

# Green Hill Solar Farm

## EN010170

### Statement of Common Ground: North Northamptonshire Council

### Revision ~~BC~~ (Tracked)

Prepared by: Lanpro Services

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Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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## Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Green Hill Solar Farm

Examination Deadline [57](#)

### Statement of Common Ground: North Northamptonshire Council (Revision [BC](#))

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Revision	Date	Prepared by	Approved by
Original	19/11/2025	AR	JC
A	14/01/2026	AR	JC
B	26/02/2026	AR	JC
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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of the Document

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared as part of the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm Development Consent Order (the Application) made by Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).

1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information that is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

1.1.3 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) the matters on which agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not yet been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO consenting process, of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

### 1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd as the Applicant and (2) North Northamptonshire Council. North Northamptonshire Council is one of three host authorities for the Application and is specifically the host authority for Green Hill C, D, E, F, BESS, part of the cable route, and the Point of Connection at Grendon National Grid 400 kV Substation.

1.2.2 Collectively, Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd. and North Northamptonshire Council are referred to as 'the parties'.

### 1.3 Terminology and Referencing

1.3.1 In the Tables in Section 3 of this SoCG below:

- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved;
- "Not Agreed" indicates a final position; and
- "Under discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion to resolve, where possible, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties.

### 1.4 Topic Referencing for All Matters

1.4.1 All matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed have been given unique references which relate to the topic matter. The referencing system is defined as follows:

**Table 1.1 Topic Referencing**

Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Scheme Description	SD
Energy Need	EN
Planning Statement	PS



Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Alternatives and Design Evolution	ALT
Assessment Methodology	AM
Residual Effect	RE
Climate Change	CC
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	LVIA
Ecology and Biodiversity	EB
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	HYD
Minerals	MIN
Cultural Heritage	CH
Transport and Access	TA
Noise and Vibration	NV
Glint and Glare	GG
Air Quality	AQ
Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	STR
Human Health	HH
Arboriculture	ARB
Agricultural Circumstances	ALC
Electromagnetic Fields	EMF
Ground Conditions and Contamination	GCC
Major Accidents and Disasters	MAD
Other Environmental Matters	OEM
Cumulative Effects	CE



## 2 Record of Engagement

### 2.1 Summary of Consultation

- 2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since March 2024.
- 2.1.2 A non-statutory consultation took place in March to May 2024. The statutory consultation process took place between 7<sup>th</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- 2.1.3 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd and North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) in relation to the Application is outlined in Error! Reference source not found. below.

**Table 2.1: Record of Engagement**

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
<b>Project Wide Matters/ Principle, Scope and Description of Development</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	Meeting to introduce the scheme, providing an overview of the Sites, timescales, constraints and opportunities
Monthly meetings	Meetings (virtual via Teams) with Planning Officers	Regular meetings to discuss any project and programme updates.
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Site Visit	Site Visit with the planning and highways officers to allow them to view Sites C, D, E and F and proposed construction routes.
<b>Landscape and Visual Impact</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	The meeting focused on reviewing suggested additional viewpoints, agreement on using Type 1-2 photographs for scoping, and identified landscape receptors to include in the assessment.
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	Meeting to discuss the approach to photomontages and viewpoint locations.
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	Meeting with Landscape Officer to discuss section 42 comments in response to the statutory consultation.
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	Meeting with the Landscape consultant and planning officers at North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council as an orientation exercise of the landscape DCO documents.
19 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Site Visit	Site Visit with the landscape consultant who is representing both North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council.
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Meeting	In person meeting with the landscape consultant who is representing both North Northamptonshire Council and West



Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		Northamptonshire Council to discuss the Statement of Common Ground and the progression of matters. The current position between the Applicant and the landscape consultant are set out in this document.
<b>Ecology and Biodiversity</b>		
29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	The Applicant's Ecologist and Planning Agent contacted North Northamptonshire Local Planning Authority to discuss the Scheme proposals and gauge initial thoughts from the Local Planning Authority on approach.
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	The Applicant introduced the project and Clarkson and Wood's expertise. The meeting focused on the survey scope and design evolution as well as scoping responses. Various queries on species, mitigation, and survey methodologies were addressed.
December 2024	Section 42 Consultation response	<p>Comments related to the scope of the desktop study and suite of protected species surveys.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain and whether the figure is based on the Scheme as a whole or the individual Sites.</p> <p>Clarifications needed on the temporary/permanent effects.</p> <p>Details on boundary treatments and fencing around the Sites to allow movement of wildlife through the countryside.</p> <p>All matters are covered in <b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP1-033REP6-013]</b> and <b>ES Appendix 9.1 to 9.13 [APP-084 to APP-096, REP1-045, REP1-047, REP1-049, REP1-051]</b></p>
<a href="#">18 March 2026</a>	<a href="#">Meeting (virtual via Teams)</a>	<p><a href="#">Discussion on the ecological matters contained within this document.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Discussions focussed on the functionally linked land.</a></p>
<b>Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b>		
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024		Meeting to introduce the scheme and approach to hydrology, flood risk and drainage assessment
December 2024	Section 42 Consultation response	Scope of supporting technical information to include a detailed drainage plan.



Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Matter addressed in <b>Annex A – 10.1.1 – Annex J 10.1.10: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – BESS</b> [<b>EX5/GH6.3.10.1_B</b>, <b>EX5/GH6.3.10.2_A</b><a href="#">REP5-021</a>, <a href="#">REP5-023</a>, <b>APP-100 – APP-106</b>, <b>EX5/GH6.3.10.6_B</b>, <b>EX5/GH6.3.10.10_A</b>, <b>EX5/GH6.3.10.11_B</b><a href="#">REP5-027</a>, <a href="#">REP5-029</a>, <a href="#">REP5-031</a>]</p> <p>Win DES modelling and pre-development brownfield/greenfield discharge calculations should be provided.</p> <p>Matter addressed in <b>Annex J – 10.1.4011: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – BESS</b> [<b>EX5/GH6.3.10.11_B</b><a href="#">REP5-031</a>]</p> <p>BRE365 compliant infiltration testing should be undertaken.</p> <p>Matter addressed in <b>Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy</b> [<b>EX5/GH6.3.10.1_B</b><a href="#">REP5-021</a>]</p> <p>Maintenance and management of individual aspects of the drainage system.</p> <p>Matter addressed in <b>Annex J – 10.1.4011: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – BESS</b> [<b>EX5/GH6.3.10.11_B</b><a href="#">REP5-031</a>]</p>
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	<p>The Applicant held a meeting with representatives of the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) from each of the Host Authorities to discuss the disapplication of provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991. The Applicant is preparing a draft set of protective provisions to share with each of the LLFA's to allow agreement of the disapplication. This meeting was held to address action point 4 of Issue Specific Hearing 3.</p>
<b>Minerals</b>		
07 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	<p>The meeting focused on providing an overview of the Scheme, mineral safeguarding, impacts on current and future sand and gravel supply and mitigation measures</p>
December 2024	Section 47 Consultation response	<p>Assessment should include the cable route corridor.</p>



Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		All matters covered in <b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>		
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	North Northamptonshire Conservation Officer	Meeting to introduce the Scheme, provide a high-level review of identified heritage assets and discuss proposed methodology.
December 2024	Section 47 Consultation response	<p>Extent of archaeological field evaluation.</p> <p>Impacts of decommissioning needs to be assessed in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Matter addressed in <b>Appendix 12.2 to 12.5 [APP-121 – APP-130]</b> for the results of the archaeological assessment, including the interim results of the geophysical survey and the programme of evaluation trial trenching. <b>Appendix 12.6 [CR2-006]</b> takes into account the results of the archaeological assessment as part of the EIA and provides an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.</p> <p><b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b> sets out the assessment of impacts during the decommissioning phase.</p>
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	Meeting with the WHNA to discuss potential vibration impact from construction traffic to heritage assets. It was agreed that only Station lodge and Low Farmhouse would be scoped into potential vibration assessment.
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	Meeting to discuss methodology and approach to assessment and detail finding in relation to Green Hill A, B, C and the BESS (only C and BESS in relation to NNC boundary).
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist	Meeting to discuss archaeological mitigation options, geophysical survey data and discuss mitigation areas.
30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist	Meeting to discuss archaeological evaluation and mitigation options.
14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with Conservation Officer	Meeting to discuss final Scheme design and proposed mitigation.
25 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist	Meeting to discuss archaeological evaluation and mitigation options.



Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
27 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Site Visit with Conservation Officer	Site Visit with two Conservation Officers. The Applicant's landscape consultant was also present.
30 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist	Meeting to discuss archaeological evaluation and mitigation options.
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist	Meeting to discuss the AMS, including agreement on the scope of pre- and post-determination trenching, with amendments to be addressed during the next deadline.
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist	Meeting to discuss the cabling and potential archaeological impacts. It was agreed that mitigation would comprise HDD or SMS in areas where cabling would cause impacts to buried archaeological features. Where possible, cabling should be routed away from archaeological remains or in the least dense areas. The AMS will be updated, and a Technical Note has been provided for Deadline 5.
<b>Glint and Glare</b>		
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams)	A meeting was held with the Council's highway officer to discuss the assessment of glint and glare on local roads.
<b>Transport and Access</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Meeting (virtual via Teams).	Clarification on access arrangements DCO schedules relating to access.
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Meeting (virtual via Teams).	Access review and confirmation of shuttle bus assumptions.

2.1.4 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd and (2) North Northamptonshire Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.



### 3 Matters of Discussion

#### 3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Tables 3.1 to 3.18 below detail by topic the matters under discussion with North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) at the point of this document being published.

#### 3.2 Scheme Description

**Table 3.1 Scheme Description**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
SD-01	Site Description	<b>ES Chapter 3: The Development Site [REP1-029]</b>	The description of the Sites set out in <b>ES Chapter 3: The Development Site [REP1-029]</b> is accurate.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
SD-02	Scheme Description	<b>ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP1-034REP6-011]</b>	The Scheme description set out in <b>ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP1-034REP6-011]</b> is provided with sufficient detail to inform assessments.	The Council are in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed

#### 3.3 Energy Need

**Table 3.2 Energy Need**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
EN-01	Energy Need	<b>Statement of Need [APP-556]</b>	The principle of the need for large scale solar projects is established in national planning policy, as detailed in Section 4 of <b>Planning Statement [REP4-042REP6-037]</b> and <b>Statement of Need [APP-556]</b> and the principle that large scale solar is an essential part of the UK's generation mix which will bring benefits to national	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



			decarbonisation and energy security agendas as well as support the affordability of clean electricity is supported by North Northamptonshire Council.		
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### 3.4 Planning Statement

**Table 3.3 Planning Statement**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
PS-01	Local planning policy	<b>Planning Statement</b> <del>[REP4-012]</del> <a href="#">[REP6-037]</a>	<p>The Applicant has identified all planning policy documents in Section 5.5 of the <b>Planning Statement</b> <del>[REP4-012]</del><a href="#">[REP6-037]</a> which are relevant and important in relation to the area of the Application. The compliance with relevant local policies is accurately set out in <b>Policy Compliance Document</b> <a href="#">[REP4-014]</a></p> <p><b>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>The Mears Ashby Village Design Statement Supplementary Planning Document (Adopted February 2017) has been included in the <b>Planning Statement</b> <del>[REP4-012]</del><a href="#">[REP6-037]</a> submitted at Deadline 5.</p>	Please refer to LIR section 6. Mears Ashby Village Design Statement Supplementary Planning Document (Adopted February 2017) to be included.	Matter Agreed



### 3.5 Alternatives and Design Evolution

**Table 3.2 Alternatives and Design Evolution**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
ALT-01	Site Selection	<b>ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution - Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [REP1-037]</b>	<p>The methodology used in <b>ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution - Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [REP1-037]</b> is appropriate for the Scheme.</p> <p>The outline design parameters set out in the <b>Concept Design Parameters and Principles [REP1-151REP6-039]</b> are considered appropriate and secured by a Requirement in the <b>Draft DCO [EX5EX7/GH3.1_DF]</b>.</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ALT-03	Design Approach	<b>Design Approach Document [APP-560]</b>	The process which the design development has taken and how it incorporates technical, functional and safety-led design requirements that have been established through the consultation periods is set out in the <b>Design Approach Document [APP-560]</b> and is acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed

### 3.6 EIA Methodology

**Table 3.5 EIA Methodology**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
AM-01	Assessment Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 2_EIA Process and Methodology [APP-039]</b>	The assessment methodology adopted within the environmental topic assessments mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES <b>[APP-039 to APP-060]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
		<b>ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060]</b>	consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.		
AM-02	Assessment methodology – Professional judgement	<b>ES Chapter 2_EIA Process and Methodology [APP-039]</b> <b>ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060]</b>	The identification of likely significant effects on sensitive features and receptors has been informed by professional judgement and the views of the relevant technical specialists, where necessary.  The application of professional judgement by specialists within the environmental topic assessments is outlined in the technical chapters of the <b>ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060]</b> are appropriate and robust.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed

### 3.7 Residual Effects

**Table 3.6 Residual Effects**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
RE-01	Impacts and Effects	<b>ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060]</b>	The assessment findings for the environmental topics mentioned in the following technical chapters of the ES are considered not significant or of beneficial significance and therefore is considered acceptable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES Chapter 7: Climate Change <b>[APP-044]</b></li> <li>• ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare <b>[APP-052]</b></li> <li>• ES Chapter 16: Air Quality <b>[APP-053]</b></li> <li>• ES Chapter 18: Human Health <b>[APP-055]</b></li> </ul>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields <b>[APP-058]</b></li> <li>ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination <b>[REP1-025]</b></li> </ul> <p>ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters <b>[APP-060]</b></p>		

