (rather than via a reassessment of designation)."	Noted. Where archaeological deposits of equivalent significance have been identified, this has been addressed through design development and considered as part of the assessment of potential significant effects.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-5, Section 8-9
	"We look forwards to exploring setting issues further, in detail, as your assessment work comes through, particularly the work (in relation to Crowland Abbey grade I and scheduled monument and associated boundary markers earthwork features etc), this with a view to the methods in our GPA3 Setting of Heritage Assets. This work will assist in respect of the arrays, the	Further engagement with HE in relation to the setting of heritage assets has been undertaken. Assessment of the potential effects on setting has been undertaken. This includes use of the ZTVs and visualisations produced by the Landscape team, further research and a site assessment.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-7, Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	associated infrastructure and the electrical connection."		
	"Secondary impacts from cable trenches etc where they cross wet deposits should be considered as they can potentially set of decay process which continue past the construction phase, where cable trench's act ad drains for instance."	Information compiled in consultation with the drainage and hydrology specialists has been included in this chapter. Consideration of secondary impacts due to changes in ground conditions has been undertaken.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9
	"Having reviewed the additional information provided we wish to highlight the following regarding the scheduled monument of Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house (NHLE 1019096) and the associated grade I listed Chapel of St Nicholas (NHLE 1064471). The Meridian connection and the Grimsby to Walpole connection are likely (through visual intrusion) to cause a degree of harm to significance of these assets within their wider open, agricultural landscape setting."	The illustrative design locates the overhead line as far east as practicable from the Scheduled Monument, as the alignment also needs to consider potential environmental effects on residential receptors along Stone Gate Road. In addition, pylons have been sited to avoid the field to the east of the Scheduled Monument.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	"We note that in the PIER for Meridian a likely significant environmental effect is already identified in respect the Wykeham Chapel designations, hence the latest proposed changes would not introduce a new likely significant effect. However, we note the potentially congested character of the zone to the east of the monument and likely hood that the cumulative	Potential effects on Wykeham Chapel and the historic landscape have been considered in the developing design. The potential cumulative impacts have also been assessed and reported.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9, Section 8-12

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	impacts and need for separation between lines will heighten visual impacts."		
	"On the Grimsby to Walpole scheme the proposed new overhead cable line connecting substation B with the existing overhead cable line to the south is (in the recent SPIER consult on that scheme) is planned to come within approximately 300m of the Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument and Chapel of St Nicholas. Given the presence of the existing overhead line to the east we would like to explore further with you the route and pylon spacing options available to you for your connection."	The illustrative design locates the overhead line as far east as practicable from the Scheduled Monument, as the alignment also needs to consider potential environmental effects on residential receptors along Stone Gate Road. In addition, pylons have been sited to avoid the field to the east of the Scheduled Monument. The potential impact of installing the Grid Connection underground in this location if required is also considered.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	"The views from the access route to the Chapel of St Nicholas and beyond to the east, and the views from within the Chapel through the east window are of particular concern. Opportunities for micrositing, including through the rhythm of the pylon placement, should be considered to reduce the impact of the pylons within these views. This will require an integrated approach with the Grimsby to Walpole scheme."	The illustrative design locates the overhead line as far east as practicable from the Scheduled Monument, as the alignment also needs to consider potential environmental effects on residential receptors along Stone Gate Road. In addition, pylons have been sited to avoid the field to the east of the Scheduled Monument. Liaison with the Grimsby to Walpole scheme is ongoing.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
LCC	*"The Council remain concerned by the PEIR's narrow application of study areas for assessing setting impacts, particularly in relation to above-ground infrastructure such as overhead lines, BESS, and substations. While a 5km radius is mentioned for designated heritage assets, the*	Following discussion with LCC's Historic Landscape Officer, the study area for the Grid Connection Route has been expanded to 2km to better reflect potential setting effects. In addition, assets of high importance within a 5km radius have been considered in the	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-4, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage**

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	majority of the setting assessment appears to adopt a default 1km study area, with selective appraisal of higher-graded assets beyond this range. In its current format, this approach is not considered adequate given the extent and nature of the proposed infrastructure."	assessment. The approach seeks to balance proportionality with the extent and nature of the proposed infrastructure.	**Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	"The Grid Connection Corridor infrastructure of this scale will inevitably result in long-range visual impacts across the flat, open fenland landscape and is likely to affect the setting of both designated and non-designated heritage assets well beyond 1km. It is noted, in particular, the proximity of Moulton, Crowland and Spalding Conservation Areas, as well as numerous Grade I and II listed buildings. The applicant should give careful consideration to how change in setting and intervisibility between assets is assessed.eThe Council would welcome further dialogue on how key receptors will be selected for detailed assessment in the ES and recommend that a consistent study area of at least 2km be applied to all non-designated above-ground heritage assets and 5km for designated assets. Justification should be provided for any deviation from this approach."*	Consideration of heritage assets of high importance have been considered as part of the impact assessment, including those outside of the 1km and 2km study areas. A meeting was held with the Historic Landscape Officer to discuss. It was agreed to expand the study area along the Grid Connection Route to 2km.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-4, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The PEIR identifies the potential for additional overhead lines along the Inter-Array routes between land parcels with single-circuit 'trident' poles of up to 15m in height, spaced	A full assessment of the potential effects on sensitive receptors within the Inter-Array Connections is included within this Chapter.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-4, Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	every 120m. These would impact a number of features within the historic environment. Any potential harm along the proposed route where it meets sensitive receptors should form part of the ES		**ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The BESS and on-site substation compounds are anticipated to be 60m x 30m in footprint and up to 15–17.5m high above ground level (accounting for flood mitigation). These elements, particularly where located within otherwise flat open landscapes, may result in substantial change to views and settings of nearby heritage assets and should be properly accounted for within the assessment criteria of the ES.	A full assessment of the potential effects of the BESS and on-site substation compounds is included within this chapter.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-4, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The mapping of heritage assets (PEIR Volume II List of Figures) is helpful but reflects the constrained study area and omits assets that are likely to be impacted by long-range infrastructure beyond 1km. In its current format, the gazetteer underrepresents a number of potential receptors, especially in relation to setting. The Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss how coverage may be extended in light of this issue.	Following discussion with LCC's Historic Landscape Officer, the study area for the Grid Connection Route has been expanded to 2km. In addition, assets of high importance within a 5km radius have been considered in the assessment. This is reflected in the HEDBA, the assessment of impact within this Chapter and the figures supporting both. A specific appendix addressing the setting of heritage assets has also been included.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	LCC comment that the PEIR cites both the Greater Lincolnshire Historic Farmstead	The Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and information on	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6,

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Character Statement and the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, but their application is limited and there is scope to integrate these frameworks more fully into the baseline appraisal and assessment narrative of the ES, particularly when considering the significance of non-designated rural heritage assets and the wider landscape character context. Mapping of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) zones and application of the farmstead typology would be helpful in this regard for greater context within the ES.	historic farmsteads have been used to inform the baseline for the assessment. Figures detailing the landscape character are provided. An assessment of the potential effects on the setting of historic farmsteads has been undertaken.	Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	A more thorough programme of viewpoint analysis and photomontage production is expected for the ES, particularly where receptors such as Conservation Areas or prominent listed buildings are concerned. Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) should be provided for each major infrastructure element (e.g. grid pylons, substations, BESS compounds, Inter-Array overhead lines) where feasible. Clarification of visual impact methodology would be welcomed in advance of the ES.	Figures detailing the ZTV for each major infrastructure element are provided as part of the ES. Photo sheets of various viewpoints have been provided as part of **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and are referred to in this Chapter. The methodology was discussed with the Historic building and Landscapes Officer at LCC.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** - Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1) **ES Figure 12-19: Viewpoint Location on OS Mapping** (Doc Ref. 6.2)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
			ES Figure 12-21 Photo Sheets (Doc Ref. 6.2) **ES Figure 12-22 LCC Photo Sheets** (Doc Ref. 6.2)
	LCC comment on some concern that fieldwork is being undertaken fairly late within the overall project programme but noted the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been provisionally agreed and trenching should start shortly so the Council's concern is relatively minor. The evaluation trenching results will form the baseline site-specific evidence and should be used both to inform the design process and to minimise the impact on the historic environment through an appropriate program of archaeological mitigation.	Archaeological evaluation trenching has been undertaken to support the application. This work has been undertaken in consideration of the ground conditions and cropping cycle, At the time of writing, full results of the evaluation are not available and so preliminary results have been used to inform the assessment. Post-excavation assessment and reporting is ongoing and the results will be available within the DCO examination period. Consultation with LCC has been ongoing throughout the evaluation trenching process and results will be provided to the Archaeological Advisor as they become available.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8 -3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	There is some concern regarding the hydrological impacts that may occur during the operational phase of the development and how this may be monitored and assessed during this phase. The Applicant has been asked to consider this as part of the evaluation process, including the geoarchaeological	An assessment of the potential effects on the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance of the area based on the preliminary evaluation trenching and consultation with hydrology and drainage specialists has been undertaken and is reported in the ES. Further details of the	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	investigations, so that an understanding of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance can be understood, a baseline established and future monitoring included within the hydrological requirements agreed as part of the DCO. This should be added to the Register of Commitments.	palaeoenvironmental significance will be presented in the final fieldwork report anticipated to be post-DCO submission and prior to the end of examination.	**ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The Council is pleased that archaeology and Cultural Heritage is mentioned within the Stage two consultation information booklet, although it is relatively limited. The Council would encourage the Applicant to identify Cultural Heritage as an opportunity within the community benefits section, as archaeology and heritage can bring great public benefits both locally and to specific groups through targeted engagement. The Council would also like to raise the absence of archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the 'our vision objectives' set out in the Stage Two Consultation Banners. The scheme design states that avoiding known areas of heritage importance will be a key development but nothing about enhancing the historic environment and identifying public benefit from Cultural Heritage opportunities.	Noted	N/A
	LCC comment that where the developer proposes the Rochdale Envelope, for archaeology this approach can only be effective when there is adequate evaluation or	Archaeological evaluation undertaken to date is proportionate to the scale and nature of the Scheme and has been designed to provide the level of detail necessary to inform	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	commitment to undertaking sufficient evaluation leading to an understanding of the archaeological potential within areas of ground impact, once known. This is essential so that the impacts of the unknown and/or undecided elements, as well as the more fixed components of the development, can be mitigated effectively. Attention is drawn to Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 93 requiring Applicants to make every effort to finalise details prior to submission of their DCO application and provide as much information as possible.	the assessment and mitigation strategy. Every effort has been made to complete and report on the archaeological evaluation within the scope agreed with the relevant statutory consultees. The findings will ensure that the use of the Rochdale Envelope is supported by a sufficient understanding of archaeological potential across all areas of anticipated ground impact, enabling effective mitigation of both defined and flexible elements of the Scheme.	**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The Council has substantial concerns regarding the proposed construction methodology for where feet are used for the Solar PV foundations (Table 2-1 Design Parameters for the Preliminary Assessment). These indicate that where feet are proposed, concrete pads would be installed at a depth below ground level up to approximately 0.5m. This would mean that this technique is unsuitable for protecting areas of archaeological remains, most of which would be encountered at this depth and thus harmed during the installation of the concrete pads. Preservation in-situ of archaeological remains would require no intrusive ground works.	Concerns regarding concrete feet has been considered as part of the impact assessment and development of the archaeological mitigation and management strategy. Module mounting structures for the solar PV panels would be mounted via galvanised steel poles installed into the ground. Concrete feet would only be used in areas where steel poles cannot be used due to ground conditions.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Regarding the Surface Water Drainage, the Council would anticipate archaeological impacts would be included within the Drainage Strategy, which will be agreed prior to the construction phase (paragraph 2.10.2). Drainage mitigation has the potential to cause harm to archaeological remains and therefore adequate and appropriate consideration of the historic environment within the Strategy is essential to avoiding unnecessary harm. Where ground raising is required for flood risk (paragraph 2.5.12), potential archaeological impacts from compaction should be considered.	A drainage strategy has been developed as part of the Scheme as required in the draft DCO. The Scheme design has been developed in consideration of potential effects on the archaeological deposits. Potential effects on archaeological deposits as a result of this strategy has been considered as part of this chapter.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	Where trenchless installation methods are proposed (paragraph 2.7.7), archaeological impacts should be considered at the entry and exit pits.	Trenchless installation methods have been considered as part of the impact assessment and appropriate mitigation will be included in the archaeological mitigation and management strategy following evaluation within the Grid Connection Route. .	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9
	The Council is pleased to see that the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (paragraph 2.12.22) will include Cultural Heritage. However, archaeology and Cultural Heritage should also be included in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (paragraph 2.12.24) and the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (paragraph 2.14.5) and potentially the	Cultural Heritage has been considered in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.10); **Outline Operational Environment Management Plan (OEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.11) ; **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.12); and **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	**Outline CEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10) **Outline OEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) **Outline DEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Operational Environment Management Plan (paragraph 2.13.8		**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)
	Within the Decommissioning Phase, it is stated that 'it is assumed that any below ground infrastructure would be left in situ following decommissioning' (paragraph 2.14.1). The Council would like clarity on exactly what infrastructure will remain in the ground following decommissioning and how this may impact buried archaeological remains, especially if they deteriorate or their constituent parts break down, and the collateral effects on future archaeological surveys	Below ground infrastructure, such as concrete foundations, would be removed to a depth agreed with the relevant landowner from the area within the Order Limits and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The mode of any underground cable decommissioning will be dependent upon Government policy and best practice at that time. If required, the cables can be removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, avoiding the need to open up the entire length of the cable route. The assessment in this chapter has been undertaken using this assumption.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9
	The Council notes in the decommissioning section that 'Post-decommissioning, the landowner may return land to arable use' (paragraph 2.14.2) but as a decision of the landowner this is considered by the Applicant as out of their control. In the event that trees are not retained there could be significant below ground impacts which would damage or destroy any surviving archaeology without recording or identification. It is essential	Areas of planting have been developed in consultation with the heritage team. Assessment of potential effects as a result of environmental and landscape mitigation has been included in this assessment. Appropriate mitigation will be included in the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	therefore that any area of planting, once confirmed, are included in the evaluation programme so that areas of archaeological sensitivity can be avoided and/or mitigated, as appropriate.		
	PEIR Volume I Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution states that 'it is preferable to site solar development on land with low levels of archaeological interest and without designated sites, such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas' (Section 3.2.17). Given the apparent extent, complexity and significance of archaeological remains within the site, this reinforces the need for early use of non-intrusive surveys when undertaking site selection. The Council would also recommend the use of innovative techniques which may be available to rapidly evaluate and inform site selection.	Consideration of archaeological potential and heritage importance was used to inform the design. For further details on consideration of alternatives, please refer to **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1).	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1)
	The Council is concerned that the only design parameter for Cultural Heritage is 'Avoidance of infrastructure within scheduled monuments' (Table 3-2 PV Area Design Parameters). This is disappointing and it is felt that greater weight should have been applied to the design parameters to preserve Cultural Heritage assets through embedded mitigation in the design phase.	Consideration of archaeological potential and heritage importance of all assets, not just Scheduled Monuments, was used to inform the design. For further details on consideration of alternatives, please refer to **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1).	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	In relation to PEIR Volume I Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage, the Council has some concerns over Table 6-2 Scope of Assessment in Relation to Cultural Heritage and the scoping out of physical effects on heritage assets during the operational phase. Potential effects on earlier prehistoric land surfaces, basal peat deposits and palaeoenvironmental remains, any changes to hydrology could lead to desiccation to peats, changes to previously anaerobic conditions, resulting in loss of organic preserved remains and chemicals leaching into previously sterile archaeological deposits. It is considered that until further assessment and clarity has been provided on this subject, operational phase impacts should not be excluded.	An assessment of the potential effects on the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance of the area based on the preliminary evaluation trenching and consultation with hydrology and drainage specialists is reported in the ES. Further details of the palaeoenvironmental significance will be presented in the final fieldwork report anticipated to be post-DCO submission and prior to the end of examination. Appropriate mitigation will be included in the archaeological mitigation and management strategy. .	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9
	The Council welcomes the completion of the geophysical survey and aerial photography and LiDAR assessment for the PV areas (paragraphs 6.4.9 and 6.4.10) and looks forward to the results of the forthcoming surveys for the grid connection corridor and inter-array areas. Overall, the assessment and survey work undertaken to date and forthcoming field evaluation will allow for the scheme design to be appropriately informed and the development of an adequate and fit	Noted	N/A

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	for purpose mitigation strategy.		
	The use of embedded mitigation into the design scheme is welcome and the Council is pleased to see that the current anticipated layout of solar PV modules has also been designed to avoid impacts on dense groupings of buried archaeological remains that have been identified within the PV Area (paragraph 6.7.1). The Council would like to note that it is likely that other, hitherto unidentified, areas of significant archaeological activity could be present and therefore would advise that the scheme design retains some degree of flexibility until the archaeological evaluation and assessment has been completed.	Consideration of archaeological potential and heritage importance, including results of archaeological evaluation was used to inform the design. For further details on consideration of design evolution please refer to **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3) also incorporate a degree of flexibility for micro-siting infrastructure at detailed design stage. The final results of the archaeological evaluation will be used to inform the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9, Section 8-10 **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1)
	In relation to the areas designed out of the scheme due to the presence of complex and significant archaeology, it is envisaged that the appointed Archaeological Clerk of Works will be responsible for monitoring archaeological mitigation measures for the preservation in situ areas and will need to be included in their CEMP to ensure the protection measures stay in place throughout the development.	A preliminary approach to mitigation has been developed using the data gathered from the desk-based and field evaluation phases. The requirement for detailed management strategy and an Archaeological Clerk of Works will be informed by the further results of the evaluation and the detailed understanding of the significance and extent of the archaeology within the Site. The final results of the archaeological evaluation will be used to inform the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-10

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	The Council disagrees with the statement in paragraph 6.8.6 that 'No permanent effect upon heritage assets as a result of the operation of the Scheme is anticipated'. Comments have been provided regarding archaeology and changes to hydrology above. PEIR Volume 1, Chapter provides information on the replacement of the BESS Units after 20 years, however no information is provided regarding the potential replacement of PV mounting structures, the Council would like to stress that should this be a necessary operational activity this would increase the ground impact of piling and the associated cables across the solar array areas.	Consideration of potential impacts as a result of the operation and maintenance, including any replacement activities, of the Scheme has been undertaken as part of the assessment. Assessment of the potential of hydrological changes has also been undertaken.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9 Section 8-10
	Paragraph 6.8.9 states that 'No additional permanent impacts are anticipated during decommissioning, as the decommissioning works should be contained to the same already-disturbed footprint as the construction phase, and as such, there would be no direct physical impact upon any additional archaeological remains'. There is no justification provided for this statement given that the exact decommissioning methodology is unknown and that the removal will be undertaken 'in accordance with the relevant statutory process at the time' (paragraph 6.8.41). The intervening period of 40 years	The comments around the assumption are noted. As it is not possible to fully confirm where compounds and access points would be located at decommissioning, measures have been included in the **Outline DEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12) in relation to mitigation in the event that the compounds and access points are in a different location. The detailed DEMP will be subject to consultation and agreement with the LCC.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-8

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	between construction and decommissioning may mean that compound locations or access points may need to be relocated and thus it is considered that this assumption is unreasonable.		
	The commitment that 'Further evaluation will be undertaken to confirm the importance of these archaeological deposits and the ultimate significance of the effect' is welcome and recognises that the significance of the remains outside, but adjacent to the Scheduled Monuments may be of equivalent significance (paragraph 6.8.18).	The evaluation was appropriate and proportionate to support the assessment of potential impacts to support the EIA process.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-6 Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The Council appreciates that the Applicant is committed to a fit for purpose mitigation strategy and point out that sufficient and proportionate archaeological evaluation is required within areas of ground impact to enable the development of the mitigation strategy. The Applicant's approach to determine mitigation after evaluations is acceptable given that the extent of impacts is not known at this present stage and a blanket approach to trenching is neither warranted or an effective use of resources. The Council	The evaluation was appropriate and proportionate to support the assessment of potential impacts to support the EIA process. Consultation with LCC was ongoing through the development and implementation of the evaluation excavations.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** Section 8-6, Section 8-9 **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area**

