

MASTER LIST OF ISSUE-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Grid Alignment & Technical Justification (Great Moulton)

1. Given the precedent set during The Drovers Examination (EN0110013), where a material disconnect emerged between the developer's order limits and National Grid's actual infrastructure intentions, can the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) jointly confirm the exact legal status of the proposed 400kV substation at Great Moulton? Has NGET formally consented to the specific footprint, technical scaling, and geographic boundaries as currently drafted in this DCO?
2. The project design indicates a shift to a 400kV substation at Great Moulton to tap directly into the overhead transmission line. Can the Applicant clarify whether NGET requires any secondary network reinforcements or overhead line modifications outside the current DCO order limits to safely absorb the 500MW output, and if so, how have these cumulative environmental impacts been assessed?
3. Why does this decentralised project design require up to three separate 400kV substations (including the NGET asset and project operator assets) clustered around Great Moulton, and has a comprehensive technology review been submitted to prove that a single, consolidated substation footprint is technically unfeasible?

Landscape Permanence & Decommissioning

1. The Applicant repeatedly defines the East Pye project as "temporary" and "reversible" over a 60-year lifespan. However, will the Applicant and NGET explicitly confirm whether the 400kV Great Moulton National Grid substation will be fully decommissioned and returned to agricultural use in Year 60, or will it remain as a permanent, irreversible fixture of the UK's high-voltage transmission network?
2. If the National Grid substation at Great Moulton is to be a permanent infrastructure asset, how can the Applicant justify evaluating the landscape, visual, and ecological impacts of the Great Moulton cluster under a "temporary" assessment framework rather than a permanent industrial re-classification?
3. What specific, legally binding financial securities or bonds is the Applicant putting in place within the draft DCO to guarantee the complete removal of the extensive concrete foundations, battery storage enclosures, and internal substations at Great Moulton, preventing the site from becoming a stranded brownfield asset if the operating company dissolves prior to Year 60?
4. To protect the local community from being left with thousands of acres of decaying industrial waste, will the DCO mandate the creation of a legally ring-fenced, independently managed decommissioning fund or bond from Day 1 of construction? How will the Planning Inspectorate ensure this cleanup fund is fully insulated from the developer's future corporate liabilities or bankruptcy?

Military & Civilian Aviation Glint/Glare Hazards

1. South Norfolk serves as a vital Low Flying Area (LFA) and transit corridor for front-line military aircraft, including F-35 Lightning stealth jets from RAF Marham and Apache Attack Helicopters from Wattisham Flying Station. Given that these aircrews routinely perform high-speed, low-altitude tactical maneuvers over these specific fields, what independent, military-grade Glint and Glare Assessment has been performed to ensure pilots will not experience flash blindness or distraction during critical training phases?
2. During the recent Planning Inspectorate examination for the developer's sister project, The Drovers (EN0110013), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) raised major safety objections regarding solar reflection disrupting radar and dazzling aircrews. Can the Applicant confirm if the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has fully reviewed the East Pye layout, and have they modeled the potential glare risks for military helicopters transiting at ultra-low altitudes between Wattisham and the STANTA training range?
3. Military helicopters (such as Chinooks and Pumas) utilize the open topography of South Norfolk for low-visibility and night-vision goggle (NVG) training. Has the Applicant assessed whether the vast expanse of reflective glass panels and the associated thermal emissions from the Great Moulton battery storage hub will interfere with infrared, thermal imaging, or night-vision systems used by the Armed Forces during nocturnal training exercises?
4. Given the fragmented nature of the East Pye clusters across South Norfolk, has the Applicant's Glint and Glare Assessment specifically modeled the cumulative solar reflection risks for low-flying emergency aircraft, such as the East Anglian Air Ambulance and police helicopters, which frequently navigate and land in these exact rural communities?
5. Old Buckenham Airfield is a major regional hub for hot air balloon flights, which rely entirely on visual flight rules and operate at highly vulnerable, low altitudes directly over the proposed site clusters. What specific consultation has the Applicant undertaken with local hot air balloon operators to ensure that solar glare will not compromise pilot visibility or safety during critical flight paths and landing maneuvers?
6. Tibenham Airfield is a heavily active gliding site near the project boundaries. Because gliders fly silently and at low altitudes without the aid of advanced radar instruments, how can the Applicant guarantee that glare from the thousands of acres of panels will not temporarily blind pilots during their landing approaches?

Battery Facility (BESS) Safety & Fire Risks

1. The proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Great Moulton hub represents a highly concentrated industrial hazard. Has the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service formally reviewed and signed off on the Applicant's Battery Safety Management Plan, specifically regarding the availability of local water infrastructure required to suppress a major "thermal runaway" chemical fire in a rural location?
2. In the event of a catastrophic battery fire at Great Moulton, what atmospheric plume modeling has been conducted to assess the toxic chemical gas risks to nearby residential properties, and what evacuation or shelter-in-place protocols have been established with local emergency services?

Local Traffic, Construction, & Soil Damage

1. Because the East Pye layout is highly fragmented across multiple villages (Hempnall, Brooke, Saxlingham Nethergate), all generated power must converge via underground Cable Route Corridors (CRCs) to Great Moulton. Has the Applicant provided a localized, cumulative traffic impact assessment specifically for Great Moulton, accounting for the simultaneous construction of the substations, the battery storage facility, and the convergence of multiple heavy-duty cable trenching operations?
2. What are the precise vehicle movement projections (HGV and LGV) specifically for the narrow rural roads feeding the Great Moulton infrastructure hub? Given the weight constraints and geometry of the local network, what specific mitigation routes have been agreed with Norfolk County Council to prevent complete structural damage and gridlock on Great Moulton's unclassified roads?
3. In the event that cable trenching or substation construction at Great Moulton encounters unexpected geological, archaeological, or environmental delays, what structural safeguards are written into the draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to prevent an unmitigated extension of the construction window, and its associated noise and vibration impacts on local residents?
4. The heavy clay soils characteristic of South Norfolk is highly susceptible to severe compaction when subjected to hundreds of heavy vehicle movements during construction. What independent, legally binding soil-management strategy is built into the DCO to ensure that deep soil structures and delicate subterranean agricultural drainage networks are not permanently destroyed, rendering the "temporary 60-year" agricultural restoration claim impossible.

