East Pye Solar

Applicant's Response to Other Parties' Responses to Examining Authority's Written Questions 1

Revision 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

1.1.1 This document provides the response of East Pye Solar Limited (the Applicant) to other parties' responses to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) First Written Questions (ExQ1) that were submitted at Deadline 1 (6 October 2026) by Interested Parties (IP).

1.1.2 A total of 8 IPs submitted responses to the ExQ1's which were published on the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) website on 14 October 2026.

1.1.3 The Applicant has reviewed each of these submissions and has provided its responses in this document. **Table 1.1** below sets out how the Applicant has provided those responses.

Table 1.1 Responses to ExA initial written questions submitted at Deadline 1

Examination Library Ref	Interested Party	Responded to in this document	Rationale
REP1-108	Norfolk County Council	Yes	Host Authority
REP1-110	South Norfolk District Council	Yes	Host Authority
REP1-111	Natural England	Yes	Statutory Body
REP1-269	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	Yes	Statutory Body
REP1-113	Block East Pye Solar	No	The Applicant does not propose to provide a specific response to BEPS' responses to ExQ1 in this document. The Applicant has responded to matters raised by BEPS throughout the Examination and is providing a response to BEPS Written Representations (submitted at Deadline 1), at Deadline 2 and 3; and will continue to provide responses to BEPS submissions throughout the Examination.

Examination Library Ref	Interested Party	Responded to in this document	Rationale
REP1-114	Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council	No	The Applicant does not propose to provide a specific response to Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council's response to ExQ1. It is noted that the Parish Council's response relates to Q1.1.2 of ExQ1 Community Liaison Group (CLG). The Applicant has provided responses in respect of the CLG throughout the Examination to date and specifically has provided a response to Q1.1.2 at Deadline 1 in **The Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant welcomes further engagement with Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council throughout the Examination.
REP1-109	Shotesham Parish Council	No	The Applicant does not propose to provide a specific response to Shotesham Parish Council's response to ExQ1. It is noted that the Parish Council's response relates to Q1.1.2 of ExQ1 Community Liaison Group (CLG). The Applicant has provided responses in respect of the CLG throughout the Examination to date and specifically has provided a response to Q1.1.2 at Deadline 1 in **The Applicant's Response to the Examining**

Examination Library Ref	Interested Party	Responded to in this document	Rationale
			Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]. The Applicant welcomes further engagement with Shotesham Parish Council throughout the Examination.
REP1-112	Richard Dunham	No	The points raised in Mr Dunham's response to ExQ1 have also been raised in his Written Representation **[REP1-183]**. The Applicant has previously provided responses to Mr Dunham's Relevant Representations in **The Applicants Response to Relevant Representations Part 5 - By Theme [PDA-012]** and will provide further responses to Written Representations at Deadline 2.

1.2 Structure of document

1.2.1 This document provides a response from the Applicant to the matters raised in the submissions and is structured as follows:

- **Table 1.2** sets out the list of acronyms used for management documents that are part of the Applicant's submission and may have been referred to by the Applicant in responding to submissions. The wider range of acronyms used by the Applicant can be found in the **Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations [APP-036]**.
- **Section 2** provides the Applicant's comments on other parties' responses to the ExA's First Written Questions.

1.2.2 References to the Application documentation are provided in accordance with the referencing system set out in the Planning Inspectorate's East Pye Solar Examination Library.

Table 1.2 List of Acronyms of Submission Documents

Acronym	Document
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
EqIA	Equality Impact Assessment
DAD	Design Approach Document
PMIE	Potential Main Issues for Examination
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
Shadow HRA	Shadow Habitat Regulations Regulation
Outline CEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
Outline OEMP	Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan
Outline DEMP	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
Outline SRMP	Outline Soil Resources Management Plan
Outline PRoWPPMP	Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan
Outline LEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
Outline ESSCS	Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy
Outline BSMP	Outline Battery Safety Management Plan
Outline CTMP	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
Outline OTMP	Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan

2 Applicant's Response to Other Parties' Responses to Examining Authority's Written Questions

2.1 Norfolk County Council

Table 2.1 Applicant's response to Norfolk County Council [REP1-108]