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	would advocate targeted and site-specific trenching once designs have been finalised rather than a blanket approach.		**Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	Although absent from the PEIR documents, the Council would expect a Public Archaeology and Community Engagement statement in any DCO submission, with agreed provisions for engagement and benefits set out maximising the results of the Cultural Heritage works.	The detailed archaeological mitigation and management strategy, including measures for public engagement and dissemination, will be informed by the further results of the evaluation and the detailed understanding of the significance and extent of the archaeology within the Site. Implementation of the measures set out in the archaeological mitigation and management strategy are secured by Requirement of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1).	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-10
	The Council note a number of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures have the potential to impact below ground archaeological remains resulting in incidental harm to the historic environment such as new hedgerows, enhancement of watercourses and wildflower planting. Paragraph 7.9.3 specifically identifies the potential for ecological enhancement of land set aside due to the presence of archaeological deposits, albeit subject to further investigation. The Council would urge due caution prior to any ecological mitigation or enhancement being proposed in areas of complex, significant and potentially sensitive archaeological activity.	Areas of planting have been developed in consultation with the heritage team. Assessment of potential effects as a result of environmental mitigation measures has been included in this assessment and the developing archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-10

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Planting/seeding of wildflowers can in particular be harmful as it involves the inversion of the subsoil from below the topsoil to above it, with any archaeological remains located within that area suffering from the machinery used to move soils and compaction from the movement of the heavy plant.		
	LCC comment Chapter 8: Hydrology, Flood Risk and WFD contains mitigation measures which have the potential to cause harm to archaeological remains, if undertaken without appropriate prior evaluation. The Council would require greater clarity on actions such as the construction phase management system to manage works within watercourses/drains and floodplains and what exactly this entails and the operational phase implementation of SuDS (i.e. swales) where appropriate. Appropriate archaeological mitigation measures can only be implemented if the location ground impacts is known.	Mitigation relating to hydrology and flood risk are presented in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1). This has been considered as part of the impact assessment in relation to archaeological deposits and will inform the development of the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-10
	Within paragraph 8.8.17, the installation of temporary drainage/de-watering measures may have impacts to archaeological deposits. Consequently, it is expected that the locations of drainage/de-watering, once known, to be included within the programme of archaeological evaluation. De-watering in	The Scoping Report proposed to scope out groundwater as an environmental receptor due to the presence of unproductive superficial and bedrock strata which is of negligible sensitivity. This was agreed by the Planning Inspectorate in the Scoping Opinion. The final report on archaeological evaluation	**ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	particular can have significant impacts on archaeological deposits that are waterlogged.	trenching will report on the preservation of archaeological deposits. Consideration of effects to the hydrology of the Site, including de-watering, has been presented as part of the assessment.	
	There are details within the PEIR Volume I Chapter 9: Agriculture and Soils that require further clarity, given the potential for harm to occur to the historic environment from these activities. Paragraph 9.7.4 describes the use of stone pads that would be utilised for heavy equipment such as cranes and piling rigs to provide a stable working area and reduce disturbance to the ground and soil compaction. Details on how these would reduce compaction and if any topsoil or subsoil removal would be required prior to installation of the stone pads is needed.	The use of stone pads that would be utilised for heavy equipment such as cranes and piling rigs would coincide with the compounds and substation locations. This has been considered as part of the impact assessment for these locations. and will inform the development of the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** -Section 8-9
	Additional mitigation and embedded measures may also have harmful effects on archaeological remains and once areas of indicative planting (paragraph 10.9.1) have been fixed, archaeological impacts should be considered and assessed appropriately based on the level of anticipated ground impact. This is particularly the case where small blocks of woodland are proposed (paragraph 10.9.3). The Council is also conscious that areas set	Areas of planting have been developed in consultation with the heritage team. Assessment of potential effects as a result of environmental mitigation measures has been included in this assessment and the and will inform the development of the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** - Section 8-9, Section 8-10

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	aside from development due to the presence of significant and complex archaeological remains are being considered as possible areas for planting and other mitigation. Due care and consideration should be given to this and any decisions made should be based on an understanding of the scale, sensitivity and extent of any archaeological remains within that location.		
	A number of the embedded mitigation described in the PEIR Volume I Chapter 13: Traffic and Access will need to be assessed for archaeological impacts. These include the creation of junction bellmouths, upgrading of routes to cater for larger vehicles, creation of waiting spaces for vehicles to ensure no queuing onto the surrounding road network and sufficient on-site car parking (paragraph 13.9.4). Once the locations of these infrastructure improvements are known, a targeted and site-specific archaeological assessment should be undertaken.	The assessment of traffic and access requirements as a result of the Scheme is presented in **ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** (Doc Ref. 6.1). Elements of traffic and access design are included in the Scheme description and are considered as part of the impact assessment and will inform the development of the archaeological mitigation and management strategy.	**ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** - Section 8-9, Section 8-10

8.3.4. Engagement has been undertaken and is ongoing with key stakeholders with specific focus on the historic environment, specifically LCC and HE. Table 8-3 below summarises the discussions:

Table 8-3: Engagement in relation to Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Date	Format	Summary of Discussion	Key Actions
HE and LCC	13/05/2024	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Introduction to the Scheme. Presentation of the Scheme, research undertaken to date, geophysical survey and planned work.	Keep all parties updated with the progress with the surveys and programme.
HE	08/01/2025	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Update on evaluation works – including geophysical survey, aerial photograph and LiDAR survey and evaluation trial trenching; The significance of the historic landscape; The development of the design within the Solar Development Area; and The development of the design within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections.	Include consideration of setting effects on Crowland Abbey and its relationship with Guthlac's Cross.
LCC	09/01/2025	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Update on evaluation works – including geophysical survey, aerial photograph and LiDAR survey and evaluation trial trenching; The significance of the historic landscape; The development of the design within the Solar Development Area; and	LCC recommended that consideration be given to innovative methodologies or techniques when formulating the specification of works for the archaeological evaluation. Further meeting to be held once the archaeological

Consultee	Date	Format	Summary of Discussion	Key Actions
			The development of the design within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections.	contractor is appointed.
HE and LCC	20/05/2025	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Project update; Discussion of PEIR comments; and Update on archaeological evaluation.	LCC and HE agreed to provide comment on the Project Design for the evaluation work. Agreed that the approach to the works was appropriate.
LCC	24/06/2025	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Discussion of PEIR comments on built heritage assessment.	It was agreed to review the study area for the Grid Connection Route and expand to 2km. Agreed to share the list of visualisations with LCC once available.
LCC	17/07/2025	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Discussion of: Phase 2 Geophysical Survey; Movement of evaluation trenches; and Aviation crash sites	LCC agreed to review the Project Design for the phase 2 geophysical survey. LCC agreed to the movement of several evaluation trenches. Approach to the aviation crash sites agreed. Agreed that the outline archaeological mitigation and management strategy can be made available to the Examining Authority post-

Consultee	Date	Format	Summary of Discussion	Key Actions
				submission in time to support examination.
LCC	03/09/2025	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Project update; Grid Connection Route survey update; Solar Development Area update; Inter-Array Connections update; and Confirming the approach to pre and post examination survey.	Agreement to delay most geophysical survey within the Grid Connection Route until the detailed design is developed post examination. Agreements that some areas of evaluation trenching can be postponed to post submission, or post-examination and the Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy can be submitted during examination.
HE and LCC	23/02/2026	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Project update; Evaluation trenching results and progress of the excavation report; Approach to the Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy; Impact on the Wykeham Chapel Scheduled Monument; and Flexibility to underground the Grid Connector cable north of High Road.	The illustrative design locates the overhead line as far east as practicable from the Scheduled Monument, as the alignment also needs to consider potential environmental effects on residential receptors along Stone Gate Road. In addition, pylons have been sited to avoid the field to the east of the Scheduled Monument. HE confirmed that this sounded

Consultee	Date	Format	Summary of Discussion	Key Actions
				reasonable and the key aim would be to avoid siting a pylon straight outside the window of the chapel. LCC confirmed that further evaluation can be deferred until there is greater certainty regarding the location of the Grid Connection.

8.3.5. Engagement will continue as the results of the archaeological evaluation trenching become available.

8.4. Assessment Methodology

8.4.1. The following scope and methodology have been used to assess the likely significant effects of the Scheme in relation to Cultural Heritage.

Study Area

8.4.2. A study area of 1km around the Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections which are defined in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), has been used to consider data sources to inform understanding of the historic environment of these areas of the Scheme. Following consultation, a 2km study area from the Grid Connection Route boundary has been set to assess the heritage baseline. This 2km study area replaces the 1km study area from the boundary of the Grid Connection Route that was presented in the PEIR. While the Grid Connection Route is more defined than then corridor assessed in the PEIR, the assessment of the 2km study area presented in this chapter largely encompasses the same area and heritage assets assessed in the PEIR. This 2km study area has been used for the Grid Connection Route due to the potential for the height of the grid connection infrastructure to affect built heritage and the surrounding landscape.

8.4.3. These areas were informed by the nature of the Scheme and the landscape to allow appropriate understanding of the heritage baseline of the Site through identification of assets which may extend into the Site and its surrounding

landscape. Professional judgement, topography of the landscape and nature of the anticipated effects has also been utilised. The study areas are considered appropriate and proportionate in order to assess the importance and cultural significance of the archaeology and heritage baseline within and surrounding the Site, although the heritage baseline **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) has also placed these results within the wider local and regional archaeological context where appropriate.

8.4.4. In addition to the 1km and 2km study areas the settings of designated heritage assets of high and very high importance (Scheduled Monuments, Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings) outside of these distances, where their setting contributes to their significance and extends to include elements of the Scheme have also been considered, up to approximately 5km. This has been guided by the Scheme's ZTV and considers their physical and historical connectivity and relationships with other monuments and the wider landscape. This approach is considered appropriate as the potential for impacts to the settings and cultural significance of heritage assets as a result of the Scheme reduces with distance from the Site. Significant effects beyond 5km are considered highly unlikely.

Baseline Development

8.4.5. Full details of all data sources and surveys can be found in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.4.6. Data sources that have been consulted for this assessment comprise:

- National Heritage List for England (NHLE)[1];
- LCC Historic Environment Record (HER)[2];
- LCC Historic Landscape Character (HLC)[3];
- British Geological Survey (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer[4];
- BGS Borehole Records[5];
- Soilscapes Viewer[6];

1 Historic England (2025) National Heritage List for England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/. [Accessed 06/03/2026].

2 Lincolnshire County Council (2025) Historic Environment Record.

3 Lincolnshire County Council (2025) Historic Landscape.

4 British Geological Survey (2025) Geology Viewer. Available at: https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/. [Accessed 06/03/2026].

5 British Geological Survey (2025) Borehole Record. Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/information-hub/borehole-records/.

6 Cranfield University (2025) Soilscapes Viewer. Available at: https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ [Accessed 06/03/2026].

- Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) online database[7];
- Archaeology Data Service (ADS)[8];
- National Library of Scotland (NLS) Historic Map Viewer[9];
- NLS 1st Edition OS maps[10];
- Maps held by The Genealogist[11];
- East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework[12];
- Relevant plans, maps, journals and books belonging to the Lincolnshire archives; and
- Published and unpublished literature.

8.4.7. Heritage assets referred to within this assessment are succeeded by a number in brackets. This refers to the list entry number, primary reference number or other reference number for that asset as listed in the data sets consulted. The detail of these can be found in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The gazetteer in Appendix B of the HEDBA divides heritage assets into designated and non-designated assets and also contains records of heritage events.

Surveys

8.4.8. Walkover survey of the Solar Development Area and site visits combining appraisal of the Grid Connection Route and setting assessments were conducted on the following dates:

- 8 - 9 November 2023 (weather overcast, misty, poor visibility);
- 21 - 22 February 2024 (weather overcast, cold, clear but grey);
- 30 - 31 July and 1 August 2025 (weather warm, dry, good visibility);
- 22 - 24 September 2025 (first two days weather dry, good visibility; third day drizzly and overcast).

8.4.9. The objectives of the site visits were to:

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[7] Portable Antiquities Scheme (2025) Portable Antiquities Scheme Database. Available at: https://finds.org.uk/ [Accessed 06/03/2026]

[8] Archaeological Data Service (2025) Available at https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/. [Accessed 06/03/2026].

9 National Library of Scotland (2025) Map viewer. Available at: https://maps.nls.uk/. [Accessed 06/03/2026].

10 National Library of Scotland (2024) 1st Edition OS Maps.

11 The Genealogist. https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/ [Accessed 06/03/2026].

12 East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (2012) Regional Overview [data-set]. Available at: https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/regional-overview/ [Accessed 202506/03/2026]

- Identify known archaeological sites within the Site;
- Identify assets not previously recorded;
- Establish the setting of heritage assets within the study areas;
- Identify areas of modern ground disturbance to inform the assessment of archaeological potential; and
- Assess suitability of the Site for future investigations and mitigation.

8.4.10. Photographs from the walkover surveys can be viewed in Appendix G of the **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.4.11. An aerial survey and LiDAR assessment of the Solar Development Area was produced by Alison Deegan[13] and is included in Appendix C in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). A second report has been produced by Air Photo Services that covers the Inter-Array Connections and the majority of the Grid Connection Route [14] and is included in Appendix C in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). These reports map and interpret archaeological and paleoenvironmental features identified from air photos and LiDAR imagery for the Scheme. Sources consulted as part of the survey include EA LiDAR data, Google Earth imagery, the Historic England air photo archive, and the Lincolnshire HER. Due to modifications to the Grid Connection Route as part of the second round of targeted consultation relating to the published location of the proposed National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Weston Marsh B Substation, approximately three fields were not assessed as part of the survey produced by Air Photo Services. For this area, aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery were assessed and the results included in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.4.12. A geophysical survey has been carried out by AOC Archaeology in two phases. Phase 1 was within the Solar Development Area[15] and Phase 2 covers the Inter-Array Connection areas and some outstanding fields within Parcel D[16]. The reports are available in Appendix D in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The scope of this survey was developed and agreed in consultation with LCC and limitations in the results are set out in section 4.9 of Appendix D in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). A magnetometry survey was carried out across survey

13 Alison Deegan (2024) Air Photo and LiDAR mapping and interpretation

14 Air Photo Services (2025) Meridian Solar Farm Inter-Array Routes and Grid Connection Volume I and II. APS report 225 01 01_01. Air Photo Services, Swindon

15 AOC Archaeology Group (2025) Meridian Solar Farm, Lincolnshire, Archaeological Geophysical Survey. AOC Project No 40648. AOC Archaeology Group, Leeds.

16 AOC Archaeology Group (2025) Meridian Solar Farm Phase II, Lincolnshire, Archaeological Geophysical Survey. AOC Project No 40983. AOC Archaeology Group, Leeds.

areas, including across the two Scheduled Monuments located within the Site. The survey has identified extensive archaeological activity across the Scheme and is considered within the baseline assessment below.

8.4.13. Archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation of the Solar Development Area was undertaken by York Archaeology in support of this assessment. . At the time of writing, the final evaluation trenching report was not available and is expected to be issued post DCO submission. An interim report of the results is available; therefore, the assessments presented within this report are based on that preliminary information. The interim field evaluation report for the Solar Development Area, , is available in Appendix E in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Limitations associated with these results are set out in section 4.9 of **ES Appendix 8-2 HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.4.14. The final fieldwork report will be reviewed when available (post DCO submission), in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor for LCC, at which time the HEDBA and ES chapter will be reviewed and updated as necessary. The Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy (OAMMS) will also be submitted post DCO submission.

8.4.15. The archaeological evaluation comprised a majority of trenches measuring 50m x 2m, with several broader but shorter trenches (e.g. 7m x 7m) excavated to investigate possible saltern features. The geoarchaeological evaluation comprised machine-excavated test pits measuring up to 2m x 2m. The summary report is available in Appendix E of **ES Appendix 8-2 HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.4.16. The results of all archaeological investigations undertaken for the Solar Development Area are detailed by field in **ES Appendix 8-3** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Assessment Methodology

8.4.17. This section sets out the approach to the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Scheme on designated and non-designated heritage assets. The objective of the assessment is to identify any effects upon Cultural Heritage assets or their setting that are likely to arise from construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme. The assessment presented within this chapter is based on the baseline information and design information as detailed in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

8.4.18. EN-1[17] defines the value of 'heritage assets' (described as cultural significance throughout this chapter) as "elements of the historic environment that hold value

[17] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1) (E03028327). London: HMSO Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf [Accessed 06/03/2026].

to this and future generations because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest" (paragraph 5.9.3). The NPPF[18] Glossary defines a 'heritage asset' as "A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing) (page 73)".

8.4.19. National planning policy and guidance emphasise the need to understand the cultural significance of heritage assets, including their setting, reflecting that the primary purpose is to sustain and enhance the cultural significance of heritage assets and the positive contribution they can make to economic vitality, local character and distinctiveness rather than no change. Both EN-1 and the NPPF relate impacts affecting the cultural significance (value in EN-1) of heritage assets with harm. There is a requirement to determine whether the level of harm amounts to 'substantial harm' or 'less than substantial harm'.

8.4.20. The basis for assessing impacts on the historic environment is an understanding of the cultural significance of heritage assets that might be affected by a proposal and evaluating the consequences of change. This process can be broken down into distinct stages as outlined in Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK[19] and Historic England Advice Note 12[20].

Assessment of Cultural Significance and Importance -Stages 1-3: Understanding Cultural Heritage Assets

Stage 1: Describing the Asset

8.4.21. Research and investigations are undertaken leading to a factual statement that establishes the location, nature and setting of the asset.

Stage 2: Ascribing Cultural Significance

8.4.22. Analysis is undertaken of what is valued about the asset and the contribution made by its setting, leading to a statement of cultural significance. Cultural significance is not scaled but can be expressed in terms of four key 'heritage

[18] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Accessed 06/03/2026].
[19] Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA), CIfA, and Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) (2021) Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK. Available at: https://www.iema.net/articles/principles-of-cultural-heritage-impact-assessment [Accessed 06/03/2026].
[20] Historic England (2017) The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition). Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/. [Accessed 06/03/2026].

interests' as outlined in NPPF Annex 2, Glossary[21] and Historic England Advice Note 12[22]. These interests include archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic:

- Archaeological: where a heritage asset holds, or potentially holds, evidence about past human activity worthy of expert investigation;
- Architectural: interests in the design of a place. This can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from how the heritage asset has evolved. Architectural interest can lie in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of the building or structure;
- Artistic: where other human creative skills contribute to the interest of the asset. This can arise directly or fortuitously from an association e.g. depicted in a work of art or literature; and
- Historic: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. Heritage assets can either illustrate, or be associated with, past people and events. Heritage assets with historic interest provide a material record as well as providing meaning for communities with collective experience and can embody aspects of local and cultural identity.

Stage 3: Attributing Importance

8.4.23. The attribution of importance is a measure of the degree to which the cultural significance of the asset is sought to be protected. A judgement on importance is scaled and has been attributed in accordance with the criteria set out in Table 8-4 below. As well as the criteria providing guidance, professional judgement, regional variation and individual qualities are also considered in all cases to determine the importance of each asset. Not all the component parts of the asset may have the same importance, and this is discussed where appropriate in the accompanying text.

Table 8-4: Criteria for Attributing Importance

Importance	Examples
Very High	World Heritage Sites

21 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2. [Accessed 06/03/2026].
22 Historic England (2019) Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12. [Accessed 06/03/2026].

Importance	Examples
	Places of international importance due to their 'outstanding universal value'
High	Scheduled Monuments Grade I or II* Listed Buildings Grade I or II* Registered Parks and Gardens Registered Battlefields Places or structure of national importance Non-designated heritage assets of equivalent national importance or potential to contribute significantly to national research objectives
Medium	Grade II Listed Buildings Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens Conservation Areas Non-designated assets of regional or high local importance with potential to contribute significantly to regional and local research objectives. This includes assets which have particular regional associations or may have important associations at a local level (e.g. they have significance to local population or embody something of the special identity of a locality)
Low	Locally Listed Buildings Non-designated assets which are relatively poorly preserved or have limited importance at a local level and low potential to add to local and regional research objectives.
Negligible	Assets that have very limited or no archaeological, historical or cultural importance.
Uncertain	Sites where there is evidence that a heritage asset may exist, but where there is insufficient information to determine its nature, extent and degree of survival given current knowledge.

Magnitude of Impact - Stages 4 – 5: Evaluating Consequences of Change

8.4.24. Having understood the cultural significance and importance of each asset, the next step is to understand the degree of the proposed change(s) as a result of the Scheme, and the impact the Scheme would have on cultural significance. The

process of evaluating the consequences of change can be usefully broken down into analytical stages.

Stage 4: Understanding Change

8.4.25. This requires a factual statement of how a proposal would change an asset or its setting including the physical change, visual appearance, scale, nature and duration of changes.

Stage 5: Assessing impact

8.4.26. An impact is any change which would increase or decrease the cultural significance of an asset. Impact is scaled and the magnitude of impact reflects the extent to which the cultural significance of an asset is changed by a proposal. These impacts may be beneficial or adverse; direct or indirect; permanent or temporary; and/or cumulative. The impact may also arise at the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning phases of the Scheme. The magnitude of impact should take account of mitigation measures which have been embedded within the development proposal as part of the design and optioneering process.