### 3.8 Landscape and Visual Impact

**Table 3.7 Landscape and Visual Impact**

Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
LVIA-01	<p>Meetings and Workshops</p> <p><b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b></p> <p><b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.6 Landscape Consultation [APP-083]</b></p>	<p>The meetings and workshops with statutory consultees set out within Section 8.2 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.5 Landscape Consultation [APP-083]</b> have been effective in informing decision making and monitoring the LVIA assessment process of the Scheme to date. The engagement has been timely and has been a valuable tool in seeking understanding</p>	<p>The Council agrees that the engagement has been a valuable tool in seeking understanding and agreement about the key issues</p>	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			and agreement about the key issues.		
LVIA-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.3.1 LVIA Assessment Sheets [APP-081]</b>	The description of the existing baseline landscape and visual conditions set out within Section 8.5 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.3.1 LVIA Assessment Sheets [APP-081]</b> is representative of the baseline site conditions and therefore acceptable to inform the assessment.	The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-03	Appendices and Figures	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The Appendices and Figures listed within Section 8.1 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> are presented in sufficient detail to inform the baseline, underpin the LVIA process and to identify the likely significant effects of the Scheme.	The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-04	Study Area/Scope of Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The Study Areas and Scope of Assessment set out within Section 8.5 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual</b>	The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<b>[APP-045]</b> is sufficient to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.	
LVIA-05	Assessment Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [EX5/GH6.3.8.1_AREP6-017 and REP6-019]</b>	The methodology adopted within Section 8.4 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [EX5/GH6.3.8.1_AREP6-017 and REP6-019]</b> follows the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' Third Edition (GLVIA3) and derived from consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council's jurisdiction.	The Council agrees that the methodology is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
LVIA-06	Landscape Character Assessments	<p><b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b></p> <p><b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions [APP-082]</b></p> <p><b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.2 Landscape Receptor [APP-080]</b></p>	<p>The published landscape character assessments that are relied upon at the national, regional, and local level and set out within Section 8.5 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions [APP-082]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.2 Landscape Receptor [APP-084]</b> are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.</p>	<p>The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.</p>	Matter Agreed
LVIA-07	Visual Receptors: Assessment Viewpoints for the Sites	<p><b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b></p>	<p>The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8: Figure 8.10 [APP-308]</b> are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.</p>	<p>The Council agrees that the viewpoint information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.</p>	Matter Agreed
LVIA-08	Visual Receptors: Additional	<p><b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b></p>	<p>The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual</b></p>	<p>The Council agrees that the viewpoint information provided is</p>	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
	Assessment Viewpoints for the Cable Route Corridor		<b>[APP-045]</b> and <b>ES Chapter 8: Figure 8.10 [APP-308]</b> are considered acceptable to inform the baseline conditions for the Cable Route Corridor and Substations.	appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.	
LVIA-09	Landscape Receptors: Value	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The judgements on value for the landscape receptors, as set out within Section 8.5 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	The Council agrees with the landscape value judgements presented in the ES, which appropriately reflect the characteristics, condition and local distinctiveness of the receiving landscape.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-10.1	Embedded Design Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The approach and proposals for embedded mitigation set out within Section 8.6 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> , considers the landscape and visual matters associated with the Scheme as part of an iterative process, and is considered acceptable.	The Council acknowledges that embedded mitigation has been incorporated through the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a> and associated mitigation drawings, and that these measures represent a	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
				landscape-led approach.	
LVIA-10.2	Embedded Design Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	<p><del>Establishing</del><a href="#">Following decommissioning the established</a> planting will add a positive element to this landscape.</p> <p><a href="#">This betterment is established as a consequence of the landscape proposals resulting in greater species variety, greater age depth, enhanced structure, resilience to pest and disease and reinforcement of local landscape character across the Sites.</a></p> <p><a href="#">The defining legacy of the landscape would be the robust framework of features that have improved through the mitigation and landscape enhancements. This mitigation in turn would give rise to long-term wider benefits, including maintaining and enhancing</a></p>	<p><del>It is considered that the effectiveness of planting in reducing character effects has been overstated.</del> <a href="#">Although the additional planting would improve the landscape structure, the replacement of the agricultural land use with utility-scale energy infrastructure represents a fundamental and long-lasting alteration that cannot be offset by planting and habitat enhancements. In any case, the landscape would still undergo a substantial transition character because the arrays and supporting infrastructure themselves constitute a new, large-scale change.</a></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><a href="#">biodiversity and in promoting the resilience of ecosystems.</a></p> <p><b><a href="#">Applicants response to Consultee Position</a></b></p> <p><a href="#">Matter LVIA-10.2 is in relation to the benefits to Landscape Character following decommissioning of the Scheme associated with the established planting. NPS EN-1 recognises at para 5.10.5 that “Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation.”</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Applicant considers that the legacy landscape, post-decommissioning would result in long-term wider benefits.</a></p>		
LVIA - 10.3	Embedded Design Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	Vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and	The Council acknowledges that through the Landscape	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			Enhancement Plans [ <del>REP3-042, REP3-044</del> <a href="#">REP6-021, REP6-023</a> , APP-209, REP3-046, APP-211, <del>REP3-048, REP3-050</del> <a href="#">REP6-025, REP6-027</a> , APP-214, APP-215, REP3-052, <del>APP-217</del> <a href="#">REP1-113</a> , REP3-054, <del>APP-219</del> <a href="#">REP6-029</a> ] is relatively minimal.	Led approach to the design, vegetation removal is relatively minimal.	
LVIA-11	Presentation of Assessment Findings	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The approach to presenting the assessment findings is considered acceptable, as set out in Section 8.6 of <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> , supplemented by detailed appendices.	The Council agrees that the way information has been presented is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-12.1	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements	<b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20)</b> [ <del>REP3-042, REP3-044</del> <a href="#">REP6-021, REP6-023</a> , APP-209, REP3-046, APP-211, <del>REP3-048, REP3-050</del> <a href="#">REP6-025, REP6-027</a> , APP-214, APP-215, REP3-	The landscape and ecological improvements are set out in the <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20)</b> .  The <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans</b>	This is agreed.  The Council supports the principle of long-term management as set out in the OLEMP [ <del>EX5/GH7.4, DREP6-047</del> ] and recognises the opportunities for biodiversity	Matter Agreed



Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
	<p>052, <a href="#">APP-217</a><a href="#">REP1-113</a>, <a href="#">REP3-054</a>, <a href="#">APP-219</a><a href="#">REP6-029</a>]</p> <p><b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047</a>]</p>	<p>(<b>Figures 4.10 to 4.20</b>) are acceptable and require no further revisions.</p> <p>The <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047</a>] and are considered acceptable.</p> <p>Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20)</b>. The <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047</a>] (the 'OLEMP') is</p>	<p>enhancement through hedgerow, woodland and grassland creation.</p> <p>However, the Council considers that these measures primarily function as mitigation to reduce adverse effects rather than as enhancements that would restore the original landscape character.</p>	