ID	NCC / ExQ1 Refs	ExQ1: Question	NCC Response	Applicant's Comments
ExQ1-NCC-001	Q1.1.1 (1.2.14 in original **Examining Authority's Written Questions 1 (ExQ1) [PD-006]**)	Design Approach Document [APP-212] and Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213] The applicant and local authorities are requested to engage with the aim of ensuring that the design principles, parameters and commitments are appropriately worded so that there can be appropriate certainty regarding the future submission of detailed design proposals and the achievement of	A meeting was held jointly between the Applicant and both local authorities on 28 September 2026 to discuss the level of detail and certainty provided by the Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213] document, including the design and finishes of infrastructure, the interaction between the National Grid substation and landscape planting, fencing and other mitigation. The Councils agreed to provide some precedent examples of design principles used on other schemes for the Applicant to consider.	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.2.14 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response and continues to engage with NCC over these matters.

ID	NCC / ExQ1 Refs	ExQ1: Question	NCC Response	Applicant's Comments
		good design. An update on this engagement is requested at deadline 1.	The legal controls for detailed design, including those applicable to the National Grid substation, are also being considered through ongoing discussions on Requirement 5 of the draft DCO, with further engagement between the parties' legal advisers proposed. Ongoing dialogue will take place between the parties with further meetings scheduled in the next 2 weeks. NCC understands that updates relating to design matters will be set out in the Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213] document at a later deadline as engagement continues.	
ExQ1-NCC-002	Q1.1.2 (1.10.4 in original **Examining Authority's Written Questions**	**Roadside Nature Reserves** NCC raised concern that the applicant has used older mapping which may not include newer Roadside Nature	The applicant should review the locations of RNR sites found at Norfolk's Roadside Nature Reserves - Norfolk County Council and confirm that those with direct or indirect impact pathways have been identified and assessed. This website captures up-to-date	The Applicant notes this comment. All RNR's are designated for their remnant grasslands (and associated species abundance), by their very nature, this habitat is low in height, which will pose little risk to highway visibility for Order Limits access and therefore, will not be subject to clearance activities. However,

ID	NCC / ExQ1 Refs	ExQ1: Question	NCC Response	Applicant's Comments
	1 (ExQ1) [PD-006])	Reserves [RR-1451]. Can NCC confirm whether any additional Roadside Nature Reserves should be included in the application and provide any details of these?	information on these sites and should be used to update the assessment.	adjacent overgrown hedgerows or overhanging tree canopies within the footprints of the RNR's may require temporary reduction measures during the construction phase, to aid access and visibility splays (which may potentially benefit the RNR ground flora). No other activities are proposed within the RNR's boundaries and where practicable, construction/ decommissioning phase activities (apart from the actual use of the road surface) will implement a 30m buffer surrounding the RNRs. The **Outline CEMP [REP1-058]** sets out measures to ensure run-off control (Tables 3.4 and 4.4), pollution prevention (Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.12, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.12) and construction phase dust impacts (Tables 3.2, 3.3, 3.8, 3.12, 4.2, 4.3, 4.8 and 4.12) will be implemented to avoid impacts to important ecological features which include RNR's.
ExQ1-NCC-003	Q.1.2.1	**Proposed substations** SNDC has raised concerns [RR-1795]	Discussions have commenced between the Applicant, NCC and SNDC regarding landscape	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.11.6 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining**

ID	NCC / ExQ1 Refs	ExQ1: Question	NCC Response	Applicant's Comments
	(1.11.6 in original **Examining Authority's Written Questions 1 (ExQ1) [PD-006]**)	regarding the landscaping of the three proposed 400kV substations. a) The applicant is requested to provide further explanation for its proposed landscaping strategy in proximity of all the proposed substations (including National Grid, 400kV and 132kV substations), including how the proposals would effectively reduce and mitigate potential landscape and visual effects. b) The applicant is requested to engage with SNDC and NCC with the aim of ensuring that the proposed landscaping near to the proposed substations and other infrastructure is optimised taking account of potential landscape, visual and	matters. At a meeting on 28 September 2026, it was agreed that landscape-related issues should be progressed through further engagement between the relevant landscape specialists and consultants, and arrangements were made for NCC's landscape adviser to engage directly with the Applicant's team.	**Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response but continues to engage with NCC.