8.4.27. A judgement of magnitude of impact can be made based on the following criteria in Table 8-5.

Table 8-5: Criteria for Assessing Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
Major Adverse	Causes destruction, or change to most key elements, of the asset, resulting in substantial loss of integrity and cultural significance. Comprehensive change to the setting of the asset where this is a critical aspect of the assets cultural significance. Any such change would not normally be reversible.
Moderate Adverse	Causes change to, or loss of many key elements of, the asset, which results in moderate loss of integrity and cultural significance. Moderate changes to the setting of the asset where this makes an important contribution to the cultural significance of the asset.
Minor Adverse	Change to some elements of the asset, which lead to a limited loss of integrity and cultural significance. Change to the setting of the asset where this makes a limited contribution to the cultural significance of the asset.

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
Negligible/No Change	No appreciable change to the cultural significance of the asset or its setting.
Minor Beneficial	Change to some elements which leads to limited improvement in integrity and cultural significance of the asset, better reveals its cultural significance or arrests decline. Change to the setting of the asset where this makes a limited contribution to the cultural significance of the asset.
Moderate Beneficial	Causes change to many key elements which result in a moderate enhancement to integrity and cultural significance of the asset, better reveals its cultural significance or reverses decline in some areas. Moderate changes to the setting of the asset where this makes an important contribution to the cultural significance of the asset.
Major Beneficial	Causes substantive change to most key elements of the asset that results in substantial enhancement of cultural significance, better reveals cultural significance or has widespread reversal of decline. Comprehensive change to the setting of the asset where this is a critical aspect of the assets cultural significance.

Significance of Effect - Stage 6: The resulting significance of effect

Stage 6: Determining the Significance of Effect

8.4.28. The significance of effect, also referred to as the weighting of the effect, is a conclusion regarding the magnitude of the impact when considered in relation to the importance of the affected heritage asset. This is a critical stage of the assessment process as this determines the weight that should be given to the matter in either influencing the design of the proposal, the development of proportionate mitigation, or ultimately in the test as to whether the proposal will be acceptable and permitted. The matrix in Table 8-6 pairs the importance (i.e. sensitivity/significance) of an asset with and magnitude of impact to determine significance of effect. Where there are two options for a level of effect, it is a matter of professional judgement which should be articulated in the text description as to the level of effect appropriate.

Table 8-6: Significance of Effect

Importance/ Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact (degree of change)				
	No Change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large
Medium	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Slight or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Large
Low	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Moderate or Slight
Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight

8.4.29. This assessment considers that very large, large or moderate effects are significant in accordance with standard EIA practice and for the purposes of the EIA Regulations[23]. Decisions regarding the acceptability of a proposal will also be articulated within the parameters of relevant legislative or policy tests which may use their own specific language and terminology.

8.4.30. Following the identification of an effect, additional mitigation measures can be used to offset, reduce or compensate for adverse effects. Following the identification of additional mitigation, the effect can be reassessed to determine the level of residual effect to an asset.

8.4.31. Within NPPF[18] and NPS EN-1[17] it is also specified that impacts on the cultural significance of a designated heritage asset should also be considered in terms of harm. There is a requirement to determine whether the level of harm amounts to 'substantial harm' or 'less than substantial harm'. There is no direct correlation between the significance of effects identified and the level of harm caused to heritage cultural significance. Professional judgement will be used to assess harm arising from the Scheme in the Heritage Statement of Harm as part of Appendix E of the **Planning Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.1).

23 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/data.pdf. [Accessed 06/03/2026]

Assessing Cumulative Effects

8.4.32. Potential cumulative effects have been assessed based on the short list of other developments discussed in **ES Chapter 4: Overview of the EIA Process** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The results of this are presented in section 8-12 of this chapter.

8.4.33. To assess Cultural Heritage cumulative effects, consideration has been given to the likely significant effects identified by the assessments of other committed developments within 5km of the Site, as presented within their DCO or planning applications. This information is then compared to the potential significant effects identified in this chapter. Where this information has not been available, a qualitative review of potential implications has been considered based on-Site scale and location, and professional experience.

8.5. Assumptions and Limitations

8.5.1. This chapter forms an assessment based on the available information at the time of writing.

8.5.2. The baseline is drawn from **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The baseline assessment has been undertaken based on information available at the time of writing. This information has been provided by third parties, and it is assumed that this information is accurate and up to date at the time of writing. Details on the limitations in the fieldwork assessment are set out in section 4.9 of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.5.3. Archaeological evaluation trenching of the Solar Development Area has been undertaken following a Project Design developed in consultation with LCC and Historic England. The final fieldwork report for the evaluation excavation is required to confirm the extent, cultural significance and value of the archaeological deposits. Following receipt of the final fieldwork report for the evaluation trenching, the scope and type of mitigation to be applied to the Solar Development Area will be set out in the Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy (OAMMS), which will be agreed with the LCC (anticipated to be post-DCO submission and prior to the end of examination), and its implementation will be secured by a DCO requirement.

8.5.4. Archaeological evaluation has not been undertaken within the Inter-Array Connections at this stage. The underground cabling within the Underground Inter-Array Connection will be within a corridor, the exact location of which will be confirmed at detailed design stage within the extent defined by the Order Limits. Evaluation of this area will be undertaken once the details of the underground excavation required for the underground cable is known. This approach has been taken in consideration of the archaeological potential

informed by desk-based research and non-intrusive survey techniques and is considered to be proportionate. The Overhead Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels C and D will comprise an overhead line, suspended from wooden poles. A programme of evaluation trenching would not be proportional to the impact of constructing these poles and therefore appropriate mitigation will be included in the OAMMS.

8.5.5. The Grid Connection Route has been the subject of an Aerial Photography and Lidar Assessment included in Appendix C.2 of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). In consultation with LCC it has been determined that three areas of geophysical survey will be undertaken within the Grid Connection Route in fields where areas of potential impact are greatest: the construction compound, the section of underground cabling and an area of design constraint at the northern end of the Grid Connection Route. Due to access constraints, a geophysical survey of these areas has not been possible pre-DCO submission. The current proposed limits of deviation for flexibility in the detailed design process, all other archaeological evaluation will be undertaken once the detailed design locations are determined post determination.

8.5.6. The assessment of potential impacts is based on the design details set out in **ES Chapter 2: Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). It assumes the maximum ground disturbance for all infrastructure elements and fencing as set out in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

8.5.7. Assessment of impacts to archaeological deposits has been based on the indicative Scheme layout plans (see **ES Figures 2-2** and **2-4** (Doc Ref. 6.2)) and discipline specific design and mitigation in order to provide a realistic visual impression of the Scheme. Some elements of the design are evolving and will be fixed as the detailed design develops, such as the extent of ground disturbance, fencing and drainage. The impact assessment assumes a worst-case scenario.

8.5.8. Assessment of impacts on the settings of heritage assets has been based on the indicative Scheme layout plan (**ES Figures 2-2** and **2-4** (Doc Ref. 6.2)) in order to provide a realistic visual impression of the Scheme. The setting assessment assumes that all structures would be at the maximum heights allowed by the **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4). Because the location of solar stations and pylons is not fixed, the assessment assumes the worst-case location within the defined area, as judged by professional experience and the sensitivity of an asset's setting.

8.5.9. Within the Grid Connection Route there will also be one section of underground cabling to the east of Delgate Bank which will require open cut trenching or sections of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) between two Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs), either of which will result in below ground disturbance. The

details of the design will be determined at a later date and therefore worst-case assumptions have been used. These infrastructure elements along with access tracks and construction compounds will have a below ground disturbance.

8.5.10. Due to uncertainty in the overhead line routing of neighbouring cumulative developments (Grimsby to Walpole and Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire overhead lines), the Scheme needs to consider the alternative option of undergrounding the proposed 400kV overhead line between High Road and the proposed Weston Marsh B Substation. For the purposes of this assessment, it has been assumed that undergrounding of the proposed 400kV overhead line (facilitated through Work Number 14 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1)) could occur at any location within the Order Limits north of High Road. Should undergrounding be required in the northern section of the Grid Connection Route, the same construction methodologies and design parameters as defined for the section of the underground cable section between the CSECs would be applied.

8.5.11. A Drainage Strategy has been developed and is provided within **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The strategy describes measures to manage drainage from new infrastructure and manage any required changes to existing land drainage requirements. Some sections of new drainage and the diversion of third-party assets are required, these would be undergrounded as close as possible to their existing alignments. New sections of drainage are likely to require open cut trenching with a trench of up to 1.5m wide and 2m deep.

8.5.12. An **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** (OLEMP) (Doc Ref. 7.16) for the Scheme includes areas of scattered shrubs and trees, species rich grassland and habitat management. The plan also includes maintenance of some areas of the site for agricultural purposes. The planting of scattered native species trees will have a below ground disturbance. Full details of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) can be found in **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

8.5.13. To support the Scheme, highways works will be required. Improvements to existing accesses, resulting in alterations to road layout to accommodate their connections to local highways and the provision of passing bays along Martins Road and Langary Gate Road will result in below ground disturbance. Other temporary traffic management such as traffic lights and signage may result in impacts on the significance of heritage assets as a result of changes in their setting.

8.5.14. Two cumulative assessment scenarios are set out in **ES Chapter 4: Overview of the EIA Process** (Doc Ref. 6.1) which are considered to capture the worst-case

cumulative effects. For this chapter, the below scenario is considered to result in a worst-case assessment in relation to the cumulative schemes assessment:

- Scenario 2: The projects are built out sequentially, with no overlap in peak construction periods but a longer overall cumulative construction period between 2028 and 2038.

8.5.15. This is because in this scenario, the magnitude of cumulative impacts would be the greatest.

8.6. Baseline Conditions

8.6.1. The following provides a summary of the historic environment at the Site. The baseline assessment was informed by various data sources including searches of the local HER, HE national datasets, historic mapping, documentary sources, site visits, an aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment, geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation trenching. Full details of the baseline including a historic period discussion can be found in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and locations of heritage assets are shown on **ES Figures 8-1 to 8-4** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

8.6.2. The Site lies entirely within the fenland basin of South Lincolnshire, the largest single area of wet lowland in the United Kingdom[24]. The fenland is generally separated into the silt fens in the north mainly in Lincolnshire, and peat fens to the south mainly in Cambridgeshire[25], although peat fens do occur in South Lincolnshire, primarily in Crowland, the Deeping and Bourne Fens[26]. Marine alluvium overlies this peat, mostly comprising clay, within which are silty features known as roddons. Roddons are the remains of former creeks that form dendritic networks through the fens, and are generally higher than the surrounding clay, meaning that remains of settlements and saltern sites almost exclusively sit on the top or sides of roddons[27].

Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections – Designated Assets

8.6.3. There are no World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Protected Wreck Sites in the 1km study area.

24 English Heritage (1994) Fenland Survey: An Essay in landscape and persistence. David Hall and John Coles.
25 Pryor, F (2019) The Fens: Discovering England's Ancient Depths. Apollo.
26 Lane T. (1988) Pre-Roman origins for settlement on the Fens of South Lincolnshire. Antiquity Vol. 62 pp. 314-21.
27 East Anglian Archaeology (1992) The Fenland Project Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The South-West Fens. P.P. Hayes and T.W. Lane.

8.6.4. There are six Scheduled Monuments within the 1km study area, two of which are within the Site and one of which is adjacent to the Site.

- "Settlement W (west) of Cate's Cove Corner" (1004979) is located within fields C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08.
- "Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm" (1004978) is located within fields C-2-01 and C-2-03.
- "Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south-east of Providence House" (1009980) is located adjacent to the Site, on the north side of the "Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner" (1004979).
- "Settlement in Moulton West Fen" (1002944) is located approximately 500m north of C-2.
- "Romano-British settlement S (south) of Shell Bridge" (1004982) is located approximately 300m west of D-3-01. Trial trenching (ELI231) was undertaken to assess the damage to the Scheduled Monument as a result of ploughing. Archaeological monitoring undertaken adjacent to the monument also identified Roman briquetage and burnt stone (MLI97511, ELI9788). Both these events support the dating of the Scheduled Monument to the Romano-British period.
- "Saint Guthlac's Cross" (1005052) is situated at the crossroads of Queens Bank, Washbank, Spalding Road and Peak Hill, approximately 650 north-east of the nearest parcel (A-1-12), 550m west of the Grid Connection Route, and 1km north of Crowland Airport. It is a boundary cross dating to c.1200 marking the boundary of land formerly owned by Crowland Abbey. The cross is additionally protected as a Grade II Listed Building (1359254).

8.6.5. Out to 5km from the Site there are eight Scheduled Monuments that are closer to the Solar Development Area than to the Grid Connection Route. They are as follows:

- "Fleet settlement site near Lambert Drain" (1004950) located approximately 1.2km south-west of the Solar Development Area.
- Kenulph's Stone (1005040) is located approximately 4.4km south-west of the Solar Development Area.
- Trinity Bridge (1005051) is located in Crowland approximately 2.6km south-west of the Solar Development Area. It is additionally protected as a Grade I Listed Building (1064508).
- "Roman drove, enclosures and building platform at Chestnut Farm" (1009990) is located approximately 3.5km south-west of the Solar

Development Area. It ranges from 6m to 10m in width and includes upstanding earthworks which form part of a droveway of Roman date and associated rectangular ditched enclosures, sited on the raised surface of an earlier, silted tidal creek.

- The "Boundary cross, Old Fen Dike" (1010672) is located near its original position on a former boundary of the parish of Sutton St James approximately 1.7km east of the Solar Development Area. It is positioned on the eastern edge of the Old Fen Dike to the south-west of the village of Sutton St James. The cross is additionally protected as a Grade II Listed Building (1359248).
- The "Boundary cross, Manor Hill Corner" (1010688) is situated at the former south-eastern corner of the parish of Sutton St James at Manor Hill Corner and is believed to stand in or near its original position, approximately 4.3km east of the Solar Development Area.
- "St Ives Cross" (1010689) is located at the road junction on the western edge of the village of Sutton St James and is believed to stand in or near its original position, approximately 2.6km north-east of the Solar Development Area. The local name 'Butter Cross' may indicate was the site of a market.
- The "Ruins and site of Crowland Abbey" (1012410) is located in Crowland approximately 2.2km south of the Solar Development Area. It is additionally protected as a Grade I Listed Building (1064550). The monastery was first founded in the early eighth century on the site of the hermitage of the Anglo-Saxon saint, Guthlac.

8.6.6. There are eight Listed Buildings within the 1km study area, including St Guthlac's Cross mentioned above. They consist of one Grade II* Listed Building and seven Grade II Listed Buildings. None are located within the Site.

8.6.7. The closest Listed Building to the Site is the Grade II Listed Building "Gedney Hill Mill" (1146795) located approximately 30m east of the Site boundary (highways works) and over 1km south-west of D-5-02. It is a 19th century tower mill with a 20th century extension and has been converted to a residential property. All of the tower mill machinery has been removed.

8.6.8. To the east of the Grade II Listed Building "Gedney Hill Mill" (1146795) are three Listed Buildings within the village of Gedney Hill as follows:

- The Grade II* Listed Building Church of Holy Trinity (1146771) is the rebuilt 14th century parish church of Gedney Hill, located approximately 650m south-east of the Site boundary for the highway works, and over 1km south of the nearest PV land parcel (D-5-02).

- The Grade II Listed Building "Cross, Approximately 4 Metres to South of Church" (1064525) is the restored 15th century cross located adjacent to the Grade II* Listed Building Church of Holy Trinity (1146771). It is located approximately 655m south-east of the Site boundary for highway works and over 1km south of the nearest PV land parcel (D-5-02). It is not known if the cross is within its original position.
- The Grade II Listed Building "The Red Lion Public House" (1359240) off Hillgate is a late 17th century public house with later 19th and 20th features, located approximately 645m south-east of the Site boundary for highway works, over 1km south of the nearest PV land parcel (D-5-02).

8.6.9. The remaining Listed Buildings within the 1km study area are as follows:

- The Grade II Listed Building Church of St John the Baptist (1147611) is located approximately 170m south of the Site boundary, approximately 200m south of the Inter-Array Area and is positioned over 1km from the nearest PV Land Parcels (C-1 and D-6). It is a 19th century church of red brick and ashlar designed by Jeptha Pacey and Swansborough.
- The Grade II Listed Building "Windmill" (1147706) is located approximately 100m south-west of the Site boundary for highway works and 500m south-east of the nearest PV land parcel (C-1). The windmill is a tower mill of late 18th century date constructed of red brick.
- The Grade II Listed Building Yarwood House (1204813) is located approximately 975m to the east of D-4. It is a late 17th or early 18th century cottage constructed of red brick with corrugated iron roofs.

8.6.10. Up to 5km from the Site boundary there are a further 51 Listed Buildings, including two Grade I Listed Buildings (previously discussed as the Scheduled Monuments - Crowland Abbey and Trinity Bridge) and two Grade II* Listed Buildings. Details of the 47 Grade II Listed Buildings can be found in the gazetteer in Appendix B of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The Grade II* Listed Buildings are as follows:

- The Grade II* Listed Building Tower to Church of St James (1204853) is located in a churchyard adjacent to the Grade II Listed Building Chancel to Church St James (1064541). The tower and chancel building are both positioned over 3.5km to the north-east of D-1-03. Both the tower and chancel are restored 15th century buildings of ashlar, red brick and rubble. The tower was once connected to the chancel via the nave, but the nave was destroyed during the English Commonwealth period (c. 1649-1660).

- The Grade II* Listed Building The Manor House (1359273) is located in Crowland over 2.2km to the south of parcel A-1-04. It is a late 17th century manor house possibly by Williams Sands the Younger of Spalding. It is located on East Street in a densely urbanised area of Crowland.

8.6.11. Within 5km of the Site boundary there are two Conservation Areas - Crowland Conservation Area, approximately 1.8km to the south of parcel A-1-04; and Parson Drove Conservation Area, approximately 4.8km south-west of parcel D-5-02.

8.6.12. Crowland is first recorded around c. 745 AD by Felix, biographer of St Guthlac, and the town was established before the Norman Conquest. Its abbey was founded by Æthelbald King of Mercia in 716 AD after Guthlac's death in 714 AD. The abbey was a wealthy and substantial landowner within the study area by the time of the Domesday Survey and was the only known monastery at that time in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire[28]. Its ruined remains are now the Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Building Crowland Abbey (1012410, 1064550). The Crowland Conservation Area straddles North Street, South Street, West Street and encompasses East Street, Abbey Walk and the area surrounding the abbey. The abbey is a key focal point of the town set back from the town core[28]. However, the main focal point of the town is the Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Building Holy Trinity Bridge (1005051, 1064508) located at the junction West Street, North Street and South Street[28] .

8.6.13. Parson Drove Conservation Area is a small area along the west end of The Bank/ B1187 and the Main Road/ B1166. At the time of writing, there was no Conservation Area appraisal available. The Conservation Area's Listed Buildings include two 19th century houses, The Nurseries (1310220), The Hollies (1125925), a K6 telephone kiosk (1224887), a First and Second World War Memorial (1125918), and the “Former Lockup, About 50 Yards South West of Swan Inn” (1310221). The character of the Conservation Area is a linear settlement set within a wider agricultural landscape.

Grid Connection Route – Designated Assets

8.6.14. There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Protected Wreck Sites in the Grid Connection Route 2km study area or within 5km of the Grid Connection Route.

28 APS (1998) Archaeological Implications of the Reappraisal of Crowland Conservation Area, Crowland, Lincolnshire (CCA98). p3 and 12. Available at: https://doi.org/10.5284/1009651 [Accessed 06/03/2026]

8.6.15. There are fifteen Scheduled Monuments within 5km of the Grid Connection Route (1002944; 1002945; 1005052; 1004963; 1004966; 1004978; 1004979; 1005037; 1005052; 1009980; 1010673; 1012410; 1013529; 1017217; 1019096). Of these, six Scheduled Monuments (1002944; 1004978; 1004979; 1009980; 1012410; 1005052) have been discussed above as they are also within the Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connection Route study areas. There are seven Scheduled Monuments located within the 2km study area and a further two Scheduled Monuments within 5km of the Grid Connection Route as follows.