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of <b>Draft Development Consent Order Revision</b> <a href="#">[EX5F]</a> <a href="#">[EX7/GH3.1_DF]</a>		
LVIA – 12.2	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements	<b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20)</b> <del>[REP3-042, REP3-044]</del> <a href="#">REP6-021</a> , <a href="#">REP6-023</a> , <a href="#">APP-209</a> , <a href="#">REP3-046</a> , <a href="#">APP-211</a> , <del>[REP3-048, REP3-050]</del> <a href="#">REP6-025</a> , <a href="#">REP6-027</a> , <a href="#">APP-214</a> , <a href="#">APP-215</a> , <a href="#">REP3-052</a> , <del>[APP-217]</del> <a href="#">REP1-113</a> , <a href="#">REP3-054</a> , <del>[APP-219]</del> <a href="#">REP6-029</a>  <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a>	<b>The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a> and are considered acceptable.  <b>The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a> (the ‘OLEMP’) is secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of <b>Draft Development Consent Order Revision</b> <a href="#">[EX5F]</a> <a href="#">[EX7/GH3.1_DF]</a>	The Council supports the principle of long-term management as set out in the OLEMP <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a> and recognises the opportunities for biodiversity enhancement through hedgerow, woodland and grassland creation.  The <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a> (the ‘OLEMP’) is acceptable.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-12.3	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape	<b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20)</b> <del>[REP3-042, REP3-</del>	Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation,	The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
	and Ecological Improvements	<p><del>044</del><a href="#">REP6-021</a>, <a href="#">REP6-023</a>, <a href="#">APP-209</a>, <a href="#">REP3-046</a>, <a href="#">APP-211</a>, <del>REP3-048</del>, <del>REP3-050</del><a href="#">REP6-025</a>, <a href="#">REP6-027</a>, <a href="#">APP-214</a>, <a href="#">APP-215</a>, <a href="#">REP3-052</a>, <del>APP-217</del><a href="#">REP1-113</a>, <a href="#">REP3-054</a>, <del>APP-219</del><a href="#">REP6-029</a></p> <p><b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> [<del>EX5/GH7.4_D</del><a href="#">REP6-047</a>]</p>	<p>location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing.</p> <p>The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20)</b> .</p>	detailed planting plans required post consent.	
L VIA-13.1	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The Landscape Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> follows GLVIA3 and is robust.	The Council agrees that the assessment follows GLVIA3 and that the methodology is robust.	Matter Agreed
L VIA-13.2.1	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The Landscape Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> for Sites C, D and BESS individually are considered acceptable.	This is agreed.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
LVIA-13.2.2	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	<p>The Landscape Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> for Sites E, F individually are considered acceptable.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Applicants response to Consultee Position</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">The LVIA finds that there would be Moderate Adverse (Significant) effects to the landscape character of the Local Study Area at Construction and Year 1, reducing to Moderate / Minor at Year 15. It is the Applicants position that the proposed embedded landscape mitigation across both Site E and Site F would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Local Study Area surrounding each Site, allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host</a></u></p>	<p><del>There is partial disagreement with the assessment outcomes.</del></p> <p>The Council considers that <del>residual</del> landscape effects at Year <u><a href="#">1 and Year 15</a></u> are understated for <del>certain parcels, particularly</del> Site E near Mears Ashby and Site F near Easton Maudit, <del>where</del>. <u><a href="#">It is the Councils judgement that the scale, density and engineered form of the solar arrays and supporting infrastructure will continue mean that there will a Moderate-Major adverse (Significant) impact at Year 1, reducing to influence landscape character and perception.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Moderate Adverse (Significant) at Year 15 on the Local Study Area.</a></u></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <u><a href="#">Disagreed</a></u>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><a href="#">landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines.</a></p> <p><a href="#">As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the infrastructure allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape.</a></p> <p><a href="#">In the context of the receiving landscape character for both Site E and Site F, the areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting provide positive contributions to the countryside in the immediate surroundings to both Sites. However, given the scale of the proposals, there would be an appreciation of the Scheme within both Sites within their immediate surroundings which would be notably different from the character of the surrounding arable countryside.</a></p>		



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><a href="#">Once the mitigation planting had established adverse effects on the landscape character of the local study area would reduce to no longer significant adverse with the receiving landscape able to accommodate change brought about through the development.</a></p> <p><a href="#">The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable increase in level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character areas.</a></p>		
LVIA-13.3.1	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The proposed planting and habitat measures set out on the <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20)</b> , would deliver ecological and	The proposed planting and habitat measures would deliver ecological and structural improvements.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			structural improvements across all the Sites.		
LVIA-13.3.2	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	<p>The proposed planting and habitat measures set out on the <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20)</b>, <a href="#">[APP-207 to APP-219, REP1-111]</a>, would deliver ecological and structural improvements across all the Sites resulting in Significant Beneficial Effects to Landscape Fabric from Year 15 for the remaining duration of the Scheme.</p> <p><a href="#">Applicants response to Consultee Position</a></p> <p><a href="#">The assessment associated with the introduction of solar infrastructure, fencing, access tracks, substations and other associated paraphernalia is assessed within the assessment of</a></p>	<p><del>These primarily</del><a href="#">The proposed planting and habitat measures</a> function as mitigation rather than enhancement and would not fully outweigh the landscape fabric change arising from the <a href="#">change in land use. The</a> introduction of solar infrastructure, fencing, access tracks, substations and other associated paraphernalia <del>- would not be outweighed by the proposed planting and habitat measures</del> and therefore cannot be deemed a Significant Beneficial Effect at Year 15.</p> <p><del>As such, it is the Council's judgement</del></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed.</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><a href="#">effects on Landscape Character. This matter (LVIA 13.3.2) is regarding the benefits associated with the substantial amount of new planting proposed with the Scheme.</a></p> <p><a href="#">The LVIA [APP-045] acknowledges a significant adverse effect to landscape character within 1km of the Sites during construction and operation Year 1; relating to the change in landscape character from the addition of solar infrastructure.</a></p>	<p><del>that there will still be an adverse effect to Landscape Fabric at Year 15 and for the remaining duration of the scheme.</del></p>	
LVIA 13.4.1	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The Landscape Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> concludes that prior to the establishment of the mitigation proposals, effects on landscape character associated with Sites C, D, E, F and BESS individually within the Local Study Area during	This is agreed.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			construction and at Year 1 would be Significant.		
LVIA - 13.4.2	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	<p>The Landscape Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> concludes that prior to the establishment of the mitigation proposals, the cumulative effects of the Scheme on landscape character within the Local Study Area during construction and at Year 1 would be Significant.</p> <p><u>Following the establishment of the mitigation proposals, effects on landscape character would reduce and whilst still Adverse, would no longer be Significant.</u></p>	<p><del>The Council considers that the</del><a href="#">The</a> combined presence of multiple sites across <del>North Northamptonshire the</del><a href="#">landscape</a> is likely to give rise to a <del>greater level of</del> significant adverse cumulative effect on <del>landscape character as a whole than set out in the</del><a href="#">assessment. Local Study Area at both Year 1 and Year 15.</a></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed</a>
LVIA 13.5	Landscape Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	<p>The Landscape Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> concludes that following the establishment of the mitigation proposals, effects on landscape character associated with sites individually would</p>	The Council agrees with this position.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			reduce and whilst still Adverse, would no longer be Significant.		
LVIA-14.1	Visual Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The methodology used within the visual assessment is appropriate and conforms to GLVIA3.	The Council agrees that the viewpoint assessment methodology is appropriate.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-14.2	Visual Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	The submitted Photomontages conform to the requirements of LI TGN 6/19 guidance.	Submitted photomontages are of a good standard and conform to the requirements of LI TGN 6/19 guidance.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-14.3	Visual Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	Other than for residual visual effects on Easton Lane (NN10 and NN13), the Visual Assessment set out in <b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b> are considered acceptable.	The Council agrees with this position.	Matter Agreed
LVIA-14.4	Visual Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</b>	Both the Applicant and the Local Authority agree that despite differences in professional opinion regarding the extent and duration of residual visual	The Council agrees with this position.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			effects on Easton Lane (NN10 and NN13), effects from Year 15 and for the remaining duration of the Scheme whilst adverse, would not be Significant.		
LVIA-15	Duration	<b>Scheme duration Decommissioning</b>	<p>The operational life of the Scheme is for no more than 60 years and decommissioning is therefore estimated to be in 2089.</p> <p>Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 to the <b>Draft DCO Revision A-[EX5F [EX7/GH3.1_DF]</b> requires the Scheme to be decommissioned in accordance with a decommissioning plan to be approved by the relevant planning authorities.</p> <p>This time period is assessed in the EIA (and within this LVIA chapter and supporting appendices).</p> <p>The proposed maximum 60-year <del>operational</del><a href="#">yearoperational</a> period is not uncommon,</p>	<p>The Council considers that a 40-year operational period would be materially preferable to the proposed 60-year duration <del>given the earlier establishment of a 'legacy landscape' and the reduced length of time characterised by energy infrastructure.</del> <a href="#">Extending the scheme to 60 years prolongs the period during which the landscape is subject to adverse character effects. Under a 40-year scenario, such effects would remain present for approximately 25 years beyond Year 15. Under a 60-year scenario, the same</a></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>several consented solar DCO projects provide for the same timescales including the Mallard Pass Solar Farm; Cottam Solar Project; West Burton Solar Project; Gate Burton Energy Park; and Tillbridge Solar Project. <a href="#">The Environmental Statement has not identified any environmental impacts that would warrant a shorter operational period for this Scheme.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">adverse effects would persist for around 45 years beyond Year 15.</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">LVIA - 15.1</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Duration</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Scheme duration Decommissioning</a></p>	<p><a href="#">The LVIA ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] has correctly undertaken an assessment of effects at all stages of the proposed lifetime of the Scheme. This being: Construction, Year 1, Year 15 and Decommissioning.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">The applicant has correctly undertaken an assessment of effects at all stages of the proposed lifetime of the Scheme.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matter of Agreement</a></p>