ID	NCC / ExQ1 Refs	ExQ1: Question	NCC Response	Applicant's Comments
		heritage effects. An update on this engagement is requested at deadline 1. This should also include ensuring the adequacy of measures contained in the relevant outline management plans.		
ExQ1-NCC-004	Q1.2.2 (1.11.7 in original **Examining Authority's Written Questions 1 (ExQ1) [PD-006]**)	**Advanced planting** The applicant's response [PDA-008] to NCC's RR [RR-1451], seeking further clarification on the advance planting and phasing of landscape mitigation, states that it will explore proposals for advanced planting and review opportunities for additional commitments. The applicant, NCC and SNDC are requested to continue discussions on this and provide an	NCC has commenced discussions with the Applicant and SNDC regarding advanced planting. At a meeting with the Applicant on 28 September 2026, it was agreed that further technical discussion is required to establish the principle and appropriate extent of advanced planting. NCC advised that the relevant landscape specialists should first identify the locations and components of the Proposed Development where advanced planting would be most beneficial in reducing landscape and visual effects, before considering the detailed planting proposals. The Applicant agreed that advanced planting would be	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.11.7 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response but continues to engage with NCC and SNDC.

ID	NCC / ExQ1 Refs	ExQ1: Question	NCC Response	Applicant's Comments
		update at deadline 1, including locations and components of the development where advanced planting would be beneficial in reducing and mitigating landscape and visual effects and how proposals for advanced planting would be secured through the DCO.	included for discussion in the forthcoming discussions between the parties' landscape consultants, and NCC provided the Applicant with the contact details of its landscape adviser to facilitate this engagement.	

2.2 South Norfolk District Council

Table 2.2 Applicant's response to South Norfolk Council [REP1-110]

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
ExQ1-SNDC-001	Q1.1.2	**Community Liaison Group** Section 5.7 of the Planning Statement [APP-209] provides a general description of proposals for a community liaison group (CLG) with some limited further detail in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [APP-196]. Requirement (R) 4 of the dDCO [AS-032] provides for the establishment of the CLG, including approval of the terms of reference.	SNDC have no comments to make at this time.	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.1.2 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
		Notwithstanding the above, further details/ suggestions are now requested of the roles, responsibilities, participants and draft terms of reference of the proposed CLG in order to maximise its effectiveness during the construction process. This should also address how the CLG would effectively operate across the entirety of the area potentially affected by the proposed development.		
ExQ1-SNDC-002	Q1.2.14	**Design Approach Document [APP-212] and Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213]** The applicant and local authorities are	SNDC, NCC, and the applicant held a meeting together 28/09/2026 and discussed the Design Principles, Parameters, and Commitments document and agreed that there will be ongoing discussions and that this will be subject to review as the examination progresses.	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.2.14 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response but welcomes further engagement with SNDC.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
		requested to engage with the aim of ensuring that the design principles, parameters and commitments are appropriately worded so that there can be appropriate certainty regarding the future submission of detailed design proposals and the achievement of good design. An update on this engagement is requested at deadline 1.		
ExQ1-SNDC-003	Q1.10.2	**Great crested newt surveys** In light of SNDC's concerns [RR-1795] regarding further great crested newt survey work at additional water bodies created as part of the Long Stratton Bypass	SNDC previously advised the applicant that the land containing the ponds for additional surveys is not under Council ownership and encouraged discussions with NCC.	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.10.2 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response but welcomes further engagement with SNDC

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
		landscaping scheme, and the applicant's response [PDA-008] that access to these ponds has previously been requested but not provided, can the applicant and SNDC discuss this matter and provide an update at deadline 1 confirming: a) Whether access has been agreed. b) Whether any further survey or assessment work has been or will be undertaken and when this would be. c) How and when the outcome of any further survey/ assessment work would be submitted.		