- The Scheduled Monument "Settlement between Broadgate Farm and Lower Delgate Farm" (1004963) is located 50m east of the Grid Connection Route at TF 27643 16891. The aerial survey includes the area which contains this Scheduled Monument, identified fragmentary crop-marked ditches, indicating buried droveways and likely enclosures within an area of Roman settlement between Broadgate and Delgate Fens. The landscape continues beyond the scheduled area.
- A second Scheduled Monument is just to the south-east of the above monument, "Settlement SE of Lower Delgate Farm" (1002945). The aerial survey did not extend into this area and has not therefore identified any further evidence associated with this Scheduled Monument.
- The Scheduled Monument "Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house" (1019096) is approximately 40m north-west of the northern end of the Grid Connection Route. The monument includes a 12th century monastic grange, together with the remains of a retreat house and chapel. The grange was associated with Spalding Priory, which once housed a Benedictine order and was located 5km to the south-west at TF 24770 22520. It is additionally protected as a Grade I Listed Building, Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas (1064471).
- The Scheduled Monument "Churchyard cross, St Mary's churchyard" in Weston (1013529) is approximately 600m east of the Site. The monument is additionally protected as a Grade II Listed Building "Cross 9 Metres South of South Aisle" (1064473). It is a 14th century cross with modern additions believed to be standing in or near its original position within the churchyard of the restored 12th century Grade I Listed Building Church of St Mary (1064433). As a churchyard cross, it may have served as a location for outdoor processions.
- At the crossroads of Queens Bank, Washbank, Spalding Road and Peak Hill is the Scheduled Monument "St Guthlac's Cross" (1005052), situated approximately 550m west of the Grid Connection Route, approximately

650 north-east of the nearest Solar Development Field (A-1-12), and 1km north of Crowland Airport. It is a boundary cross dating to c.1200 marking the boundary of land formerly owned by Crowland Abbey. The cross is additionally protected as a Grade II Listed Building (1359254).

- The Scheduled Monument "Pinchbeck engine" (1004966) is located 1.4km west of the Grid Connection Route. It is a restored beam engine situated off the A16 at Pinchbeck and is located in a former pumping station building.
- The Scheduled Monument "King's Hall moated site, 480m east of Broadwater House Farm" (1017217) is 1.7km east of the Grid Connection Route. It is a series of earthworks and buried deposits thought to have once been the residence of the de Moulton family around 1086 AD. The island is 'D'-shaped in plan, measuring approximately 85m by 80m, and stands up to 1.5m above the surrounding ground level.
- The Elloe Stone (1005037) is located at Spalding Gate, approximately 2.9km east of the Grid Connection Route. It may date from the 10th or 11th century AD and its original purpose was to have marked the site where the men of Elloe Wapentake held their Hundred Court. It was removed from its original position by 1889 and re-erected on a new base inscribed to commemorate the coronation of King George IV. The stone is also Grade II Listed (1147728).
- The medieval "Churchyard cross, St Mary's churchyard" in Whaplode (1010673) is considered to be in its original location at TF 32383 24032 and is positioned approximately 3.9km east of the Grid Connection Route. The cross is also Grade II Listed (1308443).

8.6.16. Within the 2km study area there are 30 Listed Buildings, including four Grade I Listed Buildings (1064471; 1064475; 1064482; 1306702) and three Grade II* Listed Buildings (1359293; 1359567; 1392209). The remaining 23 Listed Buildings within the study area are all Grade II Listed.

8.6.17. The four Grade I Listed Buildings within the 2km study area are:

- Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas (1064471) is within the scheduled area of the Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096). It is located approximately 170m from the Grid Connection Route boundary.
- The Church of St Mary (1064475) is a restored 12th century church within the village of Weston and is located approximately 600m from the

Grid Connection Route boundary. It was restored in the 19th century by Scott and Pearson.

- The "Church of St Paul Including Attached Former Sunday Schoolroom" (1306702) is a 19th century church within Spalding, located approximately 1km south-west from the Grid Connection Route boundary. It is on Holbeach Road, outside of the Spalding Conservation Area and west of the A16 roundabout. It is adjacent to the Grade II* Listed Vicarage to Church of St Paul (1392209) and both were built to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott.
- The Church of St Mary (1064482) is a restored 14th century church within the north-west corner of Cowbit, approximately 1.1km north-west from the Grid Connection Route boundary.

8.6.18. The three Grade II* Listed Buildings within 2km of the corridor are as follows.

- The Chapel of St James (1359293) is 900m east of the Grid Connection Route on Roman Road in Moulton Chapel at TF 29348 18231. It is an early 18th century Chapel of Ease by William Sands Senior of Spalding and contains later 19th and 20th century additions.
- The "Old Office Block of Land Settlement Association" (1359567) is an 18th century house with medieval origins on Mallard Road, approximately 1.2km west of the Grid Connection Route in the Low Fulney Estate of Spalding.
- The 19th century "Vicarage to Church of St Paul" (1392209) is located on Holbeach Road in Spalding, approximately 1km south-west of the Grid Connection Route boundary. It is adjacent to the Grade I Listed Building "Church of St Paul Including Attached Former Sunday Schoolroom" (1306702) and both were built to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott.

8.6.19. Up to 5km from the Grid Connection Route there are a further eight Grade I Listed Buildings (1064002; 1064403, 1064433, 1147325; 1308557; 1359295, 1359532, 1359547) and 21 Grade II* Listed Buildings (1063947; 1063953; 1063959; 1063971; 1063983; 1063991; 1063993; 1063999; 1064006; 1147529; 1147578; 1169039; 1306654; 1307194; 1359518; 1359519; 1359524; 1359525; 1359534; 1359539; 1359545). Details of these and the Grade II Listed Buildings can be found in the Appendix B gazetteer of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA,** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.6.20. Within 5km of the Grid Connection Route, there are three Conservation Areas - Moulton Conservation Area, approximately 1.9km to the east; Spalding Conservation Area, approximately 2.1km to the west; and Pinchbeck Conservation Area, approximately 2.5km to the west.

8.6.21. Moulton Conservation Area includes the Moulton Harrox Playing Field to the west of the village, the village centre, properties alongside Church Lane extending c. 360m northward from the church, and Moulton Park, forming a 'J' shaped area of land. The village is recorded to have originated in 1100 AD. Moulton Conservation Area includes two Grade I Listed Buildings: the 12th century Church of All Saints (1147325) and the 19th century 'Windmill' (1308557). The Moulton Conservation Area Appraisal[29] identifies Moulton Park as having been enclosed before 1812 with some ridge and furrow earthworks, indicating a moderate to high potential of archaeological remains within the park.

8.6.22. The Spalding Conservation Area appraisal is currently under review, but the 2007 Conservation Area appraisal has been used to inform this assessment[30]. The town has its origins in the Roman period and its earliest documentary reference dates to 716 AD. The area derives its main character from the River Welland that physically divides the town, with the 13th century Grade I Listed Building Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas (1359547), the 15th century Grade I Listed Building Ayscoughfee Hall (1359532) and the Grade I Listed Building Spalding War Memorial (1064002) to its east, and the historic commercial area to its west.

8.6.23. The Pinchbeck Conservation Area contains a number of listed buildings including the 12th century Grade I Listed Church of St Mary (106443). The village is first recorded in the Domesday Survey, c.1086 AD. Though a village with a strong medieval core, it is considered a polyfocal or dispersed settlement due to a number of manorial centres evidenced in documentation[31].

Non-Designated Heritage Assets – Whole Scheme

8.6.24. No direct evidence of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, or Bronze Age occupation has been recorded within the study area. Wider research indicates intermittent human activity across the fenland landscape from the Palaeolithic through to the Bronze Age. Early prehistoric remains are largely confined to higher ground known as roddons or fen-edge locations, comprising isolated lithic scatters and occasional artefact finds. Environmental evidence suggests that periodic inundation limited sustained occupation. By the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, small-scale domestic and ritual activity developed on localised dry

29 APS (2000) Archaeological Implications of the Reappraisal of Moulton Conservation Area, Moulton, Lincolnshire (MCA 00). Available at: https://doi.org/10.5284/1009728 [Accessed 06/03/2026]
30 South Holland District Council (SHDC) (2007) Spalding Conservation Area Appraisal. Available at: https://www.heritagesouthholland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/AOS-P-0054-Consveration-Area.pdf [Accessed 06/03/2026]
31 APS (2002) Archaeological Implications of the Reappraisal of Pinchbeck Conservation Area, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire (PCA 02). Available at: https://doi.org/10.5284/1009733 [Accessed 06/03/2026]

islands and along fen margins, as evidenced by worked flint, pottery and funerary monuments.

8.6.25. During the Iron Age, settlement patterns became increasingly structured, with the emergence of field systems, enclosures, and trackways that reflect organised agricultural practices and salt production. People adapted to the marginal environment by creating drainage features and droveways, marking the beginnings of fenland reclamation. These developments illustrate a gradual increase in land management. Evidence of this management increases into the Romano-British period. Archaeological investigations across the Scheme have revealed evidence of dispersed farmsteads, industrial activity including salt production, and extensive field systems, demonstrating the increased exploitation of the roddons. Artefactual material, including ceramics, coins, and building debris, indicate a sustained level of occupation, with engineering works that laid the foundation for later phases of drainage and reclamation.

8.6.26. During the early medieval period, the landscape became wetter, but Anglo-Saxon settlement persisted on areas of higher ground. Evidence for early medieval activity is sparse, with finds including pottery (c. 975–1150 AD) recorded at Cowbit and Weston. Weston is documented in the Domesday Book (1086).

8.6.27. The medieval period is represented by the expansion of settlements and fenland reclamation, including sea banks, trackways, and agricultural features such as ridge-and-furrow. Settlements such as Cowbit, Peakhill, and Weston, alongside field boundaries, ponds, stock enclosures, and ditches all date to this period. The establishment of Crowland Abbey reflects the continued use of the roddons for habitation and religious activity. During the medieval period, monastic institutions played a leading role in renewed land reclamation, constructing embankments, sluices, and drainage channels that stabilised the fen environment and expanded cultivable land. These works established the landscape character of settlement and land division patterns observable today.

8.6.28. The post-medieval period witnessed a major phase of fen drainage and landscape reorganisation, beginning in the seventeenth century. Large-scale engineering schemes, often directed by Dutch specialists, converted extensive areas of wetland into arable farmland through the introduction of major drains, pumps and flood defences. These interventions permanently altered the hydrology of the landscape and established the rectilinear agricultural landscape that defines the modern fens. Post-medieval evidence reflects extensive agricultural exploitation, including farmsteads, enclosures, drainage features and field boundaries. Many farmsteads survive illustrating the fens dispersed settlement pattern. Infrastructure developments, such as the Great Northern Railway and Spalding to Holbeach line and the growth of the road network, contributed to the landscape transformation.

8.6.29. In the modern period, progressive improvements to drainage, mechanised farming, and infrastructure have further modified the landscape. Evidence of the impact of World War Two on local communities in Lincolnshire is also recorded within the study area.

8.6.30. Despite continued utilisation of the landscape, buried peat and alluvial deposits retain high potential for archaeological and palaeoenvironmental preservation, providing valuable evidence of human adaptation to changing environmental conditions. The cumulative archaeological record illustrates the long-term evolution of human interaction with the fenland environment.

Assessment of Archaeological Potential of the Solar Development Area

8.6.31. The results of the Solar Development Area baseline studies and surveys have been summarised in the table in **ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Area Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The table summarises each field within the Solar Development Areas and assigns Archaeological Zones and potential as follows (these zones and areas of potential are also presented on **ES Figure 8-5** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

- Archaeological Zone - an area where archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and confirmed through intrusive archaeological evaluation (trial trenching).
- High Potential - an area where archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and subsequently there was found to be strong correlation in the non-intrusive archaeological evaluations (aerial survey and LiDAR assessments and/ or geophysical survey). This assessment of potential has also been informed by the results of the intrusive archaeological evaluation.
- Medium Potential - an area where archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and there was found to be limited correlation in the non-intrusive archaeological evaluations (aerial survey and LiDAR assessments and/ or geophysical survey). This assessment of potential has been informed by the results of the intrusive archaeological evaluation.
- Low Potential - an area where no or poorly preserved archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and there was poor or no correlation found in the non-intrusive archaeological evaluations (aerial survey and LiDAR assessments and/ or geophysical survey). This assessment of potential has been informed by the results of the interactive archaeological evaluation. These areas are largely off the roddons.

8.6.32. There is considered to be a low potential to encounter organic-rich sedimentary sequences dating from the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic indicating periods of water inundation which could provide evidence of the prehistoric environmental changes buried in roddons and palaeochannels located within the Solar Development Areas and Inter-Array Connections.

There is an absence of recorded human activity from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age within the study area. In B-1-09, the geophysical survey indicated a potential for ring-ditches of later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age to be present that could represent a cemetery group, monument complex or funerary landscape. However, the archaeological evaluation in the surrounding fields has confirmed that the earliest recorded activity belongs to a later period (the Iron Age) and relates to settlement activity and associated domestic or agricultural features. Trenching in B-1-09 and the surrounding fields, shows that the features are of a later date and consistent with findings across Parcels C and C. It is considered that potential to identify evidence for archaeological activity from these periods is low.

8.6.33. The desk-based research, and non-intrusive archaeological surveys, identified potential for extensive remains of Iron Age and/or Roman date to survive within the Solar Development Areas. The earliest archaeological deposits identified through evaluation trenching are believed to be Iron-Age in date and have generally been located on the roddons crossing the Site. These areas of slightly raised ground would have provided a preferable location for settlement within the fenland landscape. This assessment has identified seven Archaeological Zones (Zones 1-2 and 4-8) where deposits of Iron Age and/or Roman date are known to survive and are detailed on **ES Figures 8-5(a-d)** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

8.6.34. Within Archaeological Zone 3, there is high potential for archaeological deposits relating to the medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank Scheduled Monument. Geophysical and aerial survey results indicate that the boundary of Crowland Abbey extends west from the Queen's Bank Scheduled Monument, towards Saint Guthlac's Cross.

8.6.35. The non-intrusive surveys for the Solar Development Areas indicated a likelihood of field systems or possible associated drains. Features such as potential drove roads and areas of ridge and furrow have also been recorded. These features have been found to overlay both roddons and paleochannels and indicate the date for these features extends from the early-medieval to post-medieval following the progressive draining of the fens. The fields were extensively utilised in later periods and intensification of agriculture from the medieval period into the post-medieval period will have greatly impacted the survival of some archaeological deposits, but there is potential for features of medieval and post-medieval date,

largely relating to agricultural practices to survive across the Solar Development Areas.

8.6.36. Three aircraft crash sites from World War Two and an area of munitions dumping are known within the Solar Development Areas. The Solar Development Area is well documented through historic mapping and photographs from the later years of the post-medieval period through the modern. The documentary records and the evaluation work undertaken make the potential for finding heritage features from these periods not previously recorded low.

Assessment of Archaeological Potential of the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections

8.6.37. No archaeological evaluation trenching has been undertaken within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections. As a result, the assessment of potential is based on the available desk-based information and the Aerial Photography Survey. References within the text (e.g. GC_01) refer to areas of archaeological features identified by the aerial photography survey. Details of these can be found in Appendix C.2 of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age

8.6.38. There is an absence of previously recorded activity from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age within the Grid Connection Route study area.

8.6.39. As with the Solar Development Areas the aerial survey has identified the potential for extensive remains of roddons and palaeochannels dating from the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic within the Grid Connection Route. Roddons and palaeochannels were identified in 22 of 31 fields. The aerial survey recorded a complex of features including ditches, enclosures and tracks in 4SV35 (GC_23) between Wool Hall Farm and the A151/Holbeach Road which are potentially of prehistoric date based on their form. The aerial survey has also indicated a likelihood of Neolithic or Bronze Age curvilinear ditches and enclosures in 4SV10 (GC_08) and 4SV27 (GC_21). The depths and ages of these deposits are undetermined at this stage. The recorded features following the trend of potential archaeological assets being located on the roddons is evident across the Grid Connection Route, consistent with the landscape potential of the Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections. However, as the morphology of these features are not exclusive to the prehistoric period, further field investigation may result in later dates, including the Iron Age to post-medieval periods.

Iron Age and Roman

8.6.40. The aerial survey identified limited potential for Iron Age or Roman settlement activity within the Grid Connection Route, only identifying the Iron Age settlements and salterns also recorded by the HER near the A16 to the north of

Cowbit as an area of potential activity for these time periods. There is considered to be medium potential to encounter remains from the Iron Age and Roman period within the Grid Connection Route in the area west of 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV27 (GC_21), and 4SV35 (GC_23). As previously discussed, the aerial survey indicated a likelihood of Neolithic or Bronze Age curvilinear ditches and enclosures close to 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV13 (GC_12) and 4SV27 (GC_21), but as the morphology of these features are not exclusive to the prehistoric period, further field investigation may result in later dates, including the Iron Age to post-medieval periods.

8.6.41. There is considered to be a medium potential to encounter remains from the Iron Age and Roman period within the Solar Development Areas and Grid Connection Route close to 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV13 (GC_12) and 4SV27 (GC_21). This potential is also considered to be the same on areas of roddons across the Grid Connection Route and Solar Development Area.

Early Medieval and Medieval

8.6.42. The desk-based research identified limited early medieval activity within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections in the form of pottery scatters and documentary records of salterns. There is considered to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of early medieval date to survive within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections.

8.6.43. The research for the medieval activity within the study area identified records of medieval settlements, trackways and droveways that would have developed out of the early medieval period. Salt-making south of Pinchbeck Marsh Pumping Station (MLI89837) is attested in the 13th century. The aerial survey did not distinguish between early medieval and medieval activity but instead confirmed the broad presence of medieval dylings (ridge and furrow) and cultivation marks in fields containing 4SV3, 4SV4 and 4SV5 (GC_01) and 4SV27 (GC_21) of the Grid Connection Route. The depths and ages of the dylings and cultivation marks are undetermined at this stage. As with the Solar Development Areas these features were found to overlie both the roddons and palaeochannels indicating these features post-date the draining of the fens. However, it is likely that many of the agricultural and drainage features from these periods continued in use into the post-medieval period.

8.6.44. There is considered to be a low potential to encounter remains from the early medieval and medieval period within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections. However, it is likely that many of the agricultural and drainage features from these periods continued in use into the post-medieval period.

Post-Medieval

8.6.45. The post-medieval period in the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections is represented by the large number of isolated historic farmsteads in enclosed fields with associated drainage and ditches. The aerial survey confirmed the presence of post-medieval activity in the form of boundaries, often with associated drainage, ditches or cultivation marks. Post-medieval remains within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections are likely to relate to the agricultural exploitation, and may include isolated buildings, historic field boundaries, ridge and furrow, and fen circles. The Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections are well documented through historic mapping and photographs from the later years of the post-medieval period through to the modern. The documentary records and the evaluation work completed make the potential for finding heritage features not previously recorded low.

Modern

8.6.46. Within the Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections records of modern date are represented by the 20th century Low Fulney Land Settlement Association settlement (MLI25508). As with the post-medieval period the modern period is well documented and therefore the potential to identify heritage features not previously recorded is low.

Future Baseline

8.6.47. This section considers potential changes to the baseline conditions detailed above and in the **ES Appendix 8-2 HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) that may occur during the lifespan of the Scheme. It considers changes that could occur in the absence of the Scheme being constructed.

8.6.48. It is considered changes to buried archaeological deposits would be minimal and limited to typical taphonomic processes. This would be unlikely to significantly alter the cultural significance of the current heritage baseline.

8.6.49. It is not considered likely that significant numbers of designated built heritage assets will be added to the baseline in the future. The built heritage baseline is therefore unlikely to undergo significant change.

8.7. Statements of Cultural Significance

8.7.1. A proportionate assessment of likely significant effects on Cultural Heritage has been undertaken. Assets which are considered to have the potential to experience a likely significant effect as a result of the Scheme, as informed by the baseline data gathered, have been identified and a statement of their cultural significance provided in this section. Those assets which will not experience a likely significant impact to their cultural significance/interest (as defined in

Section 8.4), either physically or through changes to their setting, are omitted. Further details of the significance and setting of heritage assets, including those with effects that are not significant, can be found in **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Details of the heritage assets within the Site which are not significantly impacted by the Scheme or impacted at all, are presented in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Solar Development Area

Scheduled Monuments

8.7.2. There are four Scheduled Monuments related to the Iron Age and Roman period located within the study area. Two are within the Site, the 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979) and 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978). The other two are within the 1km study area and include the 'Settlement in Moulton West Fen' (1002944) located 500m to the north of the Site; and the 'Romano-British settlement S (south) of Shell Bridge' (1004982) is located approximately 300m west of D-3-01. The first two monuments contain the remains of Iron Age or Romano-British settlement or salt production sites, and assessment of aerial photographs and geophysical survey of the monuments has identified enclosures, trackways and boundaries. The latter two, despite being recorded as 'settlements', may also contain evidence of salt production, as this activity is prevalent in the archaeological record of the area.

