

Green Hill Solar Farm

EN010170

Statement of Common Ground: North Northamptonshire Council Revision C

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 7

Statement of Common Ground: North Northamptonshire Council (Revision C)

Prepared by

Name: Anna Rowan

Job title: Senior EIA Consultant

Approved by

Name: Jane Crichton

Job title: Technical Planning Director

| Revision | Date | Prepared by | Approved by |
|----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
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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 7th November and 19th 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 |
|--|---|--|
| Project Wide Matters/ Principle, Scope and Description of Development | | |
| 13 th 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 th 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. |
| Landscape and Visual Impact | | |
| 15 th 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 th July 2024 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) | Meeting to discuss the approach to photomontages and viewpoint locations. |
| 23 rd January 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) | Meeting with Landscape Officer to discuss section 42 comments in response to the statutory consultation. |
| 27 th 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 th September 2025 | Site Visit | Site Visit with the landscape consultant who is representing both North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. |
| 19 th 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. |
| Ecology and Biodiversity | | |
| 29 th 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 th 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 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] and ES Appendix 9.1 to 9.13 [APP-084 to APP-096, REP1-045, REP1-047, REP1-049, REP1-051]</p> |
| 18 March 2026 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) | <p>Discussion on the ecological matters contained within this document.</p> <p>Discussions focussed on the functionally linked land.</p> |
| Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage | | |
| 29 th 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 Annex A – 10.1.1 – Annex J 10.1.10: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – BESS [REP5-021, REP5-023, APP-100 – APP-106, REP5-027, REP5-029, REP5-031]</p> <p>Win DES modelling and pre-development brownfield/greenfield discharge calculations should be provided.</p> <p>Matter addressed in Annex J – 10.1.11: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – BESS [REP5-031]</p> <p>BRE365 compliant infiltration testing should be undertaken.</p> <p>Matter addressed in Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [REP5-021]</p> <p>Maintenance and management of individual aspects of the drainage system.</p> <p>Matter addressed in Annex J – 10.1.11: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – BESS [REP5-031]</p> |
| 8 th 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> |
| Minerals | | |
| 07 th 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> <p>All matters covered in ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]</p> |



| Date | Form of Correspondence | Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Cultural Heritage | | |
| 25 th 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 Appendix 12.2 to 12.5 [APP-121 – APP-130] for the results of the archaeological assessment, including the interim results of the geophysical survey and the programme of evaluation trial trenching.</p> <p>Appendix 12.6 [CR2-006] takes into account the results of the archaeological assessment as part of the EIA and provides an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.</p> <p>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] sets out the assessment of impacts during the decommissioning phase.</p> |
| 28 th 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 th 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 th March 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist | Meeting to discuss archaeological mitigation options, geophysical survey data and discuss mitigation areas. |
| 30 th April 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist | Meeting to discuss archaeological evaluation and mitigation options. |
| 14 th May 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) with Conservation Officer | Meeting to discuss final Scheme design and proposed mitigation. |
| 25 th September 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist | Meeting to discuss archaeological evaluation and mitigation options. |
| 27 th October 2025 | Site Visit with Conservation Officer | Site Visit with two Conservation Officers. The Applicant's landscape consultant was also present. |



| Date | Form of Correspondence | Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 30 th October 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams) with County Archaeologist | Meeting to discuss archaeological evaluation and mitigation options. |
| 9 th 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 rd 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. |
| Glint and Glare | | |
| 18 th 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. |
| Transport and Access | | |
| 4 th December 2025 | Meeting (virtual via Teams). | Clarification on access arrangements DCO schedules relating to access. |
| 8 th 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 | ES Chapter 3: The Development Site [REP1-029] | The description of the Sites set out in ES Chapter 3: The Development Site [REP1-029] is accurate. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| SD-02 | Scheme Description | ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP6-011] | The Scheme description set out in ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP6-011] 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 | Statement of Need [APP-556] | The principle of the need for large scale solar projects is established in national planning policy, as detailed in Section 4 of Planning Statement [REP6-037] and Statement of Need [APP-556] and the principle that large scale solar is an essential part of the UK's generation mix which will bring benefits to national decarbonisation | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | and energy security agendas as well as support the affordability of clean electricity is supported by North Northamptonshire Council. | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|