### 3.9 Ecology and Biodiversity

**Table 3.8 Ecology and Biodiversity**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
EB-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</b> <del>[REP1-033]</del> <a href="#">[REP6-013]</a>	<p>The methodology adopted within Section 9.4 of <b>ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity</b> <del>[REP1-033]</del> <a href="#">[REP6-013]</a> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p><b>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>All ecological surveys to inform the baseline assessment (including surveys of the Cable Route Corridor) are now complete, and are reported in the <b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Revision A)</b> <del>[REP1-033B]</del> <a href="#">[REP6-013]</a> and accompanying appendices submitted at Deadline 1. There</p>	<p>The desk-based methodology is acceptable and can be considered 'agreed'.</p> <p>With regard to the Field Survey and Methodologies and Scope, due as much as anything to the later addition of some sites (including Green Hill F within NNC boundaries) and consequent inconsistent levels of surveys that has been carried out on the individual parcels, there remains certain elements of this aspect of the methodology that may need further assessment in order to ensure that proper and comparable conclusions are drawn from the work carried out so far. In this respect therefore this is still <i>under</i></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>remains a minor discrepancy in the wintering bird survey work completed across Sites, however a precautionary approach to the Functionally Linked Land assessment has been taken in lieu of the incomplete survey data. This approach has been discussed and agreed with Natural England through the Statement of Common Ground process, and is detailed further in the <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment (Revision B)</b> [<del>EX5/GH7.21</del> <a href="#">BREP5-079</a>].</p> <p>Please also refer to the <b>Applicant Responses to Local Impact Reports [REP2-049]</b> document for further responses to comments raised by North Northamptonshire Council (Ecology and Biodiversity matters are covered on pages 72-81).</p>	<p><i>discussion</i>. The Cable Route surveys were conducted during a sub-optimal period of the year, and this is acknowledged by the applicant as requiring further work and details provided.</p> <p><a href="#">Update to Consultee Position</a></p> <p><a href="#">Surveys updated, methodology for arriving at baseline data can be considered agreed.</a></p>	
EB-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</b> [ <del>REP1-033</del> <a href="#">REP6-013</a> ]	The methodology adopted within Section 9.6 of <b>ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity</b> [ <del>REP1-033</del> <a href="#">REP6-013</a> ] are representative of the baseline site	As the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES notes, the baseline conditions are set out based on in some	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>conditions in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p><b>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response on EB-01 above.</p>	<p>cases only partially completed surveys, and as such this section, by definition, must remain 'Under Discussion'.</p> <p><a href="#">Update to Consultee Position</a></p> <p><a href="#">Surveys updated, baseline can be considered agreed</a></p>	
EB-03	Mitigation	<p><b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</b> <a href="#">[REP1-033REP6-013]</a></p>	<p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 9.8 of <b>ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity</b> <a href="#">[REP1-033REP6-013]</a> are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p><b>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response on EB-01 above.</p>	<p>Notwithstanding that the approach to detailing mitigation measures for the sites adopts an acceptable approach, the details of mitigation required remain to be determined as a consequence of the unresolved issues in the mitigation and baseline conditions sections above.</p>	<p>Matter <del>Under Discussion</del><a href="#">Agreed</a></p>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
				<a href="#">Update to Consultee Position</a>  <a href="#">Mitigation measures (excluding the implementation of FLL mitigation as discussed below) can be considered agreed</a>	
EB-04	Residual Effects	<b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</b> <a href="#">[REP1-033REP6-013]</a>	<p>The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to ecology set out within Section 9.9 of <b>ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity</b> <a href="#">[REP1-033REP6-013]</a> are considered acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p><b>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response on EB-01 above. In the absence of mitigation, a potential significant adverse effect at an international level was concluded through the loss of Functionally</p>	<p>Section 9.9 of the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter highlights that there remains the possibility of 'significant adverse effects at an international level through loss of Functionally Linked Land. As this relates primarily for parcel Green Hill F (within NNC boundaries), and as this parcel is acknowledged to have had only partial surveys completed on it, the section on residual effects remains 'under discussion', pending further information.</p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>Linked Land (FLL) through the Scheme. However, given that the Scheme retains FLL fields wherever possible and will deliver FLL mitigation/compensation land beyond the quantum which is anticipated to be lost, this adverse effect is considered to be reduced to neutral, non-significant levels. Further details of the FLL mitigation/compensation are provided in paragraphs 7.2.63 – 7.2.74, as well as in Tables 4 and 5 of the <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment (Revision B)</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH7.21</a>_<a href="#">BREP5-079</a>].</p>	<p><a href="#">Update to Consultee Position</a> <a href="#">Residual effects are considered agreed at this point, subject to concerns with the implementation of the FLL mitigation</a></p>	
EB-05	Habitat Regulation Assessment	<p><b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</b> [<a href="#">REP1-033</a><a href="#">REP6-013</a>] <b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH7.21</a>_<a href="#">BREP5-079</a>]</p>	<p>A Habitat Regulation Assessment screening has been carried out and outlined in <b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH7.21</a>_<a href="#">BREP5-079</a>] with impacts discussed in <b>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</b> [<a href="#">REP1-033</a><a href="#">REP6-013</a>] The methodology is considered acceptable and the assessment is considered to have been carried out appropriately.</p>	<p>The HRA sets out that some of the surveys required for a full assessment have not been completed in areas within NNC Boundaries, and as such this section remains ‘Under Discussion’.  <a href="#">Update to Consultee Position</a></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><b>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response on EB-01 above.</p> <p><u>During the meeting with NNC on 18/03/2026, it was confirmed that no further wintering bird surveys are scheduled, or required, to inform the HRA. Instead, a precautionary approach to mitigation measures has been taken where survey deficits exist. This was confirmed as acceptable by NNC.</u></p> <p><u>With regard to the provision of FLL mitigation fields ahead of construction commencement, during the meeting on 18/03/2026, the Applicant Ecologist set out the Applicant's position that all FLL mitigation fields would be maintained as suitable for foraging by plovers in the interim period until grassland seeding works could take place. This was considered sufficient to avoid adverse impacts by the Applicant. Nonetheless, NNC</u></p>	<p><u>NNC remain of the view that land identified as being suitable for FLL mitigation should be brought into appropriate long term management prior to the commencement of construction so that it is available immediately, or following habitat transition under new management, as early as possible.</u></p>	