Hydrogeology, Aquifer Contamination, and Private Water Supplies

1. The Environment Agency and the Applicant's own assessments confirm that the bedrock strata underneath the East Pye site is classified as a "Principal Aquifer" and sits within a designated Drinking Water Safeguard Zone. Given that local residents across South Norfolk villages rely heavily on private borehole wells for their primary drinking water supply, what baseline chemical and hydrological testing has been conducted on these specific private wells to ensure drilling and piling will not cause permanent turbidity or contamination?
2. The proposed Great Moulton infrastructure hub features a massive Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and up to three 400kV substations built directly over this Principal Aquifer. In the event of a "thermal runaway" chemical fire, thousands of gallons of water containing highly toxic chemical suppressants and heavy metal by-products will be generated. Can the Applicant explicitly detail how their proposed aggregate sub-base and drainage layout will prevent this highly toxic run-off from infiltrating the underlying aquifer and permanently poisoning the local water table?
3. The East Pye project requires extensive underground trenching for the Cable Route Corridors (CRCs) cutting across multiple village clusters. In their statutory scoping response, Anglian

Water and the Planning Inspectorate noted that data regarding ground conditions and historic mineral workings across the vast majority of the site is currently unavailable. How can the Applicant safely proceed with deep trenching and foundation piling without risking the creation of direct pathways for agricultural pollutants and surface contaminants to leak into the deep chalk aquifer?

4. Construction of this scale will drastically alter surface water run-off dynamics, potentially leading to reduced natural recharge rates for the local aquifer during drier months. How has the Applicant modeled the long-term impact of covering thousands of acres with impermeable or semi-permeable infrastructure on the seasonal replenishment of the aquifer, particularly given the severe drought and water scarcity pressures already facing South Norfolk food producers?
5. The Applicant's Environmental Statement confirms that the Scheme Order Limits cross six separate surface water body catchments, splitting drainage between the River Waveney and the River Tas (specifically the Tas – Head to Tasburgh catchment and the Hempnall Beck tributary). Given this dual-catchment vulnerability, has the Applicant performed an integrated, cross-catchment hydrological model to evaluate how the simultaneous construction at Great Moulton and the northern panels will impact flood risks across both the Tas and Waveney River valleys?
6. The Great Moulton hub—hosting the massive Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and up to three 400kV substations—sits at the headwaters that drain into the River Tas catchment. If a significant chemical fire occurs at the BESS facility, what specific surface water attenuation systems are designed for Great Moulton to ensure that toxic, firefighting chemical run-off is 100% contained on-site and cannot leak into the local ditches feeding the River Tas or Starston Beck?
7. Because the River Tas catchment is already classified under the Water Framework Directive as failing on its chemical status, any increased sediment run-off from the excavation of the Great Moulton substation or the underground Cable Route Corridors could severely degrade local habitats. What localised silt management, filtration, and water-monitoring protocols will the developer commit to along the River Tas tributaries to protect vulnerable aquatic life during trenching?
8. How will the changes to surface water permeability across thousands of acres of panels affect the seasonal low-flows of the River Tas and its tributaries, which local agricultural businesses rely on for abstraction licenses and irrigation during critical crop-growing months?
9. The proposed Great Moulton BESS facility and 400kV substation cluster sit at the headwaters of Starston Beck, a high-value ordinary watercourse that feeds the River Waveney. Given that Starston Beck has a documented history of severe flash flooding that impacts downstream residential properties, what specific surface water attenuation calculations has the Applicant used to guarantee that a 1-in-100-year storm event will not overwhelm the Great Moulton site, wash toxic battery contaminants into Starston Beck, and cause catastrophic ecological and property damage down-river?

Human Rights, Compulsory Acquisition, & Severe Loss of Local Amenity

- 1 Under Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998, the Examining Authority operates as a public authority and must ensure its decisions are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. Given the extreme concentration of up to three 400kV substations, a massive BESS hub, and miles of high-voltage cabling surrounding the Great Moulton community, how has the Applicant demonstrated that the cumulative noise, vibration, and safety anxieties imposed on residents do not breach their right to peaceful enjoyment of their homes under Article 8 of the ECHR?
- 2 The Applicant is seeking extensive Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) across South Norfolk to facilitate the underground Cable Route Corridors. Can the Applicant prove, under Article 1 of the First Protocol (A1P1), that these intrusive property deprivations are strictly necessary and proportionate, and that less harmful alternative routes or consolidated layout designs were fully exhausted before targeting private residential and agricultural holdings?
- 3 The industrialization of Great Moulton's open landscape will cause a catastrophic and irreversible loss of local visual and recreational amenity. How does the Applicant justify enclosing historic Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within high-security fencing and CCTV corridors, and what specific, quantifiable compensation or alternative high-quality amenity provisions will be legally secured for the village to offset this degradation of community well-being?
- 4 The introduction of extensive external security lighting, substation infrastructure, and BESS safety lights will permanently destroy the dark-sky character of rural Great Moulton. Has the Applicant conducted a comprehensive Light Pollution and Tranquility Assessment, and what enforceable restrictions will be placed within the DCO to prevent light spill from interfering with residential properties and nocturnal wildlife?