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 | Planning Statement [REP6-037] | <p>The Applicant has identified all planning policy documents in Section 5.5 of the Planning Statement [REP6-037] which are relevant and important in relation to the area of the Application. The compliance with relevant local policies is accurately set out in Policy Compliance Document [REP4-014]</p> <p>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</p> <p>The Mears Ashby Village Design Statement Supplementary Planning Document (Adopted February 2017) has been included in the Planning Statement [REP6-037] 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 | ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution - Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [REP1-037] | <p>The methodology used in ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution - Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [REP1-037] is appropriate for the Scheme.</p> <p>The outline design parameters set out in the Concept Design Parameters and Principles [REP6-039] are considered appropriate and secured by a Requirement in the Draft DCO [EX7/GH3.1_F].</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| ALT-03 | Design Approach | Design Approach Document [APP-560] | 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 Design Approach Document [APP-560] 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 | ES Chapter 2_EIA Process and Methodology [APP-039] ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060] | The assessment methodology adopted within the environmental topic assessments mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-039 to APP-060] 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 |
| AM-02 | Assessment methodology – Professional judgement | ES Chapter 2_EIA Process and Methodology [APP-039] ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060] | <p>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.</p> <p>The application of professional judgement by specialists within the environmental topic assessments is outlined in the technical chapters of the ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060] are appropriate and robust.</p> | 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 | ES Chapter 7 to 23 [APP-039 to APP-060] | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-044] • ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052] • ES Chapter 16: Air Quality [APP-053] • ES Chapter 18: Human Health [APP-055] • ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058] • ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination [REP1-025] <p>ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060]</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |

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 | Meetings and Workshops | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The meetings and workshops with statutory consultees set out within Section 8.2 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and | The Council agrees that the engagement has been a valuable tool in seeking understanding and | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|---------|------------------------|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.6 Landscape Consultation [APP-083] | Visual [APP-045] and ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.5 Landscape Consultation [APP-083] 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 and agreement about the key issues. | agreement about the key issues | |
| LVIA-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.3.1 LVIA Assessment Sheets [APP-081] | The description of the existing baseline landscape and visual conditions set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] and ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.3.1 LVIA Assessment Sheets [APP-081] 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 | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Appendices and Figures listed within Section 8.1 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] are presented in sufficient detail to | The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|---------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------|
| | | | inform the baseline, underpin the LVIA process and to identify the likely significant effects of the Scheme. | acceptable for the purposes of the Examination. | |
| LVIA-04 | Study Area/Scope of Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Study Areas and Scope of Assessment set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] is sufficient to inform the assessment baseline conditions. | 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-05 | Assessment Methodology | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [REP6-017 and REP6-019] | The methodology adopted within Section 8.4 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] and ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [REP6-017 and REP6-019] 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 | 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 |
|---------|---|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | Northamptonshire Council's jurisdiction. | | |
| LVIA-06 | Landscape Character Assessments | <p>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045]</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions [APP-082]</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.2 Landscape Receptor [APP-080]</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 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] and ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions [APP-082] and ES Chapter 8 Appendix 8.2 Landscape Receptor [APP-084] are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions. | 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-07 | Visual Receptors: Assessment Viewpoints for the Sites | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] and ES Chapter 8: Figure 8.10 [APP-308] are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions. | 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. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-08 | Visual Receptors: Additional | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP- | The Council agrees that the viewpoint information provided is appropriate and | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-----------|--|---|---|--|------------------|
| | Assessment Viewpoints for the Cable Route Corridor | | 045] and ES Chapter 8: Figure 8.10 [APP-308] are considered acceptable to inform the baseline conditions for the Cable Route Corridor and Substations. | sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination. | |
| LVIA-09 | Landscape Receptors: Value | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The judgements on value for the landscape receptors, as set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] 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 | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The approach and proposals for embedded mitigation set out within Section 8.6 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] , 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) [REP6-047] and associated mitigation drawings, and that these measures represent a landscape-led approach. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-10.2 | Embedded Design Mitigation | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | Following decommissioning the established planting will add a | Although the additional planting would improve the landscape structure, the replacement of the | Matter Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--------|
| | | | <p>positive element to this landscape.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 biodiversity and in promoting the resilience of ecosystems.</p> <p>Applicants response to Consultee Position</p> <p>Matter LVIA-10.2 is in relation to the benefits to Landscape Character following decommissioning of the Scheme associated with the</p> | <p>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.</p> | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | <p>established planting. NPS EN-1 recognises at para 5.10.5 that <i>“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.”</i></p> <p>The Applicant considers that the legacy landscape, post-decommissioning would result in long-term wider benefits.</p> | | |
| LVIA - 10.3 | Embedded Design Mitigation | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | Vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans [REP6-021, REP6-023, APP-209, REP3-046, APP-211, REP6-025, REP6-027, APP-214, APP-215, REP3-052, REP1-113, REP3-054, REP6-029] is relatively minimal. | The Council acknowledges that through the Landscape Led approach to the design, vegetation removal is relatively minimal. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-11 | Presentation of Assessment Findings | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The approach to presenting the assessment findings is considered acceptable, as set out in Section 8.6 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and | The Council agrees that the way information has been presented is appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment, and that the | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| | | | Visual [APP-045] , supplemented by detailed appendices. | approach taken is acceptable for the purposes of the Examination. | |
| LVIA-12.1 | Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements | <p>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20) [REP6-021, REP6-023, APP-209, REP3-046, APP-211, REP6-025, REP6-027, APP-214, APP-215, REP3-052, REP1-113, REP3-054, REP6-029]</p> <p>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047]</p> | <p>The landscape and ecological improvements are set out in the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20).</p> <p>The Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20) are acceptable and require no further revisions.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] 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</p> | <p>This is agreed.</p> <p>The Council supports the principle of long-term management as set out in the OLEMP [REP6-047] and recognises the opportunities for biodiversity 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 Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------------|---|--|--|--|---------------|
| | | | of the Scheme shown on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20) . The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of Draft Development Consent Order Revision F [EX7/GH3.1_F] | | |