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<a href="#">preferred that this work be completed in advance of construction and confirmed that this one matter would remain disagreed.</a>		
EB-06	Biodiversity Net Gain	<b>Appendix 9.13: Biodiversity Net Gain [REP1-043]</b>	The approach to assessing and securing BNG as stated in <b>Appendix 9.13: Biodiversity Net Gain [REP1-043]</b> was acceptable.	BNG for NSIPs is not yet mandatory, but the applicant has provided to meet the requirements of the BNG process as if it were. In this respect, the gains that NNC might expect to see achieved in other developments within the council area might not be applied to the same standards in this case in the event that any local and particular issues arose as planning proceeds and development issues arise. Notwithstanding this, as the applicant has proposed to meet the BNG thresholds as good practice, NNC will consider this from that perspective. The applicant has indicated	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
				<p>that the proposed development requires design flexibility in a number of respects, including panel layout, and cable route corridor, which could impact on the detailed outcomes for the BNG proposals. As such it is not possible to agree the specifics of the proposals as set out in Appendix 9.13. However, the 'Applicant Position' in the SOCG document states that they consider the 'approach to assessing and securing BNG' to be acceptable. Given the non-mandatory status of the BNG proposed for this development, and that the indicative layouts would result in percentage uplifts for each BNG Unit type substantially in excess of the 10% figure that applies to mandatory BNG site, and that this</p>	



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
				allows significant leeway for future changes to be made that would not materially impact on the overall figure, we are satisfied that the 'approach' can be agreed, albeit there remains the need for further discussion on the detail.	
EB-07	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	<b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a>	The measures in the <b>OLEMP</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047]</a> are correctly identified and appropriate	The Outline LEMP addresses general principles for the management of all habitat types in relation to the setting and context of the site alongside existing off-site habitats and taking into account external strategies such as the LNRS and Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. While detail remains to be clarified on certain aspects of the proposals on completion of the DCO, the proposals included, as far as they go, addresses (or	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
				sets out how this will be addressed in the future) the key points that would be required for a full and final LEMP to be approved. The Outline LEMP states that the final LEMP would need to be substantially in accordance with the OLEMP. Barring the details that cannot be provided at present, we are satisfied that this is a satisfactory document and agree that the measures identified are correctly identified and appropriate.	

### 3.10 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

**Table 3.9 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
HYD-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b>	The methodology adopted within Section 10.4 of <b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> [ <del>EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-</del>	<del>Details and further discussions will be required</del> <a href="#">The Council is in</a>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
		<a href="#">[EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007]</a>	<a href="#">007</a> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.	<a href="#">agreement on this matter.</a>	
HYD-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007]</a>	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 10.5 of <b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007]</a> are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.	<del>Details and further discussions will be required</del> <a href="#">The Council is in agreement on this matter.</a>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>
HYD-03	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007]</a>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 10.8 of <b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007]</a> are acceptable.	<del>Details and further discussions will be required</del> <a href="#">The Council is in agreement on this matter.</a>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>
HYD-04	Surface Water	<b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007]</a>	It is agreed that Surface Water Flood Risk is appropriately addressed at this stage as set out in <b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report</b> <a href="#">[EX5/GH6.3.10.1_BREP5-021]</a> .	<del>Details and further discussions will be required</del> <a href="#">The Council is in agreement on this matter.</a>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
HYD-05	Drainage	<p><b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007</a>]</p>	<p>It is agreed that <b>ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH6.2.10_BREP6-007</a>] details maintaining the existing surface water run-off regime by utilising permeable surfacing for the site accesses, linear infiltration trenches around any proposed infrastructure (substations and batteries) and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels will ensure that the Scheme is unlikely to generate surface water runoff rates beyond the baseline scenario.</p> <p>The proposed drainage design set out in <b>ES Appendix 1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy</b> [<a href="#">EX5/GH6.3.10.1_BREP5-021</a>]. is appropriate and is secured through Requirement 11, 'Surface and Foul Water Drainage' is included within <b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> [<a href="#">EX5EX7/GH3.1_DF</a>].</p> <p>Additional detail regarding the proposed surface water drainage strategies in accordance with SuDS principles for proposed areas of hardstanding will need to be provided to ensure greenfield run-off rates are maintained.</p>	<p><del>Details and further discussions will be required</del> <a href="#">The Council is in agreement on this matter.</a></p>	<p>Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Agreed</a></p>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			Requirement 11 of the DCO secures written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage scheme through an appropriate plan which must be substantially in accordance with the outline drainage strategy.		
HYD-06	Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA)	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> <a href="#">[EX5EX7/GH3.1_DF]</a>	The LLFA has agreed to the DCO disapplying the requirement for ordinary watercourse consent under the Land Drainage Act 1991 with the inclusion of the protective provisions within Part 9 of Schedule 15 of the draft <b>DCO</b> <a href="#">[EX5EX7/GH3.1_DF]</a> .	The Council agree to the disapplication of s23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.	Matter Agreed.

### 3.11 Minerals

**Table 3.10 Minerals**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
MIN-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b>	The methodology adopted within Section 11.4 of <b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
MIN-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b>	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 11.6 of <b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
MIN-03	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 11.9 of <b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b> are acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
MIN-04	Construction/Operational/Decommissioning Impacts and Effects Sand and Gravel mineral safeguarding	<b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b>	It is agreed that the impact on mineral safeguarding resources will be no more than a temporary sterilisation effect. The magnitude of impact is low to medium and minor significance residual effect. The assessment of impacts and effects as set out in Section 11.8 of <b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b> is accurate.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
MIN-05	Mitigation Measures: Cable Route Corridor	<b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b>	The Scheme has been designed to enable impacts on operational quarries to be minimised or avoided. Mitigation set out within Section 11.7 and 11.9 of <b>ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</b> addresses the impacts of the Scheme on Earls Barton Quarry and Earls Barton Spinney Quarry	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>within the Cable Route Corridor and states that requirements of the extant planning permission relating to both quarries and on discussions with both quarry operators it is anticipated that mineral extraction will either have been completed or progress to a point where the cable can be installed within the Cable Route Corridor along a route where mineral extraction has already been completed.</p> <p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 11.9 of ES Chapter 11: Minerals <b>[APP-048]</b> are acceptable.</p>		