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
ExQ1-SNDC-004	Q1.11.6	**Proposed substations** SNDC has raised concerns [RR-1795] regarding the landscaping of the three proposed 400kV substations. a) The applicant is requested to provide further explanation for its proposed landscaping strategy in proximity of all the proposed substations (including National Grid, 400kV and 132kV substations), including how the proposals would effectively reduce and mitigate potential landscape and visual effects. b) The applicant is requested to engage with SNDC and NCC with the aim of ensuring that the proposed landscaping near to the	SNDC, NCC, and the applicant held a meeting together 28/09/2026 and discussed the landscaping proposals with further technical specialist meetings are being scheduled to discuss this topic matter further.	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.11.6 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response but welcomes engagement with SNDC.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
		proposed substations and other infrastructure is optimised taking account of potential landscape, visual and heritage effects. An update on this engagement is requested at deadline 1. This should also include ensuring the adequacy of measures contained in the relevant outline management plans.		
ExQ1-SNDC-005	Q1.11.7	**Advanced planting** The applicant's response [PDA-008] to NCC's RR [RR-1451], seeking further clarification on the advance planting and phasing of landscape mitigation, states that it will explore proposals for advanced planting and review opportunities for additional commitments.	SNDC, NCC, and the applicant held a meeting together 28/09/2026 and discussed advanced planting with further technical specialist meetings are being scheduled to discuss this topic matter further.	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.11.7 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant has no further comment on this response but welcomes engagement with SNDC and NCC.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	SNDC Response	Applicant's Comments
		The applicant, NCC and SNDC are requested to continue discussions on this and provide an update at deadline 1, including locations and components of the development where advanced planting would be beneficial in reducing and mitigating landscape and visual effects and how proposals for advanced planting would be secured through the DCO.		

2.3 Natural England

Table 2.3 Applicant's response to Natural England [REP1-111]

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NE Response	Applicant's Comments
ExQ1-NE2-001	Q1.10.1	Bat surveys Provide Natural England's view on whether the information submitted within ES Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) [APP-044] and the supporting appendices is sufficient to establish the baseline for bat populations, including barbastelle bats, and to enable the assessment of likely significant effects of the proposed development? In response, can Natural England include reference to woodland adjacent to the Order limits.	Bat Surveys: Natural England considers that the submitted information is broadly sufficient to identify the principal bat receptors and to provide a basis for assessing likely significant effects, including effects on barbastelle bats. The assessment recognises the importance of woodland adjacent to the Order Limits and the functional relationship between known roosts, woodland, hedgerows, tree lines and watercourses within the wider landscape. This conclusion relates to the adequacy of the information available to inform the assessment. It should not be interpreted as unqualified agreement with all conclusions concerning the magnitude or significance of effects. Those conclusions rely materially on the	The Applicant welcomes Natural England's comment that the submitted information is sufficient to identify the principal bat receptors and to provide a basis for assessing likely significant effects, including effects on barbastelle bats. The Applicant agrees that there are potentially other woodlands in the wider landscape, and outside the Order Limits, that support further colonies of Barbastelle bats. As a precautionary measure, the embedded design principles adopted and detailed within the **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [REP1-078]** and **ES Volume 2, Figure 4.1 - Indicative Masterplan [REP1-025]** include a minimum of 30m buffer of all ancient woodlands immediately adjacent to the Order Limits and will include habitat creation within these buffer zones. This will reduce the current baseline disturbance events associated with