| LVIA – 12.2 | Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements | Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20) [REP6-021, REP6-023, APP-209, REP3-046, APP-211, REP6-025, REP6-027, APP-214, APP-215, REP3-052, REP1-113, REP3-054, REP6-029] Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] | The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] and are considered acceptable. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of Draft Development Consent Order Revision F [EX7/GH3.1_F] | The Council supports the principle of long-term management as set out in the OLEMP [REP6-047] and recognises the opportunities for biodiversity enhancement through hedgerow, woodland and grassland creation. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] (the 'OLEMP') is acceptable. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-12.3 | Landscape and Ecological Management | Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans | Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail | The Council agrees that the information provided is appropriate and sufficient to | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------------|---|--|--|---|---------------|
| | Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements | <p>(Figures 4.10-4.20) [REP6-021, REP6-023, APP-209, REP3-046, APP-211, REP6-025, REP6-027, APP-214, APP-215, REP3-052, REP1-113, REP3-054, REP6-029]</p> <p>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047]</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10-4.20) .</p> | inform the detailed planting plans required post consent. | |
| LVIA-13.1 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Landscape Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] follows GLVIA3 and is robust. | The Council agrees that the assessment follows GLVIA3 and that the methodology is robust. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-13.2.1 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Landscape Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] 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 | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | <p>The Landscape Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] for Sites E, F individually are considered acceptable.</p> <p>Applicants response to Consultee Position</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing</p> | <p>The Council considers that landscape effects at Year 1 and Year 15 are understated for Site E near Mears Ashby and Site F near Easton Maudit. It is the Councils judgement that the scale, density and engineered form of the solar arrays and supporting infrastructure will mean that there will a Moderate-Major adverse (Significant) impact at Year 1, reducing to Moderate Adverse (Significant) at Year 15 on the Local Study Area.</p> | Matter Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------|
| | | | <p>existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Once the mitigation planting had established adverse effects on the landscape</p> | | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------------|----------------------|---|---|--|---------------|
| | | | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | | |
| LVIA-13.3.1 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The proposed planting and habitat measures set out on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20) , would deliver ecological and structural improvements across all the Sites. | 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 |
|-------------|----------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|
| LVIA-13.3.2 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | <p>The proposed planting and habitat measures set out on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 4.10 to 4.20) [APP-207 to APP-219, REP1-111], 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>Applicants response to Consultee Position</p> <p>The assessment associated with the introduction of solar infrastructure, fencing, access tracks, substations and other associated paraphernalia is assessed within the assessment of 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.</p> | <p>The proposed planting and habitat measures function as mitigation rather than enhancement and would not fully outweigh the landscape fabric change arising from the change in land use. The introduction of solar infrastructure, fencing, access tracks, substations and other associated paraphernalia would not be outweighed by the proposed planting and habitat measures and therefore cannot be deemed a Significant Beneficial Effect at Year 15.</p> | Matter Disagreed. |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|---------------|----------------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| | | | 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. | | |
| LVIA 13.4.1 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Landscape Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] 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 construction and at Year 1 would be Significant. | This is agreed. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA - 13.4.2 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Landscape Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] concludes that prior to the establishment of the mitigation proposals, the cumulative | The combined presence of multiple sites across the landscape is likely to give rise to a significant adverse cumulative effect on the | Matter Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-----------|----------------------|---|---|--|---------------|
| | | | <p>effects of the Scheme on landscape character within the Local Study Area during construction and at Year 1 would be Significant.</p> <p>Following the establishment of the mitigation proposals, effects on landscape character would reduce and whilst still Adverse, would no longer be Significant.</p> | Local Study Area at both Year 1 and Year 15. | |
| LVIA-13.5 | Landscape Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | The Landscape Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] concludes that following the establishment of the mitigation proposals, effects on landscape character associated with sites individually would reduce and whilst still Adverse, would no longer be Significant. | The Council agrees with this position. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-14.1 | Visual Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | 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 |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-----------|-------------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| LVIA-14.2 | Visual Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | 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 | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | Other than for residual visual effects on Easton Lane (NN10 and NN13), the Visual Assessment set out in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] are considered acceptable. | The Council agrees with this position. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-14.4 | Visual Assessment | ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [APP-045] | Both the Applicant and the Local Authority agree that despite differences in professional opinion regarding the extent and duration of residual visual 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. | The Council agrees with this position. | Matter Agreed |
| LVIA-15 | Duration | Scheme duration Decommissioning | The operational life of the Scheme is for no more than 60 years and decommissioning is therefore estimated to be in 2089. | The Council considers that a 40-year operational period would be materially preferable to the proposed 60-year duration. Extending the scheme to 60 years | Matter Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------|
| | | | <p>Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO Revision F [EX7/GH3.1_F] 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 operational period is not uncommon, 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. The Environmental Statement has not identified any environmental impacts that would warrant a shorter operational period for this Scheme.</p> | <p>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 adverse effects would persist for around 45 years beyond Year 15.</p> | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|-------------|--|---|---|---------------------|
| | LVIA - 15.1 | Scheme duration Decommissioning | 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. | The applicant has correctly undertaken an assessment of effects at all stages of the proposed lifetime of the Scheme. | Matter of Agreement |