8.7.3. The cultural significance of these monuments is derived from their archaeological interests. Archaeological remains within the monuments have the potential to contribute towards our understanding of how the fenlands were exploited during the Iron Age and Roman periods and how past humans interacted and responded to this unique landscape. Together, the Iron Age and Roman remains reveal a landscape of long-term continuity and adaptation. The occupation pattern demonstrates the persistent exploitation of roddons as habitable spines within the fens, supporting mixed agricultural and domestic activity. The evolution from small, scattered Iron Age settlements to a more structured Roman landscape of enclosures, droveways, and managed drainage reflects both environmental adaptation and increasing social complexity. The potential for evidence of salt production also has the opportunity to contribute towards national research objectives to understand how salt production was undertaken during this period, how the salt was used and how it was transported from where it was sourced. Overall, the archaeological record contributes valuable insight into the development of settlement, salt manufacturing, ritual activity, agriculture, and water management in the fenland region from the later prehistoric period into the Roman era.

8.7.4. The monuments settings are defined by their utilisation of the roddons and the relationship with the historic fenland landscape and the current agricultural landscape contributes to this significance. The immediate setting of the Scheduled Monuments of the 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979) and 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978) consists of the public road to the north, and hedges forming the southern field boundaries, while the east and west limits of scheduling are not defined on the ground. The wider setting comprises an extensive landscape of settlement along a network of roddons. The land within the Scheme boundary contributes to this wider landscape and makes a contribution to the significance of the asset.

8.7.5. The Scheduled Monuments 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979), 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978), 'Settlement in Moulton West Fen' (1002944), and the 'Romano-British settlement S (south) of Shell Bridge' all have high importance.

Archaeological Zones

8.7.6. Research and archaeological evaluation had identified a complex landscape of intensive settlement activity from the Iron Age or Roman periods recorded within the Site. Features identified are contiguous with those identified within Scheduled Monument 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978) and Scheduled Monument 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979), extending beyond the scheduled areas. Together, the Iron Age and Roman remains reveal a landscape of long-term continuity and adaptation. The occupation pattern demonstrates the persistent exploitation of roddons as habitable spines within the fens, supporting mixed agricultural and domestic activity. The evolution from small, scattered Iron Age settlements to a more structured Roman landscape of enclosures, droveways, and managed drainage reflects both environmental adaptation and increasing social complexity. The cultural significance of remains of Iron Age or Roman date in the Solar Development Area is defined by their archaeological interest. Overall, the archaeological record contributes valuable insight into the development of settlement, salt manufacturing, ritual activity, agriculture, and water management in the fenland region from the later prehistoric period into the Roman era.

8.7.7. Archaeological Zone 1 is located in Land Parcel B and C. It includes the Scheduled Monument 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978). Archaeological Zone 2 is located in Land Parcel C and includes the 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979) Scheduled Monument. Archaeological Zones 4 to 8 are within Land Parcel D. The zones contain the remains of Iron Age or Romano-British settlement and salt production sites as well as evidence of early medieval or medieval and post-medieval water management and agricultural practices. The survey and evaluation within the zones have shown them to contain enclosures,

trackways and boundaries. Due to the complexity of the archaeological deposits identified, their valuable insight into the development of the fenlands and their association with the Scheduled Monuments Archaeological Zones 1, 2, 4-8 are of high importance.

8.7.8. Archaeological Zone 3 is located at the southern end of field B5. It has been identified due to linear features detected on the aerial and geophysical surveys. These features have the potential to indicate the continuation of the line of the Scheduled earthwork boundary (1009980) believed to be the medieval boundary of the Crowland Abbey precinct. The cultural significance of these features derives largely from their archaeological and historical interest. Surviving features have the ability to improve our understanding of how Crowland Abbey engaged in land use and land management in the medieval period. These features have shared historic interest related to the history of the abbey linked to the Scheduled Monument of the medieval earthworks and "Saint Guthlac's Cross" (1005052). They may also contribute to the understanding of Crowland Abbey and how the monastic lands grew and changed over time in relation to the power and wealth of the abbey. Both monuments can inform on how the abbey, and people and places associated with the abbey, interacted within the landscape. Archaeological Zone 3 is of high importance.

8.7.9. Outside of the Archaeological Zones the Solar Development Area has been assessed in terms of its archaeological potential. The results of the Solar Development Area baseline studies and surveys have been summarised in the table in Appendix F of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The table summarises each field within the Solar Development Area and assigns potential for further deposits of late prehistoric to Roman date. These areas of potential are also presented on **ES Figure 8-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential - Solar Development Areas** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

Areas of high potential

8.7.10. The areas of high potential are where archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and subsequently there was found to be strong correlation in the non-intrusive archaeological evaluations (aerial survey and LiDAR assessments and/ or geophysical survey). This assessment of potential has also been informed by the results of the intrusive archaeological evaluation. As with the Archaeological Zones these areas of high potential are associated with the roddons. The survey results indicate that the areas of high potential represent the margins of the more intensive utilisation noted within the Archaeological Zones. The cultural significance of remains of Iron Age or Roman date in the area of high potential are defined by their archaeological interest. When considered along with the Archaeological Zones the archaeological record contributes valuable insight into the development of settlement, salt manufacturing, ritual activity,

agriculture, and water management in the fenland region from the later prehistoric period into the Roman era. As individual non-designated assets, they have low importance but contribute to wider cultural significance and understanding of the landscape. Grouped together and in consideration of the results of the aerial survey, geophysical survey and archaeological field evaluations, they are considered to present a landscape of medium importance.

Areas of medium potential

8.7.11. The areas of medium potential are areas where archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and there was found to be limited correlation in the non-intrusive archaeological evaluations (aerial survey and LiDAR assessments and/ or geophysical survey). These areas lie between the roddons and have been found to contain fewer features which supports the hypothesis that the settlement and land exploitation was largely focussed on the roddons before the fens were drained. Where features are recorded, they likely represent less intensive use of the landscape due to phases of inundation. Grouped together and in consideration of the results of the aerial survey, geophysical survey and archaeological field evaluations, they are considered to present a landscape of low importance.

8.7.12. At the northern end of field B-5, on the southern side of the South Holland main drain, the aerial photograph and geophysical surveys identified features likely to be of equivalent cultural significance to the archaeological deposits identified across the Solar Development Area. Two narrow roddons are recorded and some features of likely Iron Age or Roman date have been recorded. The cultural significance of remains of Iron Age or Roman date in field B-5 are defined by their archaeological interest. Overall, the archaeological record contributes to the understanding of settlement, salt manufacturing, ritual activity, agriculture, and water management in the fenland region from the later prehistoric period into the Roman era. The archaeological deposits in the northern section of field B-5 are considered to be largely of medium importance and the areas of roddon are very limited therefore reducing the potential for archaeological deposits of high importance.

Areas of low potential

8.7.13. Areas of low potential are where no or poorly preserved archaeological remains have been identified in the baseline study and there was poor or no correlation found in the non-intrusive archaeological evaluations (aerial survey and LiDAR assessments and/ or geophysical survey). These areas lie between the roddons and have been found to contain limited features which supports the hypothesis that the settlement and land exploitation was largely focussed on the roddons before the fens were drained. Where features are recorded, they likely represent

dispersed features. Grouped together and in consideration of the results of the aerial survey, geophysical survey and archaeological field evaluations, they are considered to present a landscape of low importance.

Scheduled Monuments outside Order Limits

8.7.14. The Scheduled Monument 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south-east of Providence House' (1009980) is located adjacent to the Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections. The monument includes low lying earthworks and banks which are the remains of the northern boundary of the monastic lands of Crowland Abbey. The Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections south of the monument fall within the historical boundary of agricultural land owned by the abbey that have been defined in the landscape by the monument. Queen's Bank lies immediately to the north of the Scheme Boundary of field C-1-01. The majority of the monument is within a narrow field of pasture, defined by a mature hedge to the south with a public bridleway beyond, and a less substantial hedge to the north; at its east end, the field broadens northwards. The hedges and bridleway are included within the Scheduling, but the earthworks are only clearly visible from the west. The immediate setting thus comprises the space between the hedges, and also the area to the south of the large hedge, which feels divorced from the earthworks. The wider setting of the bank is as part of the monastic boundary for the estate of Crowland Abbey, with land to the south within the Order Limits being inside the estate.

8.7.15. The historic line of Queen's Bank continues to the Scheduled Monument Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052) up to 3.7km to the west. Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052) is positioned approximately 650 north-east of the nearest Parcel (A-1-12) and 550m west of the Grid Connection Route. The cross is additionally protected as a Grade II Listed Building (1359254). Saint Guthlac's Cross enhances the significance of the Queen's Bank as an enduring symbol of the abbey meant to be understood and experienced at the crossroads and as a reinforcement of the boundary of the abbey's land.

8.7.16. As a boundary marker of abbey lands, the wider setting therefore includes the abbey, Queen's Bank and a broad swathe of farmland in between, divided by hedges punctuated with taller trees and occasional farm buildings. There are currently no views from the cross to the abbey or the boundary bank. The wider landscape contributes to the setting and significance of the cross as a boundary feature within the rural landscape and through its association with the former abbey land.

8.7.17. The cultural significance of both monuments derives largely from their archaeological and historical interest. Surviving features within Queen's Bank

have the ability to improve our understanding of how Crowland Abbey engaged in land use and land management in the medieval period. Both monuments have shared historic interest related to the history of Crowland Abbey and how the monastic lands grew and changed over time in relation to the power and wealth of the abbey. Both monuments can inform on how the abbey, and people and places associated with the abbey, interacted within the landscape. The cross also has artistic interest as a medieval stone sculpture. The Scheduled Monument 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south-east of Providence House' (1009980) and the Scheduled Monument Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052) each have high importance.

Historic Landscape

8.7.18. The fenland was drained and the landscape character changed from the medieval period onwards. There are no assets of early medieval or medieval date recorded within the Solar Development Area as a whole. However, the aerial and geophysical survey of the Site along with the archaeological evaluation indicated a likelihood of field systems or possible associated drains and evidence of agricultural practices that may date from the early medieval to post-medieval period across the Solar Development Area. These features have been found to over lay both the roddons and the surrounding palaeochannels evidencing that they post-date the change in the landscape. The cultural significance of these features is defined by their archaeological interest as they can inform our understanding of how early medieval or medieval people in the fens interacted with their environment and also on the nature of the past environment and landscape. The area is best characterised during these periods by indirect evidence of land use rather than by settlement remains. The activity likely reflects transient occupation or agricultural exploitation rather than permanent habitation. Nonetheless, the findings provide valuable context for understanding the long-term continuity of landscape use, demonstrating the gradual transformation of the fenland from a marginal wetland into a managed, productive environment beginning in the early medieval period. Grouped together, these remains are considered to have low importance as they are relatively poorly preserved with limited importance at a local level and low potential to add to local and regional research objectives.

Post-medieval farmsteads

8.7.19. The sites of five isolated post-medieval farmsteads, now demolished, are recorded within the Solar Development Area: MLI123862; MLI123860; MLI123531; MLI123881 and MLI123863). The cultural significance of these assets is defined by their archaeological interest, which can provide information on the form of the buildings and historic agricultural activity in the area. As individual non-designated assets, the farmsteads each have low importance.

Fleet Decoy

8.7.20. The site of Fleet Decoy (MLI23224) is recorded on the 1824 Ordnance Survey map and has been identified through the Aerial Survey (see appendix C.2 of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)). The decoy was demolished when the South Holland Main Drain was constructed. The cultural significance of this site is defined by its archaeological interest which can inform on wild fowl management and food production in the post-medieval and modern periods. The asset is of low importance.

World War II sites

8.7.21. The crash site of a German Dornier 217 is recorded within field D4 (JBA1). The crash site of two Lancaster bombers that collided mid-air is recorded in A-1-11 (JBA2). A third wartime crash of a British Spitfire (JBA3) potentially near or within Land Parcel A is also known. The cultural significance of the crash sites is defined by their archaeological and historic interests. They hold archaeological and historic interest as evidence of airborne warfare during the Second World War and any surviving remains would contribute to the understanding of that research. The crash sites also have a significant connection to the relatives of the airmen killed in the incident and provide an opportunity for others to connect with living and historic memories of the war. The crash sites are considered to have medium importance as they have associations at a local level, representing living memories of the local responses to the Second World War.

8.7.22. The Meridian Stone is located on Langary Road. This stone was erected to commemorate the new millennium in 2000 and marks the line of the Greenwich Meridian Line which passes through close to this spot. The stone holds cultural significance as it was erected by the local community. The setting of the stone contributes to its significance due to its connection with the Greenwich Meridian and its accessible location next to the road. The stone is of low importance.

Roddons and Palaeochannels

8.7.23. The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of numerous roddons and palaeochannels throughout the Land Parcels A, B, D, and in 11 out of 13 fields of Land Parcel C (see Figures 5, 6, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 11-14 of the aerial survey report in Appendix C of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and the figures of the geophysical survey reports in Appendix D of **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3)). The majority of evidence for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic in the region has come from organic-rich sedimentary sequences preserved within palaeochannels and roddons although scientific dating is still required to determine the origin of the deposits within the Site. The cultural significance of deposits of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date in the Site is defined by their archaeological interest. There is a lack of understanding about the Palaeolithic

and Mesolithic throughout Lincolnshire due to the lack of evidence, and sedimentary sequences preserved in palaeochannels may have the ability to further our understanding of these time periods. Sedimentary sequences of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods have potential to inform on our understanding of the environment of those time periods, including human interaction with the environment during these periods. Grouped together and in consideration of the results of the aerial survey, geophysical survey and archaeological field evaluations, they are considered to have medium importance as having potential to contain deeply buried Palaeolithic or Mesolithic organic-rich sedimentary sequences that would contribute significantly to regional and local research objectives into understanding these periods.

Crowland Abbey estate

8.7.24. The precinct of Crowland Abbey estate is represented in Crowland's modern parish boundaries almost precisely as they follow those set out to delimit the precinct of the abbey. This boundary encompasses a large area including Land Parcels A, B and C of the Scheme. The northern boundary follows the line of Queen's Bank and is included in the Scheduled earthwork boundary (1009980) which is located just to the northern side of Queen's Bank outside of the Solar Development Area. Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052) which is both Scheduled and Grade II listed is also believed to have once marked the northern boundary of the abbey but is no longer positioned in its original location. Its cultural significance lies in its historic relationship between the abbey and the extent of its monastic lands, its influence over the surrounding landscape and how the monastic lands grew and changed over time in relation to the power and wealth of the abbey. In addition, some long-range views of Crowland Abbey have survived across the wider landscape which contribute to this significance. The historic precinct of Crowlands Abbey is of medium importance.

The Fens

8.7.25. Details of the historic landscape character are provided in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The Solar Development Area lies within the historic landscape character areas of The Fens. The landscape is characterised by some nucleated and linear settlements, with all other settlements being either isolated farmsteads or ragged linear settlements located along the main roads. An attribute of the Eastern Fens is that 'it is quite possible to see several farmsteads

or other houses in every direction from any position within the character zone'[32]. Much of the post-medieval planned enclosure landscape survives within the Eastern Fens, partly due to the necessity of retaining field boundary drains. Throughout the Eastern Fens there is a strong feeling of openness as there are few hedgerows demarcating fields. The historic landscape is of medium importance.

Inter-Array Connections

8.7.26. Non-designated assets recorded within the Inter-Array Connections reflect the known archaeological deposits and potential for unknown heritage assets as the Solar Development Area. Assets recorded by the aerial and geophysical survey are thought to primarily date to the Romano-British period and include evidence of settlement and associated contemporary features. The roddons identified by the aerial photo and LiDAR assessment across the Land Parcels continue across the Inter-Array Connections. The surveys also demonstrated that the roddons were the focus of settlement activity for this period consistent with other areas of the Solar Development Area. Evidence of features from the periods following the intensive drainage of the fenland are evident across the Inter-Array Connections and are not confined to the roddons. These include field systems or possible associated drains and evidence of agricultural practices that may date from the early medieval to post-medieval period. The cultural significance of remains of archaeological deposits within the Inter-Array Connections is defined by their archaeological interest and have the same significance and low importance as defined within the Solar Development Area.

8.7.27. Based on the available evidence, within the Underground Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcel A and B the potential for archaeological deposits is low. A limited number of less distinct features have been detected through non-intrusive methods such as a probable ring ditch. The evaluation trenching that has been undertaken in fields across Land Parcel A has not identified the density of features found further east within the Solar Development Area. It is considered that as a group of non-designated features, they have low importance but contribute to wider cultural significance and understanding of the landscape.

8.7.28. Within the Overhead Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels C and D the potential for archaeological deposits is medium. The aerial survey has identified

[32] Lincolnshire County Council (2011) The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire, English Heritage Project No. 4661 Main, The Historic Landscape Character Zones. Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/historic-landscape-characterisation [Accessed July 2025]

groupings of features which reflect those recorded across Land Parcels B and C. There is therefore potential for Romano-British features, similar to those identified on the roddons within the Solar Development Areas. Overlying these early features is evidence of later phases of farming from the early medieval period onwards. This includes the site of a 19th century farmstead (MLI123310) which has now been demolished, as well as other evidence of agricultural and land management. It is considered that as a group of non-designated features, they have medium importance and contribute to wider cultural significance and understanding of the landscape.

Grid Connection Route

8.7.29. At the location of each pylon, the underground section of cable, CSEC's and where other construction elements, haul roads, temporary construction compounds or access tracks are required, construction works have the potential to impact archaeological deposits. The cultural significance of these deposits has been determined at this stage based on the available information but has not yet been confirmed through geophysical survey or intrusive archaeological evaluation.

8.7.30. Based on available information archaeological deposits from the Iron Age and Roman period within the Grid Connection Route are likely to be of equivalent cultural significance and archaeological interest to similar archaeological deposits identified across the Solar Development Area by having the potential to contribute to archaeological research into the development of agriculture and settlements, salt manufacturing, ritual activities and water management in the fenland region from the later prehistoric period into the Roman era. Due to their complexity they are considered to have medium importance.

8.7.31. The medieval or post-medieval dylings and cultivation marks within the Grid Connection Route have potential to inform our understanding of the use of ridge and furrow as a farming technique in this long-cultivated landscape, may inform on the dating of earlier and later forms of cultivation, and can provide some insight into the understanding of the long-term impact of the interaction of humans on landscapes and soils. However, the dylings and cultivation marks are considered to have low importance as they are fragmented, poorly preserved, with limited importance at a local level and low potential to add to local and regional research objectives.

8.7.32. As with the Solar Development Area, the fenland was drained and the landscape character changed from the medieval period onwards. The aerial survey indicated a likelihood of field systems or possible associated drains and evidence of agricultural practices that may date from the early medieval to post-medieval period across the Grid Connection Route. The aerial survey specifically confirmed

the presence of post-medieval activity in the form of boundaries, often with associated with linear drainage, ditches or cultivation marks, throughout fields containing 4SV5 (GC_01), C.1A 4SV7 (GC_03), 4SV14, 4SV15 and C-2 (GC_11), west of SV35 (GC_25) and within the Order Limits at the northern end of the Grid Connection Route where the Scheme will join with the Weston Marsh substation. It is likely that post fenland drainage and land management features including historic field boundaries, ridge and furrow and fen circles will be present across the Grid Connection Route. The cultural significance of these remains is defined by their archaeological and historical interest, which can inform on the historical agricultural activity within the area. In addition, the location of a demolished 19th century non-designated farmstead is within the Grid Connection Route near Moulton (MLI123190), located between 4SV23 (GC_20) and 4SV27 (GC_21). The cultural significance of this farmstead is defined by its archaeological interest, which can provide information on the form of the buildings and historic agricultural activity in the area. Grouped together, these non-designated remains are considered to have low importance.

8.7.33. Details of the historic landscape character of the of the Grid Connection Route is provided in the **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The southern two thirds of the Grid Connection Route is within the historic landscape character area of The Fens, specifically the Eastern Fens, while the northern third of the Grid Connection Route lies within The Wash, specifically the Townlands. The historic landscape character of the southern two thirds of the Grid Connection Route is the same as the Solar Development Area, which has been described. Briefly, it comprises some nucleated and linear settlements, with all other settlements being either isolated farmsteads or ragged linear settlements located along the main roads. An attribute of the Eastern Fens is that 'it is quite possible to see several farmsteads or other houses in every direction from any position within the character zone'[33]. The Townlands landscape character in the northern third of the Grid Connection Route becomes evident in nucleated settlements and smaller, primarily residential settlements with smaller industrial areas on the outskirts of towns[33]. The Townlands is considered to be the oldest character area within the reclaimed marsh and fen landscape, however in the modern period the subdivisions that once characterised the medieval and post-medieval field morphologies were removed to create large field sizes for increased productivity

[33] Lincolnshire County Council (2011) The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire, English Heritage Project No. 4661 Main, The Historic Landscape Character Zones. Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/historic-landscape-characterisation [Accessed July 2025]

and mechanised farming. Considered as a whole, the historic landscape character of the Grid Connection Route is of medium importance.