### 3.12 Cultural Heritage

**Table 3.11 Cultural Heritage**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
CH-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	The methodology adopted within <b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			studies and is considered acceptable.		
CH-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	The baseline conditions which are detailed within <b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter. With regard to the three NDHAs which were previously raised as being within the Order Limits, these have now been confirmed that they are actually outside the Order Limits and therefore the baseline is agreed.	Matter Agreed
CH-03	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	<p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within <b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b> are acceptable.</p> <p><b>Applicants Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>In response to the Council's comments, the Applicant <a href="#">undertook extensive consultation with the Council and has used the advice provided to inform the mitigation proposed as part of the Scheme.</a> <a href="#">The Applicant</a> notes that the Council considers the proposed mitigation to</p>	The Council comments that the mitigation measures are acceptable per se (and it's agreed that there is still residual harm despite the mitigation), but the Applicant could always go further to reduce/remove harm. However, the further the Applicant goes, the less viable the scheme becomes, so it is down to the Applicant to evidence that they have done as much they can in terms of mitigation without undermining the scheme.	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>be acceptable, whilst observing that residual harm would remain.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.33 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) acknowledges '<i>where the proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate securing its optimum viable use</i>'.</p> <p><del>The Applicant will seek to clarify with the Council whether this point can be resolved through clarification of wording.</del></p>		
CH-04	Heritage Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	<p>The heritage assessment provided in <b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b> is supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12.1: Heritage Statement [<b>APP-120</b>]</li> </ul> <p>The heritage assessment sufficiently assesses potential impacts to heritage assets. Where impacts</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter,	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			have been identified these have been appropriately mitigated.		
CH-05	Archaeological Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	<p>The archaeological assessment provided in <b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b> is supported by the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation see the following ES appendices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12.2: Archaeological Desk – Based Assessments <b>[APP-121-127]</b></li> <li>• 12.3: Aerial Photographic and LiDAR mapping and interpretation <b>[APP-128]</b></li> <li>• 12.4: Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports <b>[APP-129]</b></li> <li>• 12.5: Archaeological Evaluation (interim reports) <b>[APP-130]</b></li> </ul> <p>Archaeological evaluation works were undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with the Local Authority's Planning Archaeologists.</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>Archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with Paragraph 5.9.10 of NPS EN1, Paragraphs 2.10.113 and 2.10.115 of NPS EN3 and Paragraph 207 of NPPF to ensure the level of detail provided as part of the assessment is proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.</p> <p>The works undertaken as part of the archaeological evaluation is considered appropriate for assessment.</p>		
CH-06	Archaeological Assessment	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	<p>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage <b>[APP-049]</b> is supported by the results of a Geophysical Survey and trial trench evaluation.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys were undertaken within all areas of the Scheme that were suitable for survey (for example, roads and areas of woodland were excluded) and where land access was permitted. The results of the geophysical survey are provided in</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><b>Appendix 12.4 [APP-129].</b> Evaluation trial trenching was undertaken to test the results of the geophysical survey. Interim reports detailing the results of the evaluation trial trenching are provided in <b>Appendix 12.5 [APP-130].</b></p> <p>Archaeological evaluation works were undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with the Local Authority's Planning Archaeologists.</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with Paragraph 5.9.10 of NPS EN1, Paragraphs 2.10.113 and 2.10.115 of NPS EN3 and Paragraph 207 of NPPF to ensure the level of detail provided as part of the assessment is proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Archaeological evaluation was not undertaken in areas where it was either not possible (i.e. as a result of woodland, arboriculture and ecological considerations or access</p>		



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			issues) or not safe to do so (i.e. due to livestock or overhead electricity cables / buried utilities).		
CH-07	Further Archaeological Evaluation	<b>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]</b>	<p>Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) <b>[CR2-006]</b> details the mitigation measures to safeguard archaeological assets including preservation in situ (using a non-intrusive construction methodology) and mitigation by record (including strip, map and sample and archaeological monitoring) and is considered acceptable.</p> <p>An <b>Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation [EX5/GH8.2.17REP5-096]</b> has been prepared and is submitted at Deadline 5. This has been agreed with the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>The final mitigation strategies will be set out in the Final AMS secured through Requirement 12 of the Draft DCO.</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
CH-08	Further Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Written Scheme of Investigation</b>	The <del>Written Scheme of Investigation sets out proposed archaeological mitigation.</del> <b>[REP5-096]</b> provides sufficient scope for	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p><a href="#">post-determination trenching as detailed in Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation</a> <del>proposed includes:</del> <a href="#">Strategy (AMS) [CR2-006]</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><del>• Informative Trenching</del></li><li><del>• Open-area Excavation</del></li><li><del>• Strip, Map and Sample Excavation</del></li><li><del>• Archaeological monitoring (watching brief)</del></li><li><del>• Preservation in situ</del> <a href="#">Following completion of the trenching, mitigation WSIs will take into account the findings and be substantially in accordance with the AMS.</a></li></ul>		



### 3.13 Transport and Access

**Table 3.12 Transport and Access**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
TA-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	The methodology adopted within <b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	The baseline conditions which are detailed within <b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-03	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within <b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b> are acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-04	Abnormal Load Routes	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	The routes identified for the delivery of abnormal loads, as set out in Table 13.14 of Chapter 13: Transport and Access and the Transport Assessment <b>[REP2-003]</b> are acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-05	HGV Routes	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	All HGVs associated with the construction phase of the Scheme will follow the designated routes as illustrated in figures 13.13 to 13.17 and are summarised in ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access Table	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			13.10, and these routes are considered appropriate and acceptable.		
TA-06	PRoW	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	The measures to manage potential impacts identified in the <b>Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [REP1-147REP6-033]</b> are appropriate and acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-07	Permissive Paths	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	Permissive paths are identified and proposed as part of the Scheme and are considered appropriate.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-08	Site and Cable Route Corridor Accesses	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	A total of 47 access points across the Scheme are proposed for construction and operation purposes for the Sites, Cable Route Corridor and Cable Construction Compounds. The access locations for the northern, central and southern area of the Study Area are presented in Figures 13.13 to 13.17 [ <b>APP-432 to APP-438</b> ] and summarised in Table 13.10 are considered appropriate.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.
TA-09	Traffic and Access Impacts	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b>	<b>ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]</b> presents an assessment of the impacts of the construction traffic resulting from the Scheme on sensitive receptors. The associated Transport Assessment [ <b>APP-151</b> ] considers whether the Scheme will be acceptable in transport and highway terms. The assessment conclusion that, following the implementation of mitigation measures, the	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			residual effect would be not significant and is acceptable.		
TA-10	Glint and Glare	<b>North Northamptonshire Local Highways Glint and Glare [REP4-026]</b>	<b>North Northamptonshire Local Highways Glint and Glare [REP4-026]</b> presents an assessment and modelling of the impact of glint and glare on the local road network. The assessment is robust and identifies low impact and no further mitigation is required.	<p>The Council is in agreement on this matter. The assessment follows the methodology and screening process that was discussed ahead of carrying it out.</p> <p>The results identify a low impact on road users and we offer no alternative conclusions to those contained within the report.</p>	Matter Agreed

### 3.14 Noise and Vibration

**Table 3.13 Noise and Vibration**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
NV-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum</b>	The methodology adopted within <b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
		<b>Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b>	stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.		
NV-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b>	<p>The baseline conditions which are detailed within <b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>The baseline noise monitoring detailed within <b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b> is representative of the sound levels in the vicinity of the Sites and experienced by nearby sensitive receptors. The selected sensitive receptors represent those locations which would potentially be worst affected by noise and vibration.</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
NV-03	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within <b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b> are acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
NV-04	Conclusion	<b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b>	The conclusion within <b>ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



### 3.15 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

**Table 3.14 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
STR-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b>	The methodology adopted within <b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
STR-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b>	The baseline conditions which are detailed <b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
STR-03	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within <b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b> are acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
STR - 04	Conclusion	<b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b>	The conclusion within <b>ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



### 3.16 Arboriculture

**Table 3.15 Arboriculture**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
ARB-01	Methodology	<b>ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]</b>	The methodology adopted within Section 19.4 of <b>ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ARB-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]</b>	The methodology adopted within Section 19.6 of <b>ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ARB-03	Assessment Outcomes	<b>ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]</b>	The assessment outcomes adopted within <b>ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056]</b> are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ARB-04	Mitigation	<b>ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]</b>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 19.8 of <b>ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056]</b> are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ARB-05	Residual Effects	<b>ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-058]</b>	The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to ecology set out within Section 19.9 of <b>ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture</b>	The Council is in	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			[APP-056] are considered acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.	agreement on this matter.	
ARB-06	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	<b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> [ <del>EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047</del> ]	The measures in the <b>OLEMP</b> [ <del>EX5/GH7.4_DREP6-047</del> ] are correctly identified and appropriate	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed

### 3.17 Agricultural Circumstances

**Table 3.16 Agricultural Circumstances**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
ALC-01	Methodology	<b>Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances</b> [APP-057]	The assessment methodology detailed within Section 20.4 of <b>ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances</b> [APP-057] is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ALC-02	Baseline Conditions	<b>Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances</b> [APP-057]	The baseline conditions detailed within Section 20.6 of <b>ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances</b> [APP-057] and within <b>ES Chapter 20 - Appendix 20.1 Agricultural Land Classification Technical Report</b> are representative of the site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
ALC -03	Impacts to ALC graded land and soil quality	<b>Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b>	<p>Natural England document Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049) <a href="https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012">https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012</a> explains the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system and its use in informing land use planning decisions for agricultural land. The Applicant has submitted an ALC assessment for agricultural land within the Sites and Cable Route Corridor showing it is predominantly ALC Grade 3a, which is classed as best and most versatile agricultural land. The land within 15km of Grendon Substation is predominantly Grade 3 therefore it was not feasible to avoid land that was potentially BMV when undergoing the site selection.</p> <p>The Scheme will not result in the loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scheme will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life and restored to previous conditions.</li> <li>• Land will retain its existing Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade baseline after decommissioning of the Scheme as set out at Section 20.6 of <b>ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b>.</li> <li>• The residual effect on soil function would be the same as in the operational phase, the Scheme would have Moderate to Major beneficial effect on soil functions (especially on soil carbon) and</li> </ul>	<p>The Council <del>does not disagree with</del> <a href="#">consider</a> the <del>ALC grading but</del> <a href="#">the Council considers that the land use change spatially</a> <a href="#">60 year period more permanent than temporary</a> and <del>temporarily</del> <a href="#">therefore</a> results in a <del>significant cumulative impact on the loss of BMV agricultural land and the impact of this loss understated.</del></p>	Matter <del>Under Discussion</del> <a href="#">Disagreed</a>



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>agricultural land quality (ALC grade), which is Significant.</p> <p><b>Applicants Response to Consultee Position</b></p> <p>The Applicant noted the Council’s position – ‘the land use change spatially and temporally results in a significant cumulative impact on the loss of BMV agricultural land’. However, as the Council also acknowledge, the loss of BMV land is temporary. The land-use change involves converting arable land to grassland to some extent, and the land is not being entirely removed from agricultural use, as sheep grazing may still take place on most of the Sites, allowing farming activity to continue.</p> <p>The land required for the proposed Scheme represents only 0.01% of the 16.8 million hectares of utilised agricultural area and 0.027% of the 4.4 million hectares of arable land in the UK; therefore, it is not considered to have a significant impact on national food production or food security.</p> <p>In addition, as noted above, the conversion of arable land to grassland will have a beneficial effect on soil functions and agricultural land quality. Taking land out of intensive arable farming (e.g., ceasing tillage) is also a common practice used to improve soil structure. This land can therefore be regarded as long-term fallow and as part of a national strategic reserve.</p>		



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
ALC-04	Soil Management	<b>Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-550REP6-053]</b>	The <b>Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-550REP6-053]</b> sets out the strategy, approach, methodology and guidance of soil mitigation, and the key requirements for developing a detailed Soil Management Plan (detailed SMP) pre-construction for soil handling during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases in line with national policy and industry guidance in relation to soil resources protection. A Soil Management Plan (SMP) will be included within the detailed Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans (CEMP, OEMP, DEMP) with the aim of conserving the soil resource and its functional capacity for support of agricultural production as set out at paragraph 20.8.18 of <b>ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b> which is considered acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter	Matter Agreed
ALC-05	Mitigation	<b>Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b>	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 20.9 of <b>ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b> are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
ALC-06	Residual Effects	<b>Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b>	The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to agricultural land set out within Section 20.10 of <b>ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]</b> are considered acceptable	The in principle objection aside, the Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.		

### 3.18 Other Environmental Matters

**Table 3.17 Other Environmental Matters**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
OEM-01	Light Pollution	<b>Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b>	The information provided within paragraphs 24.3.1 to 24.3.4 of <b>ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b> is sufficient and the good practice measures which will be employed during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning are set out in <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX5EX7/GH7.1_BD]</b> and <b>Outline Decommissioning Statement [EX5/GH7.3_BREP6-045]</b> and are acceptable.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter agreed
OEM-02	Waste Production	<b>Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b>	The information provided Section 24.4 of <b>ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b> is sufficient.  The applicable waste policy is set out within paragraphs Section 24.4 of <b>ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b> is the relevant and applicable planning policy.	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			<p>The scope of the assessment undertaken within <b>ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b> including the identification of likely significant effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.</p> <p>The proposed embedded and additional mitigation measures as set out within Section 24.4 of <b>ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b> are considered proportionate and acceptable.</p>		
OEM-03	Waste Management	<b>Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b>	<p>The preparation of a Site Waste Management Plan which will describe how materials will be managed and stored efficiently and disposed of legally during the construction phase. This is secured through the <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX5EX7/GH7.1_BD]</b> and is acceptable.</p> <p>A Waste Management Strategy will be developed and agreed with the authority prior to commencement of the operation (including maintenance) as part of the detailed OEMP <b>[EX5/GH7.2_CREP6-043]</b> and is acceptable.</p> <p>The decommissioning of the Scheme will adhere to the measures and procedures outlined in the ODS <b>[EX5/GH7.3_BREP6-045]</b>, secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO), and this is considered proportionate and acceptable. A Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) will be developed by the appointed contractor and will set out how to manage the</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
			disposal of waste in accordance with relevant legislative and policy requirements at the time of decommissioning.		
OEM-04	Telecommunication, Utilities and Television	<b>Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b>	<p>The information set out within Section 24.5 of ES <b>Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]</b> is sufficient, and the protective mitigation measures set out in the <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX5EX7/GH7.1_BD]</b> and <b>Crossing Schedule [APP-558]</b> are appropriate and therefore acceptable.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers and operators of electronic communications code networks are included in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 16 to the <b>Draft Development Consent Order [EX5EX7/GH3.1_DF]</b> and, where relevant, bespoke protective provisions are being negotiated or have been agreed to protect the assets of statutory undertakers that interface with the Scheme.</p>	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed



### 3.19 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

**Table 3.18 Assessment of Cumulative Effects**

	Matter	Details of Matters for Discussion	Applicant Position	Consultee Position	Status
CE-01	Examination of Cumulative Effects	<b>ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062]</b>	The Applicant discussed the cumulative developments with North Northamptonshire Council through the scoping opinion, the statutory consultation and as part of the regular catch-up meetings and these are agreed as set out in <b>ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062]</b> .	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed
CE-02	Cumulative Effects	<b>ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062]</b>	An assessment of the cumulative effects of the Scheme along with these other developments is presented in each technical chapter [ <b>APP-039 to APP-062</b> ]. ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Interactions, provides a summary of the cumulative effects for the Scheme. It is considered that there will not be any new likely significant effects associated with cumulative effects that are not already accounted for by the assessment of the Scheme	The Council is in agreement on this matter.	Matter Agreed.



## 4 Signatories

### 4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd. (the Applicant) and North Northamptonshire Council, as specified below.

4.1.2 Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd.**

Name:	[REDACTED]
Job Title:	
Date:	07/04/2026
Signature:	[REDACTED]

4.1.3 Duly authorised for and on behalf of **North Northamptonshire Council.**

Name:	[REDACTED]
Job Title:	<a href="#">Executive Director of Place &amp; Economy (Deputy Chief Executive)</a>
Date:	<a href="#">31.03.2026</a>
Signature:	[REDACTED]