3.9 Ecology and Biodiversity

Table 3.8 Ecology and Biodiversity

| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|--|---|---|---------------|
| | EB-01 | ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] | The methodology adopted within Section 9.4 of ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] 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 desk-based methodology is acceptable and can be considered 'agreed'. 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 | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------|
| | | | <p>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</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 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Revision B) [REP6-013] and accompanying appendices submitted at Deadline 1. There 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 Habitats Regulations Assessment (Revision B) [REP5-079].</p> <p>Please also refer to the Applicant Responses to Local Impact Reports [REP2-049] document for further responses to comments raised by North Northamptonshire Council (Ecology and</p> | <p>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 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>Update to Consultee Position</p> <p>Surveys updated, methodology for arriving at baseline data can be considered agreed.</p> | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|---------------------|--|--|--|---------------|
| | | | Biodiversity matters are covered on pages 72-81). | | |
| EB-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] | <p>The methodology adopted within Section 9.6 of ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] are representative of the baseline site conditions in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response on EB-01 above.</p> | <p>As the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES notes, the baseline conditions are set out based on in some cases only partially completed surveys, and as such this section, by definition, must remain 'Under Discussion'.</p> <p>Update to Consultee Position</p> <p>Surveys updated, baseline can be considered agreed</p> | Matter Agreed |
| EB-03 | Mitigation | ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] | <p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 9.8 of ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</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>Update to Consultee Position</p> | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|------------------|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | | | Mitigation measures (excluding the implementation of FLL mitigation as discussed below) can be considered agreed | |
| EB-04 | Residual Effects | ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] | <p>The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to ecology set out within Section 9.9 of ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013] are considered acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</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 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</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> <p>Update to Consultee Position</p> <p>Residual effects are considered agreed at this point, subject to concerns with the implementation of the FLL mitigation</p> | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| | | | <p>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 Habitats Regulations Assessment (Revision B) [REP5-079].</p> | | |
| EB-05 | Habitat Regulation Assessment | <p>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013]</p> <p>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) [REP5-079]</p> | <p>A Habitat Regulation Assessment screening has been carried out and outlined in Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) [REP5-079] with impacts discussed in ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [REP6-013]</p> <p>The methodology is considered acceptable and the assessment is considered to have been carried out appropriately.</p> <p>Applicant Response to Consultee Position</p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response on EB-01 above.</p> <p>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</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'.</p> <p>Update to Consultee Position</p> <p>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.</p> | Matter Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|-----------------------|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | | <p>mitigation measures has been taken where survey deficits exist. This was confirmed as acceptable by NNC.</p> <p>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 preferred that this work be completed in advance of construction and confirmed that this one matter would remain disagreed.</p> | | |
| EB-06 | Biodiversity Net Gain | Appendix 9.13: Biodiversity Net Gain [REP1-043] | The approach to assessing and securing BNG as stated in Appendix 9.13: Biodiversity Net Gain [REP1-043] 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 | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|
| | | | | <p>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 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 allows</p> | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|--|--|--|--|---------------|
| | | | | 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 | Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] | The measures in the OLEMP [REP6-047] 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 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 | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------|
| | | | | 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 | ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] | The methodology adopted within Section 10.4 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] 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 |
| HYD-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] | The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 10.5 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| HYD-03 | Mitigation | ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood | The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 10.8 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] are acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--------|---------------|---|---|---|---------------|
| | | Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] | | | |
| HYD-04 | Surface Water | ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] | It is agreed that Surface Water Flood Risk is appropriately addressed at this stage as set out in ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [REP5-021] . | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| HYD-05 | Drainage | ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] | <p>It is agreed that ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP6-007] 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 ES Appendix 1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [REP5-021] is appropriate and is secured through Requirement 11, 'Surface and Foul Water Drainage' is included within Draft Development Consent Order [EX7/GH3.1_F]. 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> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | 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) | Draft Development Consent Order [EX7/GH3.1_F] | 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 DCO [EX7/GH3.1_F] . | 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 | ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] | The methodology adopted within Section 11.4 of ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] 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 | ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] | The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 11.6 of ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| MIN-03 | Mitigation | ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] | The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 11.9 of ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] 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 | ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] | 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 ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] is accurate. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| MIN-05 | Mitigation Measures: Cable Route Corridor | ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] | 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 ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048] 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 [APP-048] 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 | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | The methodology adopted within ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|---------------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| | | | relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable. | | |
| CH-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | The baseline conditions which are detailed within ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] 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 | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | <p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] are acceptable.</p> <p>Applicants Response to Consultee Position</p> <p>In response to the Council's comments, the Applicant undertook extensive consultation with the Council and has used the advice provided to inform the mitigation proposed as part of the Scheme. The Applicant notes that the Council considers the proposed mitigation to be acceptable, whilst observing that residual harm would remain.</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 Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|---------------------------|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | 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> '. | | |
| CH-04 | Heritage Assessment | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | <p>The heritage assessment provided in ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] is supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.1: Heritage Statement [APP-120] <p>The heritage assessment sufficiently assesses potential impacts to heritage assets. Where impacts have been identified these have been appropriately mitigated.</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter, | Matter Agreed |
| CH-05 | Archaeological Assessment | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | The archaeological assessment provided in ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] is supported by the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation see the following ES appendices: | 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">• 12.2: Archaeological Desk – Based Assessments [APP-121-127]• 12.3: Aerial Photographic and LiDAR mapping and interpretation [APP-128]• 12.4: Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-129]• 12.5: Archaeological Evaluation (interim reports) [APP-130] <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.</p> | | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|---------------------------|---|---|---|---------------|
| | | | The works undertaken as part of the archaeological evaluation is considered appropriate for assessment. | | |
| CH-06 | Archaeological Assessment | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | <p>ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] 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 Appendix 12.4 [APP-129]. 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 Appendix 12.5 [APP-130]. 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</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | <p>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>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 issues) or not safe to do so (i.e. due to livestock or overhead electricity cables / buried utilities).</p> | | |
| CH-07 | Further Archaeological Evaluation | ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049] | <p>Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) [CR2-006] 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 Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation [REP5-096] has been prepared and is submitted at Deadline 5. This has been agreed with the County Archaeologist.</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | | The final mitigation strategies will be set out in the Final AMS secured through Requirement 12 of the Draft DCO. | | |
| CH-08 | Further Archaeological Evaluation | Written Scheme of Investigation | <p>The Written Scheme of Investigation [REP5-096] provides sufficient scope for post-determination trenching as detailed in Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) [CR2-006].</p> <p>Following completion of the trenching, mitigation WSIs will take into account the findings and be substantially in accordance with the AMS.</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |

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 | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | The methodology adopted within ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] 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 |
|-------|----------------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| TA-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | The baseline conditions which are detailed within ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed. |
| TA-03 | Mitigation | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | The proposed mitigation measures set out within ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] are acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed. |
| TA-04 | Abnormal Load Routes | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | 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 [REP2-003] are acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed. |
| TA-05 | HGV Routes | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | 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 13.10, and these routes are considered appropriate and acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed. |
| TA-06 | PRoW | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | The measures to manage potential impacts identified in the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [REP6-033] are appropriate and acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed. |
| TA-07 | Permissive Paths | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | 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. |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|--|---|--|---|----------------|
| TA-08 | Site and Cable Route Corridor Accesses | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | 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 [APP-432 to APP-438] 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 | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] | ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003] presents an assessment of the impacts of the construction traffic resulting from the Scheme on sensitive receptors. The associated Transport Assessment [APP-151] considers whether the Scheme will be acceptable in transport and highway terms. The assessment conclusion that, following the implementation of mitigation measures, the residual effect would be not significant and is acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed. |
| TA-10 | Glint and Glare | North Northamptonshire Local Highways Glint and Glare [REP4-026] | North Northamptonshire Local Highways Glint and Glare [REP4-026] 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. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. The assessment follows the methodology and screening process that was discussed ahead of carrying it out. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|
| | | | | The results identify a low impact on road users and we offer no alternative conclusions to those contained within the report. | |