8.7.34. The Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) is located 40m northwest of the Grid Connection Route. The upstanding remains of the early 14th century chapel has additional protection as the Grade I Listed Building, Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas (1064471). The cultural significance of the monument is derived from its archaeological and architectural interests. The monument contains the remains of a medieval moated monastic grange associated with Spalding Priory, approximately 5km to the southwest. It is believed to have been the country residence of the Prior of Spalding. The monument complex reflects a medieval monastic agricultural system when farming activity to support the parent monastery in Spalding was being undertaken at Wykeham. The monument can inform on the agricultural practices and land-use of the time, and it may have had connections to other granges in the area that once supported the priory, including a medieval grange recorded in Spalding (MLI22390). The chapel and remains of the retreat house can inform on medieval construction techniques and the artistic influences behind the design. Following the Dissolution, the farmstead became a new estate and was held in turn by the Harington, Ravenscroft and Everard families. The historic setting of the Scheduled Monument that once included Spalding has been reduced in the present day to the immediate fields of arable farmland surrounding the designated assets, which are now enclosed by mature trees, hedge and vegetation. The chapel has a large arched east facing window at the first-floor level. The Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and the Grade I Listed 'Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas' (1064471) both have high importance. The Grade II Listed Farmhouse (1147513) is within the scheduled area, (1019096), but the gate piers (1064472) are outside of it, on the southwest corner. The farmhouse and gate piers are of a later date than the grange, being of late 17th or early 18th century origin, but are of interest for their ability to inform on architectural construction techniques related to rural farmsteads of the later periods. The Grade II Listed Farmhouse (1064472) and gate piers (1147513) have medium importance.

8.7.35. The 18th century Grade II* Chapel of St James (1359293) is located within Moulton Chapel, approximately 900m to the east of the Grid Connection Route. The significance of the chapel derives from it architectural and historic interest. The chapel can inform on past ecclesiastical architectural styles and construction techniques. The chapel is located in the village of Moulton Chapel, which forms the majority of the setting of this Listed Building. The chapel is located on a small 'island' at the centre of the crossroads, the chapel sits in a small, grassed oval 'yard' surrounded by village houses. The setting of the chapel is thus the heart of

the village. Due to the village houses and mature trees, there is unlikely to be any view of the Grid Connection Route from the chapel. The wider landscape character of the surrounding agricultural fields makes a positive contribution to the cultural significance of this Grade II* Listed Building that has high importance.

8.8. Embedded Mitigation

8.8.1. This section contains the mitigation measures relevant to this chapter that are already incorporated into the Scheme design and the management plans submitted with the DCO Application, as described in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). Measures embedded within design are secured through the **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4) and the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3). Measures embedded within management plans include good practice measures regarding the protection of heritage assets secured by the **Outline CEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **Outline OEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **Outline DEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12). Site wide protocols for construction works to mitigate effects on archaeology will be set out within the OAMMS which has been considered as part of additional mitigation.

8.8.2. As detailed in **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1), consideration of heritage assets including their character, heritage significance and importance, influenced the design of the Scheme including the layout of the Solar Development Area and the routing of the Grid Connection.

8.8.3. The layout of solar PV modules within the Solar Development Area has been designed to avoid infrastructure relating to the Scheme within the two Scheduled Monuments located within the Site (1004979, 1004978) and a 20m buffer around them. The Scheme layout of solar PV modules has also been designed to avoid impacts on dense groupings of buried archaeological remains that have been identified within the Solar Development Area. The assessment of aerial photographs, geophysical survey identified a concentration of likely Romano-British settlement remains within the eastern sections of Land Parcel C, and therefore solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure will not be installed in these areas. Solar PV modules have also been removed from the north of Field C-2, where the aerial assessment has also identified a density of likely Romano-British remains.

8.8.4. Research has identified a German Dornier 217 bomber aircraft (F8+CN 4279) that crashed within PV land parcel D4 during the Second World War (JBA1). Consultation with the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) established that the aircraft crashed in flames, but the crew were able to bail out and survived the crash. The geophysical survey within this field identified a spread of highly elevated magnetic responses that may potentially be linked to this event.

On review of the records, it was determined that the risk of unexploded ordnance within this field is high. As a result of this, field D4 has been discounted from being used for solar PV modules but has been retained within the Scheme as a habitat management area.

8.8.5. In the area of potential debris relating to the crash of two Lancaster bombers in field A-1-11 the potential of unexploded ordnance is limited as the aircraft were undertaking a training flight and were not carrying bombs. The construction of the Scheme in this area will be undertaken following the implementation of appropriate risk assessments and the granting of an application for a Protection of Military Remains Act (1986) licence. The exact location of the crash site of a British Spitfire is unknown but would be considered as part of the same risk assessment.

8.8.6. Cabling between PV modules will be suspended from the module mounting frames, with underground connections only at the ends of each row. The majority of trenches have been designed to run adjacent to access roads rather than beneath the PV modules, facilitating maintenance and minimising ground disturbance in areas of archaeological potential.

8.8.7. Security lighting had been designed with motion detectors at the On-Site Substation Compounds. No permanent lighting is proposed across the rest of the Scheme. This will minimise the impact of lighting on heritage assets during the operational phase.

8.9. Assessment of Potential Impacts and Likely Significant Effects

8.9.1. The Scheme as outlined in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1) has been considered in assessing the potential impacts and likely significant effects of the Scheme, whilst also considering the embedded mitigation described within this chapter.

Potential Sources of Impact during Construction Phase

8.9.2. During the construction phase of the Scheme there may be temporary and short-term impacts on heritage assets arising from activities including:

- Presence and movement of construction and plant equipment within the Site;
- Presence and activities associated with construction compounds and access routes to the Site;
- An increase in noise, lighting and dust across the Site; and
- Increased traffic around the Site due to use of traffic management measures and an increase in the amount of traffic using the road network.

8.9.3. These construction activities have the potential to impact on the cultural significance of heritage assets within the vicinity of the Site through changes in their setting.

8.9.4. Permanent impacts will also potentially result from construction of the Scheme. Lasting beyond the construction phase, these impacts could include:

- Physical impacts on known heritage assets previously recorded within the LCC HER or identified through research and surveys undertaken in support of the assessment of the Scheme and detailed in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3). These impacts would occur during groundbreaking activities associated with the Scheme, such as mounting of the solar PV modules, excavations of trenches for cabling and drainage, construction of steel pylons, and stripping of ground to facilitate construction of the substations and BESS compound, access tracks and other supportive infrastructure. There may also be impacts as a result of landscape, ecological, fencing and highways works. These impacts could result in the partial or complete loss of the heritage assets, compaction or disturbance;
- Physical impacts on previously unknown buried archaeological remains that survive within the Site as a result of construction activities through disturbance or compaction, or partial or total removal; and
- Physical impacts on the cultural significance of the historic landscape as a result of construction activities, through the loss of key elements of the landscape that contribute towards its overall cultural significance.

Potential Sources of Impact during Operational Phase

8.9.5. From the construction phase onwards, the Scheme will introduce physical changes to the landscape that will change the setting of heritage assets through the 40-year lifespan of the Scheme until it is decommissioned. These effects will commence during construction as infrastructure is constructed, but will primarily be experienced in the operational phase and are therefore discussed in this phase.

8.9.6. During the operational phase of the Scheme, intermittent, temporary impacts arising from increased traffic movement on the local road network due to maintenance vehicles may increase visual and noise disturbance that impacts the settings and cultural significance of heritage assets.

8.9.7. Any impacts as a result of maintenance activities. will be identified as part of the detailed design and will be mitigated through the **Outline OEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11).

Potential Sources of Impact during the Decommissioning Phase

8.9.8. It is considered that the temporary impacts experienced during decommissioning are likely to be of a similar magnitude to those during the construction phase. These impacts may include the following:

- Presence and movement of construction and plant equipment within the Site, which may impact on the significance of heritage assets through changes to their setting;
- Presence and activities associated with construction compounds and access routes to the Site, which may impact on the significance of heritage assets through changes to their setting; and
- Increased traffic around the Site due to the use of traffic management measures and an increase in the amount of traffic using the road network, which may impact on the significance of heritage assets through changes to their setting.

8.9.9. No additional permanent impacts are anticipated during decommissioning, as the decommissioning works should be contained to the same already-disturbed footprint as the construction phase, and as such, there would be no direct physical impact upon any additional archaeological remains. The process for the removal of infrastructure elements and measures to mitigate any further effects on buried archaeological remains not previously impacted will be set out in accordance with the requirements of the **Outline DEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).

8.9.10. The approach to the decommissioning of underground cables will be dependent upon Government policy and best practice at that time. If required, the cables can be removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, avoiding the need to excavate the entire length of the cable route and avoiding potential impacts on archaeological deposits not previously disturbed at construction. Mitigation, if appropriate, for the preferred methodology will be set out in accordance with the requirements of the **Outline DEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).

8.9.11. Upon completion of the decommissioning phase, the Site would be restored to its original baseline condition, with the exception of physical effects that have already occurred, and the long-term effects on the setting of heritage assets as a result of the Scheme would cease.

Likely Significant Effects

8.9.12. Taking into account the embedded mitigation measures as defined in Section 8.9 the potential for effects on Cultural Heritage as a result of the Scheme has been

assessed using the methodology as detailed in Section 8.4. The effects have been assessed following the consideration of the potential impacts outlined above.

8.9.13. The following is a proportionate assessment of likely significant effects on Cultural Heritage. As such only those assets which are considered to have the potential to experience a likely significant effect as a result of the Scheme, as informed by the baseline data gathered, are discussed. Those assets which will not experience a likely significant effect to their cultural significance/interest (as defined in Section 8.4), either physically or through changes to their setting, are omitted. Details of the heritage assets within the Site which are not significantly impacted by the Scheme or impacted at all, are presented in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.9.14. The introduction of the Scheme would change the character of land parcels within the wider setting of a number of designated and non-designated heritage assets within the study area, potentially resulting in significant effects. The assessment has been undertaken and the list of assets where there is a potential for effects on their setting can be found in **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Where the potential for significant effects has been identified, further details are provided below.

8.9.15. An overarching statement can be made in relation to the impact of construction, operation and decommissioning -related noise and vibration upon heritage assets. The predicted noise levels and assessment of likely significant effects presented in **ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1) which concludes that there will be significant noise or vibration effects to human noise-sensitive receptors during construction and decommissioning at two locations. The noise sensitive receptors identified as being subject to a significant effect are not located at, or in proximity to, any of the designated heritage assets within this assessment (see noise and vibration receptors **ES Figure 13-1** (Doc Ref. 6.2)). The setting of other heritage assets has been considered and no significant effects from noise or vibration have been identified.

Construction Phase

Solar Development Area

8.9.16. In Archaeological Zone 1, the Scheduled Monument and a 20m buffer around it will be free of solar infrastructure. The potentially high importance archaeological deposits within other areas of the Solar Development Area Archaeological Zone 1 would be impacted by solar PV modules and other supporting infrastructure including a 132kV substation and a section of underground cabling, resulting in direct, adverse impacts on their archaeological interest. At the locations to be used to accommodate a 132kV substation and adjacent construction compound, access tracks and below ground cabling there would be a greater magnitude of

impact as a result of the more extensive ground disturbance required. This greater impact would be limited to locations of these elements. Across the rest of Archaeological Zone 1 solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure and landscape mitigation are proposed and the impact would be less as archaeological deposits will be preserved *in situ* between the galvanised steel poles of the solar PV modules and cable trenches. When considering the construction of the solar PV infrastructure across Archaeological Zone 1 as a whole there would be a moderate adverse direct impact. On these areas of high importance this would result in a permanent moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.17. In Archaeological Zone 2, the Scheduled Monuments and a 20m buffer around it will be free of solar infrastructure. Field C-1-08 where potentially high importance archaeological deposits have been recorded, has also largely been retained for agricultural use except where the Overhead Inter-Array Connection passes through the field. As a result, there will be some change to elements of the high importance archaeological deposits in these areas. Across the rest of Archaeological Zone 2 where solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure is located, one section of the Inter-Array Connection passes through Field C-1-08 and the landscape mitigation proposed, construction would have a minor adverse direct impact on the Archaeological Zone as a whole which would not be significant. Within these areas, when considered as a whole, the Archaeological Zone 2 of high importance this would result in a permanent moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.18. A section of the below ground cabling will run through Archaeological Zone 3, in the southern end of field B-5, linking the 132kV substation to the 400kV substation and BESS compound. The impact would be limited to the working area for the cabling resulting in a loss of archaeological deposits therefore the construction would have a moderate adverse direct impact within the Archaeological Zone of high importance. This would result in a permanent, moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.19. The northern extent of field B-5, on the southern side of the South Holland main drain, is to be used to accommodate the 400kV Substation and BESS Compound, a construction compound, access tracks and below ground cabling. In this location there would be a direct, major adverse impact due to a loss of archaeological significance within the footprint of the infrastructure. On the archaeological deposits of medium importance this would result in a permanent, moderate adverse effect due to the impact being limited to this footprint and further archaeological deposits of the same importance surviving in the wider landscape. This would be considered significant.

8.9.20. Archaeological Zones 4-8 in Land Parcel D will be utilised for solar PV modules and the infrastructure to support them. A temporary construction compound will

also be located in a small area of Archaeological Zone 6 and another is located adjacent to Archaeological Zone 7. As a result, there will be an impact on the high importance archaeological deposits in these areas. The solar PV modules infrastructure to support them, along with temporary construction compounds, would have a minor adverse direct impact on the Archaeological Zones as a whole. On these areas of the Archaeological Zones of high importance this would result in a permanent moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.21. The areas of high potential detailed on **ES Figure 8-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential - Solar Development Areas** (Doc Ref. 6.2) are largely located within Land Parcels B and C and the northern extent of Land Parcel D and form part of a wider landscape of Romano-British settlement. These areas will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them. Temporary construction compounds will also be located in Land Parcels B and D. As a result, there will be an impact on the potential medium importance archaeological deposits in these areas. The infrastructure to mount the PV modules, along with temporary construction compounds, would result in limited loss of cultural significance resulting in a minor adverse direct impact on the areas of high potential as a whole. On these areas of medium importance this would result in a permanent moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.22. The areas of medium potential are located within Land Parcels A and D and will be utilised for mounting PV modules and the infrastructure to support them. Temporary construction compounds will also be located in field A-1-09 and within several locations in Land-Parcel D. As a result, there will be an impact on the low importance archaeological deposits in these areas as a result of limited loss of cultural significance. The infrastructure to support PV modules along with temporary construction compounds would have a minor adverse direct impact on the area of medium potential zones as a whole. On these areas of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect due to the impact being limited to the footprint of the infrastructure and that further archaeological deposits of the same importance surviving in the wider landscape. This effect would not be significant.

8.9.23. The areas of low potential are located across all Land Parcels and will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them. Fields A-1-11 and D-3-06 will contain an 132kV substation. D-3-06 will also contain a small area of tree planting proposed as landscape mitigation. Temporary construction compounds will also be located in several locations. As a result, there will be an impact on the low importance archaeological deposits in these areas. The infrastructure to support PV modules, substation and temporary construction compounds would have a minor adverse direct impact on the area of high potential zones as a whole due to a limited loss of cultural significance of these archaeological deposits

within the footprint of these elements. On these areas of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.24. The post fenland drainage and land management features are present across the whole Solar Development Area and are located across all Land Parcels. The remains are located in areas that will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them, including on-site substations, landscape mitigation and temporary construction compounds. As a result, there will be an impact on the low importance archaeological deposits in these areas. Solar development infrastructure would have a moderate adverse direct impact on the low importance assets from the post fenland drainage due to a limited loss of cultural significance of this asset within the footprint of these elements. On these features of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.25. The post-medieval farmsteads are recorded across all four Land Parcels. The locations of three will be affected by the installations of solar PV modules and trackways: MLI123862; MLI123860 and MLI123531. MLI123863 will be impacted by a trackway and MLI123881 will be retained under agricultural use. As a result, there will be an impact on the low importance archaeological deposits in these areas. Solar development infrastructure would have a negligible adverse direct impact on the cultural significance of the four isolated post-medieval farmsteads. On these features of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.26. The site of Fleet Decoy (MLI23224) is in the northern section of Field D-2-01 adjacent to the South Holland Main drain. The site of the decoy will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them. As a result, there will be an impact on the low importance archaeological deposits in this area. Solar development infrastructure would have a negligible adverse direct impact on the cultural significance of the post-medieval decoy. On this feature of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.27. The crash site of two Lancaster bombers that collided mid-air is recorded in A-1-11 (JBA2) is known to be focused at the edge of the field although debris from the incident was scattered across a larger area. It is unlikely that there are any human remains at the crash sites due to the extensive recovery exercises undertaken at the time of the crashes. The area of the crash will accommodate solar PV modules, supporting infrastructure and an area of habitat management which would have a direct, negligible impact on the significance of the crash site in the event that any debris is identified. On this area of medium importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.28. The exact crash site of a British Spitfire (JBA3) near or within Land Parcel A is unknown. It is likely that much of the debris from the crash would have been recovered following the crash. As the exact location of the crash is unknown it is assumed as a worst case that the location would be subject to the installation of solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure in the event that any debris is identified. This would have a direct, minor adverse impact on the significance of the crash site. On this asset of medium importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.29. The Meridian Stone is located on Langary Gate Road, slightly to the south-west of the line of the Greenwich Meridian. Langary Gate Road will be utilised as an access route during the construction of the Scheme. As a result, movement and noise from construction traffic and plant will have a temporary minor adverse impact on the setting of the stone. On this feature of low importance this would result in a temporary slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.30. Areas of palaeoarchaeological potential are present across the whole Solar Development Area and the wider fens landscape. The areas of palaeoarchaeological potential will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them, including on-site substations, landscape mitigation, temporary construction compounds and drainage works. Information provided by the drainage team has indicated that due to the expected high groundwater table across the Scheme, it is likely that dewatering of any excavations would be required, e.g. for the construction of trenches and foundations for substations, solar stations and pylons. Any dewatering of excavations would temporarily impact on groundwater levels in the vicinity of excavations. However, the groundwater levels would return to baseline levels following the completion of the works. As such, there is anticipated to be no additional impact on below ground archaeological remains as a result of changes to drainage. In addition, available stratigraphic information indicates that many of the deposits of palaeoenvironmental interest will be below the depth of impact from the solar development infrastructure, minimising any potential effects. As a result, the solar development infrastructure would have a minor adverse direct impact on the deposits of medium importance which would be limited to the Solar Development Area with deposits of equivalent importance preserved in the wider landscape. This would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

Inter-Array Connections

8.9.31. The Underground Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels A and B will utilise an underground cable which will impact the archaeological deposits. The Order Limits provide a 50m limit of deviation on either side of the working width which will result in some archaeological deposits within the Underground Inter-

Array Connection remaining undisturbed as the full width of the Order Limits will not be used. The underground cabling and supporting infrastructure will have a moderate adverse direct impact on the archaeological deposits as a group. On these archaeology deposits of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.32. The Overhead Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels C and D will utilise an overhead line configuration. It will comprise a single circuit overhead line, up to 132kV, with wooden pole design, located approximately every 120m along the connection route. The exact location of these poles is to be developed though detailed design. The poles have been assumed to be installed into the ground to a maximum depth of 2.5m. The diameter of the poles will be up to 500mm. The impact would be limited to the pole locations and as a result, the overhead line and supporting infrastructure will have a negligible adverse direct impact on the archaeological deposits as a group. On these archaeology deposits of medium importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

Grid Connection Route

8.9.33. Further evaluation is proposed once the detailed design of the Grid Connection Route is determined post determination. As a result, the significance of the effects could be redefined once this information is available and prior to the detailed archaeological mitigation and management strategy being developed. If subsequent evaluation identifies archaeological remains of greater importance than currently assumed, the assessment of significance will be revised, and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented in consultation with the relevant authorities.

8.9.34. In the area west of 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV27 (GC_21), and 4SV35 (GC_23) to be used to accommodate pylons, working areas, drainage and access tracks there would be a direct, adverse impact on these areas of archaeological deposits. The impact would be limited to the footprint of the Grid Connection infrastructure, access and drainage components and would be moderate adverse. On these areas of archaeological remains of medium importance, which include potential Palaeolithic or Mesolithic sedimentary sequences deeply buried in roddons or palaeochannels across the Site, and potential Neolithic or Bronze Age curvilinear ditches and enclosures, this would result in a permanent, moderate adverse effect which would be significant.

8.9.35. At the areas around 4SV10 (GC_08), 4SV27 (GC_21), 4SV35 (GC_23) and 4SV39 (GC_31) where the Scheme will accommodate pylons, working areas, drainage and access tracks there would be a direct, adverse impact on these areas of archaeological deposits. The impact would be limited to the footprint of the Grid

Connection infrastructure, access and drainage components and would be moderate adverse. On these areas of potential Iron Age or Roman remains of medium importance, this would result in a permanent, moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.36. At fields containing 4SV3, 4SV4 and 4SV5 (GC_01) and 4SV27 (GC_21) of the Grid Connection Route where the Scheme will accommodate pylons, pylon working areas, drainage and temporary access tracks there would be a direct, adverse impact on these areas of archaeological deposits. The impact would be limited to the footprint of the Grid Connection Route infrastructure, access and drainage components and would be moderate adverse. On these areas of medieval or post-medieval dylings and cultivation marks of low importance, this would result in a permanent, slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.37. The fields containing the identified remains of linear drainage, ditches or cultivation marks, and a 19th century farmstead (MLI123190) will be impacted by the installation of pylons, pylon working areas, the approximately 325m of underground cabling, drainage, temporary access tracks and a permanent access track; additionally, C.1A and C-2 will be temporary construction compounds. The record of the location of the 19th century farmstead remains (MLI123190) is within 15m of an access track, pylon and pylon working area. As a result, there will be a direct, moderate adverse impact on the low importance archaeological remains within these areas. On these features of low importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.38. The Order Limits incorporate flexibility with regards to the final location of the Weston Marsh B Substation. Should the design require the connector to be constructed underground between High Road and the Weston Marsh B Substation the impact on buried archaeological deposits would increase. The data collected to date (**ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA,** (Doc Ref. 6.3) indicates that the potential for archaeological remains decreases in this northern section of the Grid Connection Route but could be present across the area. Based on a worst-case assessment it is considered that archaeological deposits within this area would be of medium importance. The undergrounding of the connector would result in a direct, major adverse impact on any surviving archaeological deposits but would be limited to the footprint of the works. Any associated archaeological deposits outside of this footprint would be preserved *in situ*. Assuming the impacted archaeological deposits are of medium importance, this would result in a permanent moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

Short term impacts on the setting of heritage assets

8.9.39. It is anticipated that construction activities, plant, temporary construction compounds, would have an adverse impact on the setting of some heritage assets located within the Study Areas.

8.9.40. The setting assessment summary is provided within **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). These tables detail assets potentially impacted by the Scheme and shows the assessment of whether the area of the Scheme contributes to the setting and significance of assets and whether there is an impact arising from the Scheme.

8.9.41. During construction it is likely that movement, light and noise from construction traffic and plant will have a temporary moderate adverse impact on the setting of the Historic landscape of the former precinct of Crowland Abbey. This impact on the historic landscape of medium importance, would cease on completion of construction activities. On this landscape of medium importance this would result in a temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.42. During construction it is likely that movement, light and noise from construction traffic and plant will have a temporary minor adverse impact on the setting of Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052). This impact on the high importance Scheduled Monument, would cease on completion of construction activities. On this feature of high importance this would result in a temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.43. During construction it is likely that movement, light and noise from construction traffic and plant will have a temporary minor adverse impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south-east of Providence House' (1009980). This impact on the high importance monument, would cease on completion of construction activities. On this feature of high importance this would result in a temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.44. During construction it is likely that movement, light and noise from construction traffic and plant will have a temporary minor adverse impact on the setting of the 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979) and 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978). This impact on the high importance Scheduled Monuments, would cease on completion of construction activities. On these features of high importance this would result in a temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.45. During construction it is likely that movement, light and noise from construction traffic and plant will have a temporary minor adverse impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat

house' (1019096) and the Grade I Listed 'Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas' (1064471). This impact on the high importance monument, would cease on completion of construction activities. On this feature of high importance this would result in a temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant. This impact would be the same should the Grid Connection be undergrounded north of High Road.

8.9.46. Temporary construction effects on designated heritage assets which have been identified but are considered not significant are presented in Table 8-7.

Table 8-7: Temporary Construction Impacts on Setting

ID	Name	Type/ Importance	Temporary Impacts
1002944	Settlement in Moulton West Fen	Scheduled Monument High	Slight Adverse
1004982	Romano-British settlement S of Shell Bridge	Scheduled Monument High	Slight Adverse
1147706	Windmill	Grade II Listed Building Medium	Slight Adverse
1064475	Church of St Mary	Grade I Listed Building High	Slight Adverse
1308515	Broadgate House Farmhouse	Grade II Listed Building Medium	Slight Adverse
1359267	Austendike Hall	Grade II Listed Building Medium	Slight Adverse
1147513/ 1064472	Chapel Farmhouse Gate Piers To Chapel Farmhouse	Grade II Listed Buildings Medium	Slight Adverse

8.9.47. Further details of the non-significant construction effects can be seen in **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Operational Phase (2033 – 2073)

Solar Development Area, Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections

8.9.48. The infrastructure required for the Scheme would have an adverse impact on the setting of some heritage assets located within the study areas. These impacts will commence during the construction phase as infrastructure is constructed and will continue throughout the operational phase and are reported below. This assessment has been supported by photo sheets have been provided as part of **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The viewpoint locations are shown on **ES Figure 12-19: Viewpoint Location on OS Mapping** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

8.9.49. Although there is no intervisibility between the Scheduled Monument 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south-east of Providence House' (1009980) and Crowlands Abbey (see viewpoint LCC 01, **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and viewpoint 07, **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2)). It is considered that the introduction of the Scheme will change the wider setting of the monument through the introduction of hard structures which will remove some seasonality within the landscape. The Scheme will have a minor adverse impact on the monument's setting affecting the former associated lands. This effect on the high importance monument, would be removed when the Scheme is decommissioned. On this feature of high importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.50. The introduction of the Scheme across the adjacent farmland to the south and east of Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052) will impact the long-range views and the connection of the two monuments to the wider fenland landscape (see viewpoint LCC 02-02, **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and viewpoint 05, **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2)) therefore impacting the ability to appreciate their relationship for the lifespan of the Scheme. The infrastructure of the Solar Development Area and the Inter-Array Connection would have a minor adverse direct impact on the high importance monument, which would be removed when the Scheme is decommissioned. On this feature of high importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.51. Land Parcels A, B and C fall within the historic precinct of Crowland Abbey. and will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them, including on site substations, landscape mitigation and temporary construction compounds. landscape (see viewpoint LCC 01, **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and viewpoints 01 and 02 **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2) When the abbey was at the height of its influence this landscape would have been marshland with rivers and islands of slightly higher ground. This historic landscape character is almost completely lost

across the current modern landscape. Uninterrupted views of the boundary of the precinct from the abbey, and in particular the earthworks at Queen's Bank and St Guthlac's cross were not intended or a designed part of the landscape. Despite the addition of the solar infrastructure across the landscape, the extent of the precinct will still be appreciable in the landscape. There will also be open areas of agricultural land retained around and between the solar development infrastructure which helps to maintain the relationship across the landscape. As a result, there will be an impact on the medium importance historic landscape related to the historic precinct area. Solar development infrastructure would have a minor adverse direct impact on the medium importance landscape for the lifespan of the Scheme which would be restored when the solar infrastructure is removed. On this feature of medium importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.52. The introduction of the Scheme across the adjacent farmland to the two Scheduled Monuments within the Solar Development Area, Settlement NE (north-east) of Whitebread Farm (1004978); and Settlement W (west) of Cate's Cove Corner (1004979) will impact the connection of the two monuments to the wider landscape. Although no evidence of the archaeological deposits within the Scheduled Monuments are visible, they are known to extend outside of the boundary. Despite the addition of the solar infrastructure across the landscape, the extent of the Scheduled Monuments will still be appreciable in the landscape. There will also be open areas of agricultural land retained around the Scheduled Monument and between the solar development infrastructure which helps to maintain the relationship across the landscape. As a result, there will be an impact on the high importance Scheduled Monuments. Solar development infrastructure would have a minor adverse direct impact on the high importance assets for the lifespan of the Scheme which would be restored when the solar infrastructure is removed. On these features of high importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.53. The whole Solar Development Area lies within The Fens historic landscape and will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them including onsite substations, fencing, landscape mitigation and temporary construction compounds. The solar development has been designed to respect the layout of the fields and the retention of agricultural land parcels, habitat management areas and the use of buffers to create areas of space between the solar PV modules all help to lessen the effect on the landscape. Hedgerows are not common in this landscape and therefore do not naturally form barriers in the landscape views. The introduction of solar infrastructure across the landscape will impact the ability to appreciate the feeling of openness between settlements and

farmsteads. As a result, there will be an impact on the medium importance historic landscape. Solar development infrastructure would have a moderate adverse direct impact on the medium importance landscape for the lifespan of the Scheme which would be restored when the solar infrastructure is removed. On this feature of medium importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.54. The Meridian Stone is located on Langary Gate Road, slightly to the south-west of the line of the Greenwich Meridian. The fields to the east and west of the road will be utilised for PV modules and the infrastructure to support them. The trees directly adjacent to the stone to the west will be retained and the PV modules are set back from the road to the east which maintains a feeling of space around the monument. Views from the stone to where the line crosses will be maintained. The solar development infrastructure will have a minor adverse direct impact on the low importance Meridian Stone for the lifespan of the Scheme which would be restored when the solar infrastructure is removed. On this feature of low importance this would result in a long term, but temporary slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.55. The complex of heritage assets at Wykeham (1019096 and 1064471) is located adjacent to the Oder Limits of the Grid Connection Route. The area north of High Road will be utilised for the installation of pylons and other supporting infrastructure to allow for connection with the proposed Weston Marsh B substation which is proposed to be located approximately 900m north-east of the complex. Additionally, a temporary construction compound is proposed 900m to the south-east, south of Rood's Lane (see viewpoint LCC 10, **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and viewpoint 27, **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2). The indicative designs locate the overhead line in the eastern half of the Grid Connection Route and located the pylons in the fields to the north and south of the field directly east of the complex.

8.9.56. When considered as a worst case, the infrastructure for the Scheme located close to the Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed chapel of high importance would have a minor adverse magnitude of impact for the lifespan of the Scheme which would be restored when the Grid Connection infrastructure is removed. On assets of high importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect which would be significant. However, the impact may be reduced as distance from the complex increases and the design results in pylons not appearing the views from the east facing window in the chapel. If undergrounding of the connection is required, this would result in the magnitude of impact for the lifespan of the Scheme reducing to negligible. On assets of high importance this would result in a long term, but temporary slight adverse effect which would not be significant.

8.9.57. The Grid Connection Route lies across two historic landscape character areas that will be utilised for infrastructure, including pylons, cabling sealing end compounds fencing, landscape mitigation and temporary construction compounds. Hedgerows are uncommon features within the landscape and therefore do not provide form natural barriers across landscape views. The introduction of the pylons across the landscape will impact the ability to appreciate the feeling of openness between settlements and farmsteads landscape (see viewpoint LCC 06, LCC 07, LCC 08, LCC 09 and LCC 10, **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and viewpoints 06, 20, 21,22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2). As a result, there will be an impact on the medium importance historic landscape. The infrastructure within the Grid Connection Route required to support the Solar Development Area would have a moderate adverse direct impact on the medium importance landscape for the lifespan of the Scheme, which would be restored when the Grid Connection infrastructure is removed. On this feature of medium importance this would result in a long term, but temporary moderate adverse effect, which would be significant.

8.9.58. Long term, but temporary operational effects on designated heritage assets which have been identified but are considered not significant are presented in Table 8-8.

Table 8-8: Non-Significant Temporary Operational Impacts on Setting

ID	Name	Type/ Importance	Long term Impacts
1002944	Settlement in Moulton West Fen	Scheduled Monument High	Slight Adverse
1004982	Romano-British settlement S of Shell Bridge	Scheduled Monument High	Slight Adverse
1012410/ 1064550	Ruins and Site of Crowland Abbey	Scheduled Monument/ Grade I Listed Building High	Slight Adverse
1002945	Settlement SE of Lower Delgate Farm	Scheduled Monument High	Slight Adverse

ID	Name	Type/ Importance	Long term Impacts
1004963	Settlement between Broadgate Farm and lower Delgate Farm	Scheduled Monument High	Slight Adverse

8.9.59. Further details of the non-significant operational effects can be seen in **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.9.60. The land within the two Scheduled Monuments within the Solar Development Area, Settlement NE (north-east) of Whitebread Farm (1004978); and Settlement W (west) of Cate's Cove Corner (1004979) has been identified for habitat management. While being mostly retained for agricultural use, small areas will be left uncultivated as areas for skylark nesting. Further details can be found in the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). Due to the management of the land within the Scheduled Monuments remaining largely unchanged during operation of the Scheme, the habitat management would result in no change to the significance of the high importance monuments. This would result in a neutral significance of effect.

8.9.61. The design for the Solar Development Area has defined field D4, due to the risk of unexploded ordnance associated with the crash site, as an area of habitat management in the form of skylark nesting areas, details of which can be found in the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). Due to the management of the land within field D4 remaining largely unchanged during operation of the Scheme, the habitat management would result in no change to the significance of the medium importance monuments. This would result in a neutral significance of effect.

8.9.62. Impacts during the operation of the Scheme would arise as a result of elements such as security lights, operational and maintenance noise (see **ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1)), traffic movement and maintenance activities (see **ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** (Doc Ref. 6.1)) and glint and glare (see **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics** (Doc Ref. 6.1)).

8.9.63. The operational phase of the Scheme will last for 40 years. **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1) details that within the Solar Development Area, activity during the operational phase would be infrequent and would be restricted principally to vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, replacement of components (where required). The individual locations of these works are unknown and it is assumed the activities will be required at intervals throughout the operational phase. Across the Scheme there is a limited potential

that these works may affect archaeological deposits not previously affected during the construction phase. In these cases, it is considered that the potential impact would result in a negligible magnitude of impact which would be permanent. Assuming a worst-case scenario of the maintenance work affecting archaeological deposits of high importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.64. The description of operational lighting provided in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1) details that the Scheme will not be permanently lit. Security lighting with motion detectors is proposed at the on-site substation compounds only. No impacts to heritage assets are therefore identified in relation to operational lighting.

8.9.65. The assessment presented in **ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1) concludes that there will be no significant noise or vibration effects to human noise-sensitive receptors during operation including as a result of operational activities and maintenance traffic. The predicted noise levels reported in **ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1) have been reviewed in relation to the location of heritage assets and there are no impacts predicted in relation to the setting of heritage assets through operational noise intrusion.

8.9.66. The assessment of operational traffic is presented in **ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The assessment indicated that there are no significant effects. The levels of operational traffic are therefore not considered likely to result in additional or greater impact to heritage assets than the physical presence of the Scheme within an asset's setting and no impacts are therefore identified a result of operational traffic.

8.9.67. The glint and glare assessment presented in **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics** (Doc Ref. 6.1) concludes that there will be no significant glint and glare effects to residential receptors during operation. The identified residential receptors are located at, or in proximity to, many of the heritage assets within this assessment (see glint and glare receptors detailed in **ES Appendix 16-2: Glint and Glare Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)). The setting of those assets has been considered and the assets considered to be particularly sensitive to glint and glare are Saint Guthlac's Cross (1005052), Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south-east of Providence House (1009980) and Ruins and site of Crowland Abbey (1012410) due to the visual distraction caused through glint and glare in their setting. The potential annual minutes of glare caused at these assets, reported in **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics** (Doc Ref. 6.1), has been reviewed and there are no impacts predicted in relation to the setting of heritage assets through glint and glare.

Decommissioning Phase

Solar Development Area, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route

8.9.68. Upon the start of the decommissioning phase, above-ground physical infrastructure would be dismantled and removed from the Solar Development Area, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. In addition, concrete foundations to these elements would be removed from the area within the Order Limits, to a depth agreed with the relevant landowner. The selected method of decommissioning would have due regard to health and safety, environmental impact and benefits, and economic aspects which will be set out in an **Outline DEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12). The mode of any underground cable decommissioning will be dependent upon Government policy and best practice at that time. If required, the cables can be removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, avoiding the need to open up the entire length of the cable route.

8.9.69. Across the Scheme there is a potential that decommissioning works may affect archaeological deposits not previously affected during the construction phase is considered to be very limited as the physical extent of most works will be within the physical footprint of the areas affected at the construction phase. For decommissioning works, it is considered that the potential impact would result in a negligible magnitude of impact which would be permanent. Assuming a worst-case scenario of the decommissioning works affecting archaeological deposits of high importance this would result in a permanent slight adverse effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.70. There is potential for impacts to the setting of assets during decommissioning due to the use of plant, temporary compounds, lighting etc. Impacts as a result of decommissioning activities would be temporary and the duration would be shorter than the impacts during construction. The impacts therefore would not be greater than those reported during construction.

8.9.71. Land within the Site would be returned to the relevant landowners once the decommissioning phase has completed. This would include the areas of land where the agricultural resource has been maintained (and potentially improved) during operation, alongside any established habitats. Post-decommissioning, the landowner may return land to arable use, although it could be that established habitats such as shrubs and trees would be retained given their potential benefits to agricultural land, biodiversity and the wider farming estate.

8.9.72. The effects on the setting of heritage assets as a result of the physical presence of the Scheme would be limited to its lifespan. Post-decommissioning the visible infrastructure associated with the Scheme will be removed. The reported impacts

and significance of effect would be significantly lowered or removed completely if the Site is returned to baseline conditions.

8.10. Additional Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Construction Phase

8.10.1. The following describes the mitigation measures identified as a result of the assessment. These measures are proposed in addition to those presented in Section 8.8: Embedded Mitigation and considered to be in place in the assessment of potential effects.

8.10.2. Significant effects have been identified on buried archaeological deposits across the Solar Development Area. The final fieldwork report for the evaluation excavation is required to confirm the extent, cultural significance and value of these deposits. Once available an appropriate mitigation strategy can be designed.

8.10.3. Following receipt of the final fieldwork report for the evaluation trenching, the scope and type of mitigation to be applied to the Solar Development Area will be set out in the Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy (OAMMS), which will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to LCC (anticipated to be post-DCO submission and prior to the end of examination), and its implementation will be secured by a DCO requirement.

8.10.4. As detailed in section 8.5 and in **ES Appendix 8-2: HEDBA** (Doc Ref. 6.3) an additional phase of archaeological evaluation will be undertaken at the pre-construction phase. This includes:

- Geophysical survey within the Grid Connection Route;
- Archaeological evaluation trenching within the Grid Connection Route;
- Archaeological evaluation trenching on the Underground Inter-Array Connection between Land Parcels A and B;
- Archaeological evaluation trenching of the fields delayed due to the risk of unexploded ordnance in Land Parcel D; and
- Archaeological evaluation trenching within the 150m buffer that has been maintained around the crash site of a Lancaster Bomber in field A-1-11. Any further evaluation in this area will be undertaken under a 1986 Protection of Military Remains Act (POMRA86) licence.

8.10.5. Once the pre-construction phase of archaeological evaluation has been undertaken and the results from this and the detailed design of the Scheme are available, a detailed Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy

(AMMS), building on the OAMMS, will be produced. The final AMMS would be developed in consultation with and reviewed by LCC and HE.

8.10.6. Mitigation could include design measures such as micro-siting of Scheme elements to avoid archaeological remains altogether (embedded mitigation). The use of pre-cast concrete blocks rather than piled mounts within the Solar Development Area may be considered to enable preservation in-situ of archaeological remains. However, due to the varying depths of the archaeological deposits and the ground condition, concrete blocks may not be suitable. Their use will be informed by the ground conditions and nature of the archaeological deposits when the full archaeological report is available and the detailed design progressed.

8.10.7. Avoiding physical impacts to these assets would result in no impact to their historical and archaeological interests and no effect on their heritage value. Preservation of the archaeological remains may require protective measures, such as fencing, during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning activities to avoid unintentional damage.

8.10.8. Potential impacts to buried archaeological remains that are not avoided by design will be mitigated through a proportionate programme of archaeological investigation, recording and reporting. Archaeological excavation in advance of construction, archaeological monitoring during intrusive activities, and further assessment and analysis of samples and artefacts retrieved during previous evaluation surveys, would form additional mitigation. This would not result in a reduction in the physical impacts to archaeological remains but would partially compensate for their loss as it would provide greater understanding and appreciation of the evidential value of the affected archaeological remains.

8.10.9. For the identified effects, it is anticipated that the following mitigation and enhancement may be required:

- Archaeological excavation within the Archaeology Zones where the archaeological deposits have been identified as being of high importance and the impact of the Scheme is considered to be significant. This would be limited to area of groundbreaking and open excavation activities such as substations, BESS, compounds, cabling, tracks and drainage.
- Archaeological excavation in areas of high archaeological potential where the archaeological deposits have been identified as being potentially of high or medium importance and the impact of the Scheme is considered to be significant. This would be limited to area of groundbreaking and open excavation activities such as substations, BESS, compounds, cabling, tracks and drainage.