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 | ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] | The methodology adopted within ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] 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 |
| NV-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] | The baseline conditions which are detailed within ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council. The baseline noise monitoring detailed within ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1- | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|-------|------------|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | 168] 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. | | |
| NV-03 | Mitigation | ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] | The proposed mitigation measures set out within ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] are acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| NV-04 | Conclusion | ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] | The conclusion within ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168] 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 | ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] | The methodology adopted within ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|----------|---------------------|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable. | | |
| STR-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] | The baseline conditions which are detailed ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] are representative of the baseline site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| STR-03 | Mitigation | ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] | The proposed mitigation measures set out within ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] are acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| STR - 04 | Conclusion | ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] | The conclusion within ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [APP-054] 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 | ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056] | The methodology adopted within Section 19.4 of ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--------|--|--|--|---|---------------|
| | | | acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council. | | |
| ARB-02 | Baseline Conditions | ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056] | The methodology adopted within Section 19.6 of ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056] 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 | ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056] | The assessment outcomes adopted within ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056] 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 | ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056] | The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 19.8 of ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056] 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 | ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-058] | The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to ecology set out within Section 19.9 of ES Chapter 19 Arboriculture [APP-056] are considered 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-06 | Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan | Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP6-047] | The measures in the OLEMP [REP6-047] 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 | Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] | The assessment methodology detailed within Section 20.4 of ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] is considered acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| ALC-02 | Baseline Conditions | Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] | The baseline conditions detailed within Section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] and within ES Chapter 20 - Appendix 20.1 Agricultural Land Classification Technical Report are representative of the site conditions within North Northamptonshire Council. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| ALC-03 | Impacts to ALC graded land and soil quality | Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] | Natural England document Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049) https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012 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. The Scheme will not result in the loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land because: | The Council consider the 60 year period more permanent than temporary and therefore results in a loss of BMV land and the impact of this loss understated. | Matter Disagreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life and restored to previous conditions. • Land will retain its existing Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade baseline after decommissioning of the Scheme as set out at Section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]. • 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 agricultural land quality (ALC grade), which is Significant. <p>Applicants Response to Consultee Position</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;</p> | | |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--------|-----------------|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | | <p>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> | | |
| ALC-04 | Soil Management | Outline Soil Management Plan [REP6-053] | <p>The Outline Soil Management Plan [REP6-053] 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 ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] which is considered acceptable.</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter | Matter Agreed |
| ALC-05 | Mitigation | Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] | <p>The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 20.9 of ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council.</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--------|------------------|--|--|---|---------------|
| ALC-06 | Residual Effects | Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] | The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to agricultural land set out within Section 20.10 of ES Chapter 20 Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057] are considered acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within North Northamptonshire Council. | The in principle objection aside, the Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |

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 | Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] | The information provided within paragraphs 24.3.1 to 24.3.4 of ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] is sufficient and the good practice measures which will be employed during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning are set out in Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX7/GH7.1_D] and Outline Decommissioning Statement [REP6-045] and are acceptable. | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter agreed |
| OEM-02 | Waste Production | Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] | The information provided Section 24.4 of ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] is sufficient. The applicable waste policy is set out within paragraphs Section 24.4 of ES Chapter 24 Other | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--------|------------------|--|--|---|---------------|
| | | | <p>Environmental Matters [REP1-027] is the relevant and applicable planning policy.</p> <p>The scope of the assessment undertaken within ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] 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 ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] are considered proportionate and acceptable.</p> | | |
| OEM-03 | Waste Management | Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] | <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 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX7/GH7.1_D] 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 [REP6-043] and is acceptable.</p> <p>The decommissioning of the Scheme will adhere to the measures and procedures outlined in the ODS [REP6-045], secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO), and this is considered</p> | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |



| | Matter | Details of Matters for Discussion | Applicant Position | Consultee Position | Status |
|--------|---|--|--|---|---------------|
| | | | proportionate and acceptable. A Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) will be developed by the appointed contractor and will set out how to manage the disposal of waste in accordance with relevant legislative and policy requirements at the time of decommissioning. | | |
| OEM-04 | Telecommunication, Utilities and Television | Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] | <p>The information set out within Section 24.5 of ES Chapter 24 Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027] is sufficient, and the protective mitigation measures set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX7/GH7.1_D] and Crossing Schedule [APP-558] 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 Draft Development Consent Order [EX7/GH3.1_F] 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 | ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062] | 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 ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062] . | The Council is in agreement on this matter. | Matter Agreed |
| CE-02 | Cumulative Effects | ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062] | An assessment of the cumulative effects of the Scheme along with these other developments is presented in each technical chapter [APP-039 to APP-062]. 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: | Project Development Manager |
| Date: | 07/04/2026 |
| Signature: | [REDACTED] |

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

| | |
|------------|--|
| Name: | [REDACTED] |
| Job Title: | Executive Director of Place & Economy (Deputy Chief Executive) |
| Date: | 31.03.2026 |
| Signature: | [REDACTED] |