- A programme of archaeological watching brief in locations where archaeological deposits of high or medium importance, or high or medium potential and the impact of the Scheme is considered not to be significant. This would be limited to area of groundbreaking and open excavation activities such as substations, BESS, compounds, cabling, tracks and drainage.
- Palaeoenvironmental environmental sampling based on recommendations from the archaeological evaluation phase;
- An Archaeological Clerk of Works during the construction phase; and
- Community engagement activities (e.g. open days, temporary exhibitions, presentations, school visits), publication and information boards positioned in appropriate and accessible locations.

8.10.10. It is not proposed to implement specific mitigation for the small-scale impacts associated with the individual steel poles used to mount the solar PV panels. While the Scheme will require a substantial number of mounts, each pole has a very limited diameter, resulting in minor and widely dispersed ground impacts. This approach ensures that the vast majority of archaeological deposits will remain undisturbed, with their interest and legibility preserved to a far greater extent than would be the case for other infrastructure elements. Implementing archaeological mitigation for these poles would not be proportionate, as the level of intervention required to investigate and record such discrete impacts would lead to a greater loss of archaeological value than leaving them in situ.

8.10.11. Similar measures will be required at decommissioning should further groundworks affect areas not impacted at construction be required.

8.10.12. The detailed scope of the mitigation and enhancement will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to LCC.

Operational Phase

8.10.13. Any requirement for mitigation measures during the operation and maintenance phase will be determined by the nature and location of the maintenance activities. The methodology for considering the requirement for this will be set out in the AMMS.

8.10.14. Any requirement for monitoring during the operation and maintenance phase will be determined once the full results of the archaeological evaluation are available. If required, details of the required monitoring will be set out in the AMMS

Decommissioning Phase

8.10.15. Any requirement for mitigation measures during the decommissioning phase will be determined by the nature of the decommissioning activities. The methodology for considering the requirement for this will be set out in the AMMS.

8.11. Residual Effects

8.11.1. Assuming implementation of the embedded and additional mitigation measures detailed above, the assessment has identified the following likely residual effects:

- Likely significant residual effects on the setting of heritage assets as a result of the introduction of Solar and Grid Connection or Inter-Array infrastructure into the landscape; and
- Likely significant residual effects on buried archaeological remains identified within the Site, either through complete loss or partial disturbance.

8.11.2. Following the results of final fieldwork report for the evaluation trenching within the Solar Development Area and additional evaluation surveys within the Grid Connection Route, embedded mitigation measures will be deployed which would enable preservation in-situ of archaeological remains in some locations or for specific assets, resulting in no impact and no effect, therefore resulting in no significant residual effects. The locations where this may be implemented cannot be identified at this stage and therefore this potential reduction in significant effects has not been attributed to any of the current assessments.

8.11.3. The potential additional mitigation measures described in Section 8.10 comprising a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, reporting and public engagement would not minimise the physical impact to archaeological deposits, as the archaeological significance would still be lost, but would partially compensate for their loss by creating a record of the assets and advancing professional and public understanding of their archaeological significance. This would reduce the magnitude of impact on the deposits, and this is considered in Table 8-9.

8.11.4. A summary of the significant residual effects of the Scheme in relation to Cultural Heritage are outlined in Table 8-9.

Table 8-9: Summary of Residual Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
Construction phase					
Archaeological zone 1 (Land Parcel B and C) High	Moderate adverse impact by installation of 132kV substation, temporary compound, access tracks, solar PV modules and underground cabling.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10). Scheduled Monument retained in agricultural use. 20m buffer around Scheduled Monument.	Permanent moderate adverse at 132kV substation, compound, access tracks, solar PV modules and underground cabling areas.	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation, including archaeological investigation in areas of 132kV substation, compound, access tracks and underground cabling.	Permanent minor adverse (not significant) effect at 132kV substation, compound, access tracks and underground cabling areas following mitigation. Unable to mitigate the effect of the solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure areas due to the limited potential to mitigate the galvanised steel poles used to support the PV modules, resulting in a permanent moderate adverse (significant) residual effect.
Archaeological zone 2 (Land Parcel C) High	Minor adverse by installation of solar PV modules, supporting infrastructure and	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed	Permanent moderate adverse (significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits due to the limited

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	Inter-Array Connection in Field C-1-08.			by the results of the archaeological evaluation.	potential to mitigate the galvanised steel poles used to support the PV modules.
Archaeological zone 3 (field B5). High	Moderate adverse impacts to archaeological deposits due to the installation of underground cabling to link to the 400kV substation and BESS compound.	Impact limited to the footprint of the cable trench and working area. Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse on archaeological deposits in zone 3.	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.	Permanent minor adverse (not significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits following mitigation.
Potential Iron Age or Roman settlement activity on higher ground/roddons, including the path of a raised drove road or boundary ditch, in the northern end of Field B-5 Medium	Moderate adverse at locations to be used to accommodate the 400kV Substation and BESS Compound, a construction compound, access tracks and below ground cabling.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.	Permanent minor adverse (not significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits following mitigation.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
Archaeological zones 4-8 in Land Parcel D. High	Minor adverse by installation of solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.	Permanent moderate adverse (significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits due to the limited potential to mitigate the galvanised steel poles used to support the PV modules.
Areas of high archaeological potential for deposits of late prehistoric to Roman date within the Solar Development Area (Land Parcels B, C and northern area of Land Parcel D) Medium	Minor adverse by installation of solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.	Permanent moderate adverse (significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits due to the limited potential to mitigate the galvanised steel poles used to support the PV modules.
Potential Neolithic or Bronze Age curvilinear ditches and enclosures in the Grid Connection Route (west of 4SV10	Moderate adverse from installation of pylons, working areas, drainage and access tracks; presence,	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of	Permanent minor adverse (not significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits following mitigation.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
(GC_08); 4SV27 (GC_21); 4SV35 (GC_23)) Potential Palaeolithic or Mesolithic sedimentary sequences deeply buried in roddons or palaeochannels across the Grid Connection Route Medium	movement and storage of temporary construction and plant equipment and materials.			the archaeological evaluation.	
Archaeological deposits north of High Road. Potentially of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Iron Age, Roman, medieval or post-medieval date. Medium	Major adverse from the potential undergrounding of the Grid Connection, working areas, drainage and access tracks; presence, movement and storage of temporary construction and plant	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Permanent moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.	Permanent minor adverse (not significant) effect on buried archaeological deposits following mitigation.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	equipment and materials.				
Historic landscape of the former precinct of Crowland Abbey Medium	Moderate adverse impact from the presence and movement of temporary construction and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Moderate adverse	None	Short term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from construction activities that will cease after construction phase.
Scheduled Monuments 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979), 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978) High	Temporary minor adverse due to construction activities related to installing PV modules and related infrastructure. Presence, movement and storage of temporary construction and plant	Scheduled Monument retained in agricultural use. 20m buffer around Scheduled Monument. Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Temporary moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments within the Scheme are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from construction activities that will cease after the construction phase.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	equipment and materials.				
Scheduled Monuments 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south east of Providence House' (1009980) High	Temporary minor adverse due to construction activities related to installing PV modules and related infrastructure. Presence, movement and storage of temporary construction and plant equipment and materials.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Temporary moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from construction activities that will cease after the construction phase.
St Guthlac's Cross (1005052) High	Temporary minor adverse due to construction activities related to installing PV modules and related infrastructure. Presence, movement and storage of temporary	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Temporary moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from construction activities that will cease after the construction phase.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	construction and plant equipment and materials.				
Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471) High	Temporary minor adverse impact from movement and noise from construction traffic and plant on the setting.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Temporary moderate adverse.	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect during construction phase that will cease after construction phase.
Solar Development Area Historic Landscape Character – The Fens Medium	Moderate adverse impact from the presence and movement of temporary construction and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10)	Moderate adverse	None	Short term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from construction activities that will cease after construction phase.
Grid Connection Route Historic Landscape	Moderate adverse due to the presence and movement of	Measures set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).	Moderate adverse	None	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
Character – The Fens and The Wash Medium	temporary construction and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.				construction activities that will cease after construction phase.
Operational phase					
Historic landscape of the former precinct of Crowland Abbey Medium	Minor adverse impact from the installation of solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure for the lifespan of the Scheme.	Measures set out in the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect for the lifetime of the Scheme due to solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure.
Scheduled Monuments 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979), 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978) High	Minor adverse impact from the introduction of the Scheme across the adjacent farmland to the south and east will impact the long range views and the connection of the two monuments to the	Scheduled Monument retained in agricultural use. 20m buffer around Scheduled Monument. Measures set out in the **OOEMP**	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect over the lifetime of the Scheme due to infrastructure.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	wider fenland landscape.	(Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).			
Scheduled Monuments 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south east of Providence House' (1009980) High	Minor adverse impact on Queen's Bank due to changes to its wider setting over the Scheme lifetime.	Measures set out in the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect over the Scheme lifetime due to infrastructure.
St Guthlac's Cross (1005052) High	Minor adverse impact on St Guthlac's Cross due to changes to its wider setting over the Scheme lifetime.	Measures set out in the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect over the Scheme lifetime due to infrastructure.
Complex of assets Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471)	Minor adverse impact on Wykeham Chapel due to changes to its wider setting over the Scheme lifetime.	Measures set out in the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)..	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect over the Scheme lifetime due to infrastructure.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
High					
Solar Development Area Historic Landscape Character – The Fens Medium	Moderate adverse impact from the installation of solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure for the lifespan of the Scheme.	Measures set out in the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect for the lifetime of the Scheme due to solar PV modules and supporting infrastructure.
Grid Connection Route Historic Landscape Character – The Fens and The Wash Medium	Moderate adverse by activities for the installation of infrastructure including pylons, cabling, drainage and landscape mitigation.	Measures set out in the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11) and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	Moderate adverse	None	Long-term, moderate adverse (significant) effect for the lifetime of the Scheme due to Grid Connection infrastructure.
Decommissioning Phase					
Historic landscape of the former precinct of Crowland Abbey Medium	Moderate adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning activities and plant	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Temporary moderate adverse	None	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities that will cease after the works end.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.				
Scheduled Monuments 'Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner' (1004979), 'Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm' (1004978) High	Minor adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning activities and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Temporary moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments within are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities that will cease after the works end.
Scheduled Monuments 'Medieval boundary earthworks at Queen's Bank, 100m south east of Providence House' (1009980) High	Minor adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning activities and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Temporary moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities that will cease after the works end.

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
St Guthlac's Cross (1005052) High	Minor adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning activities and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Temporary moderate adverse	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities that will cease after the works end.
Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471) High	Minor adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning activities and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Temporary moderate adverse.	Measures to be set out in the OAMMS and AMMS to ensure Scheduled Monuments are protected.	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities that will cease after the works end.
Solar Development Area Historic Landscape Character – The Fens Medium	Moderate adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Moderate adverse	None	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities

Receptor / Importance	Description of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance of Effect Without Additional Mitigation	Additional Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Residual Effect
	activities and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.				that will cease after the works end.
Grid Connection Route Historic Landscape Character – The Fens and The Wash Medium	Moderate adverse due to the presence and movement of temporary decommissioning activities and plant equipment, increased traffic, noise, lighting and dust.	Measures set out in the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	Moderate adverse	None	Short-term, temporary moderate adverse (significant) effect from decommissioning activities that will cease after the works end.

8.12. Cumulative Effects

8.12.1. Cumulative effects are the combined effects of several development schemes (in conjunction with the Scheme) which may, on an individual basis be insignificant but, cumulatively, have a significant effect. Cumulative effects with other development schemes are also referred to as inter-project cumulative effects. An assessment of the likely significant inter-project cumulative effects in relation to Cultural Heritage is provided below.

8.12.2. The assessment of cumulative effects has considered other committed developments shortlisted within **ES Appendix 4-1: List of Cumulative Schemes** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

8.12.3. The Zone of Influence (ZoI) for the consideration of cumulative effects for Cultural Heritage is 5km as shown on **ES Figure 4-1** (Doc Ref. 6.2). Cumulative schemes within the ZoI for Cultural Heritage are listed within Table 8-10 below. An assessment of cumulative effects is provided within Table 8-11 below.

Table 8-10: Potential Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects					
EN020036	Fenland District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey, District Council, and South Holland District Council	Grimsby to Walpole The project will be a new c140km long 400kv overhead line and 5 new substations stretching from a new substation to the west of Grimsby in the north to a new substation at Walpole near Wisbech in the south. Three further substations will be built, two to the south west of Mablethorpe and one to the north east of Spalding	Adjacent (Weston)	Potential - If consent is granted, construction could begin in 2029. Overlap is assumed for worst case assessment. .	Increased in-combination disruption of the historic landscape character. Increased in-combination effects on the setting of Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471).
EN010130	Lincolnshire County Council, Boston Borough Council, East	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project comprises an offshore wind farm and associated offshore and onshore	1.3km	Potential - Consent has been granted, construction could begin in 2027. Overlap is	Increased in-combination disruption of the historic landscape

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
	Lindsey District Council, and South Holland District Council	infrastructure including offshore and onshore high voltage electricity cables, onshore and offshore electricity substation(s), connection(s) to the National Grid and ancillary and temporary works.		assumed for worst case assessment.	character and palaeoarchaeological deposits.
EN0210003	Fenland District Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough District Council, and South Holland District Council, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL3) comprises a converter station in the Walpole area of Norfolk along with associated development. Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) comprises a converter station in the Walpole area of Norfolk alone or together with a switching station and a converter station in the East Lindsey area of Lincolnshire, along with associated development.	1km	Potential - Construction is due to start in early 2028, lasting 6 years. Overlap is assumed for worst case assessment.	Increased in-combination disruption of the historic landscape character and palaeoarchaeological deposits.
EN0210006	Lincolnshire County Council Boston Borough Council South Holland District Council	Ossian Wind Farm Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Ltd ("the Applicant") is intending to develop transmission infrastructure to connect the Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Array (located in Scottish waters and subject to application for consent under section 36 of the	1km	Potential - Unknown. Overlap is assumed for worst case assessment.	Increased in-combination disruption of the historic landscape character and

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
	East Lindsey District Council	Electricity Act 1989) to National Grid at substations in Lincolnshire. The Proposed Development comprises the installation of high voltage direct current offshore export cables (to the extent that these are located in English waters), landfall structures, HVDC onshore export cables and onshore converter stations, and all other development integral to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development, including access. It is proposed that the lifetime of the Proposed Development will be 35 years, at which point the Proposed Development will be decommissioned.			palaeoarchaeological deposits. Increased in-combination effects on the setting of Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471).
EN0210007	Lincolnshire County Council	National Grid Scheme - Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire A new circa 60 kilometre 400kV overhead electricity transmission line which connects into the Weston Marsh substation infrastructure (to be constructed under the Grimsby to Walpole Project), in the Spalding region of Lincolnshire, and runs west to a new 400kV transmission substation (WMEL-	Adjacent (Weston)	Potential - Unknown - Application expected March 2028. Overlap is assumed for worst case assessment.	Increased in-combination disruption of the historic landscape character and palaeoarchaeological deposits. Increased in-combination effects

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
		B) near Wartnaby in Leicestershire, via a new 400kV transmission substation (WMEL-A) near Corby Glen in Lincolnshire.			on the setting of Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471).
EA 001	N/A -Decision by SoS	Spalding Energy Expansion Combined cycle gas turbine Power Station / Variation of a Section 36 consent, Electricity Act 1989.	600m	Potential - Construction expected to start in 2026, and be completed by 2027. Overlap is assumed for worst case assessment.	No – works comprise development within the existing Spalding Power Station complex and are not considered to have a potential to contribute to cumulative effects with the Scheme.
Planning Applications					

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
6 EIA/11/24	Land to the East of Surfleet Bank and West of Woad Farm, Spalding	For a proposed anaerobic digester operation and associated infrastructure	3km	Temporal overlap assumed for worst case assessment.	No. Development on the opposite side of the River Welland. No intervisibility. No cumulative effects on heritage assets.
8 H16-0871-24	Fields South of Pilgrim's Pride Ltd, Fulney Lane, Spalding.	The Development is for a Solar photovoltaic (PV) Array with a maximum generating capacity of 3.5 MW and an onsite connection to the existing Pilgrim factory. Alongside the Solar PV Array, associated infrastructure and equipment would include: fencing, security cameras, cabling and access track. Biodiversity enhancement will also be integrated into the site design and will be informed through a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	1km	Temporal overlap assumed for worst case assessment.	No. Development on the opposite side of the A16. No intervisibility. No cumulative effects on heritage assets.
15 H09-0501-23	Land off Holbeach Drove Gate Holbeach Drove Spalding	Erection of Agricultural Machinery Assembly Facility, Research and Training Facility, Ground Mounted Solar Array and Associated Infrastructure.	0km	Temporal overlap assumed for worst case assessment.	Yes. Cumulative disruption of the historic landscape character due to the introduction of industrial features

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
					into the flat landscape. Cumulative loss of palaeoarchaeological deposits across the wider landscape.
16 H02-0875-22	Decoy Farm Spalding Road Crowland Peterborough	King Prawn Hatchery, Grow Out and Processing Facility.	0km	Temporal overlap assumed for worst case assessment.	Yes. Cumulative disruption of the historic landscape character due to the introduction of industrial features into the flat landscape. Cumulative loss of palaeoarchaeological deposits across the wider landscape.
18 H13-0190-23	Land at Moulton Bulb Co. Ltd Long Lane Moulton Spalding PE12 6PP	Erection of a ground mounted solar array with associated infrastructure.	1km	Temporal overlap assumed for worst case assessment.	Yes. Cumulative disruption of the historic landscape character due to the introduction of industrial features

ID and Application Reference	Location	Application and Description	Distance from Scheme	Potential overlap in Temporal Scope?	Cumulative Effects in relation to Cultural Heritage?
					into the flat landscape.
58 F/YR25/0758/F	Land North West Of Treading Bank Tydd St Giles Cambridgeshire	Installation of 49.9MW ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels with associated substation, ancillary plant and infrastructure, and erection of 2.4m high security fencing and CCTV cameras on 3.0m high poles	4.35km	Temporal overlap assumed for worst case assessment.	No. Distance. No intervisibility. No cumulative effects on heritage assets.

Table 8-11: Cumulative Effects Assessment in relation to Cultural Heritage

Receptor(s)	Residual effect of the Scheme alone	Assessment of cumulative effects with other developments listed within Table 8-10	Proposed additional mitigation applicable to the Scheme including any apportionment	Residual cumulative effects
Fenland Historic Landscape - The Fens and The Wash	Moderate adverse	Cumulative disruption of the historic landscape character due to the introduction of industrial features into the flat landscape. This effect would be reduced on the decommissioning of the Scheme.	None	Moderate adverse for the lifetime of the Scheme. Increase in the magnitude of impact as a result of in-combination effects. Significant for the lifespan of the Scheme.

Receptor(s)	Residual effect of the Scheme alone	Assessment of cumulative effects with other developments listed within Table 8-10	Proposed additional mitigation applicable to the Scheme including any apportionment	Residual cumulative effects
Areas of palaeoarchaeological potential	Slight adverse	Cumulative loss of palaeoarchaeological deposits across the wider landscape.	Collection of samples for analysis, required as part of the OAMMS, will contribute to the understanding of the environmental change of the wider fenland landscape. Integration of results into public records will contribute to research objectives. It is assumed that cumulative developments will be similarly required to collect samples as a requirement or a condition of their DCO and planning consents.	Permanent slight adverse. Increase in the magnitude of impact as a result of in-combination effects. Not significant.
Scheduled Monument 'Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat house' (1019096) and Grade I Listed chapel (1064471)	Moderate adverse	The construction of the substation at Weston Marsh and the infrastructure relating to the National Grid Grimsby to Walpole, Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire, Outer Dowsing Offshore Windfarm and Ossian Wind Farm schemes would potentially surround the monastic site with new infrastructure. Although the natures of the developments	None	Moderate adverse for the lifetime of the Scheme. Increase in the magnitude of impact as a result of in-combination effects. Significant for the lifespan of the Scheme.

Receptor(s)	Residual effect of the Scheme alone	Assessment of cumulative effects with other developments listed within Table 8-10	Proposed additional mitigation applicable to the Scheme including any apportionment	Residual cumulative effects
		would result in permeable views from the asset the nature and scale of the infrastructure would impact its setting. This effect would be reduced on the decommissioning of the Scheme.		