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NE Response	Applicant's Comments
			implementation and effectiveness of embedded avoidance, mitigation and habitat-management measures. These measures should therefore be sufficiently detailed, secured and capable of effective implementation for the relevant phases of the Scheme. Given the national importance attributed to the bat assemblage, the high level and distribution of barbastelle activity, and the relationship between the Order Limits and known barbastelle maternity colonies, the applicant should ensure that the assessment clearly demonstrates how functional connectivity between roosts, adjacent woodland and associated commuting and foraging habitat would be maintained. The assessment should also provide a transparent justification where potentially relevant pathways have been concluded not to give rise to a likely significant effect. Where conclusions depend on habitat establishment or other	agricultural practices (currently right up to the woodland edges), and providing enhanced supporting habitats surrounding woodland parcels for the benefit of Barbastelle bats (if present), thereby contributing towards the species' favourable conservation status. The Scheme has been designed to include landscape and ecological enhancement with the landscaping shown in the **Green Infrastructure Strategy [REP1-013]** and the long-term habitat management and outline monitoring measures described in the **Outline LEMP [REP1-064]**. A detailed LEMP will be created prior to implementation of the Scheme by, or on behalf of, the Applicant, and will be approved by the relevant planning authority pursuant to a Requirement in the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]**, which will include a detailed monitoring schedule.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NE Response	Applicant's Comments
			outcomes that cannot be confirmed before construction, Natural England advises that proportionate monitoring should be secured to test the relevant assessment predictions and the effectiveness of mitigation. The monitoring arrangements should include defined objectives, appropriate review points and a mechanism for corrective management where the intended ecological outcomes are not achieved.	
ExQ1-NE2-002	Q1.13.1	Reliance on future surveys, procedures and methodologies, to be developed post-consent The outline Soil Resource and Management Plan [APP-204] identifies that a number of matters, including cable route corridor surveys, soil characterisation, stockpile arrangements, monitoring procedures and restoration	Reliance on future surveys, procedures and methodologies, to be developed post-consent Natural England considers that the Outline Soil Resource and Management Plan provides an appropriate framework for the protection, handling, storage and reinstatement of soils during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. Natural England notes that the Outline Soil Resource and Management Plan follows recognised soil management good practice (Defra, 2009, Construction	The Applicant has responded to this question at Q1.13.1 of **The Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions [REP1-083]**. The Applicant welcomes Natural England's comment that the Outline Soil Resource and Management Plan provides an appropriate framework for the protection, handling, storage and reinstatement of soils during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme; and notes the requirements in respect of the further detail to be provided at the detailed Soil Management Plan stage.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NE Response	Applicant's Comments
		methodologies, would be developed post-consent. Comment on whether the outline Soil Resource and Management Plan [APP-204] provides sufficient certainty regarding mitigation effectiveness and restoration outcomes and identify any additional matters which would need to be defined or secured before the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero could conclude on likely significant effects.	Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites). Notwithstanding this, Natural England considers that further detail should be provided within the detailed Soil Management Plan regarding the results of the Cable Route Corridor soil and ALC surveys, restoration criteria, monitoring and verification requirements, stockpile management and any peat-specific management measures where relevant. Subject to these matters being secured through the detailed Soil Management Plan, Natural England has no in-principle objection to the proposed soil management strategy.	The Detailed SRMP will develop upon the measures included within the **Outline SRMP [APP-204]**. Detailed soil and ALC survey results, which are to be completed post consent over the CRC will feed into the Detailed SRMP, which is secured through requirement 18 of the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]**. Requested further information to be included within the Detailed SRMP can be agreed between the applicant and NE through further engagement post consent.

2.4 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

Table 2.4 Applicant's Response to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc [REP1-269]

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
ExQ1 - NGET-001	Q1.2.15(a)	NGET's relevant representation (RR1408) states that it is NGET's understanding that the new connection agreement will not include the requirement for the applicant to secure land or consent for the National Grid substation. Can NGET provide further clarification on this 'new connection agreement', and why it will not include the requirement for the applicant to secure land or consent for the National Grid substation?	The position set out in NGET's Relevant Representation (RR1408) reflects the ongoing National Energy System Operator ("NESO") -led Connections Reform process, under which the Applicant is considered a Phase 2 customer (i.e. a customer with an anticipated connection date after 2031). NGET is in the process of finalising a new connection agreement with the Applicant which, unlike the Applicant's original 2023 connection agreement, will not require the Applicant to secure land or obtain consent for the National Grid substation. This is because NGET has determined that it will identify the site itself, acquire the necessary land and obtain the necessary consents for the substation. More broadly, NGET notes that the connection process for the Project involves	The Applicant notes NGET's response. Ahead of receiving the new connection agreement, the Applicant will continue to meet the contractual obligations stipulated in the original 2023 connection agreement, which include securing land and consent for the Applicant's proposed National Grid substation, as set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072]**.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
			both NESO, which is responsible for connection offers and the applicable queue management process, and NGET, which is responsible for delivery of the transmission network connection. These are wholly separate functions. As such, for the avoidance of doubt, should the Applicant receive consent for a new substation as part of the Order, this would not trigger or constitute any obligation for NGET to accommodate any connection to the national electricity transmission network at such a substation. The wider regulatory and commercial context, including the connection requirements of other potential customers (as set out in NESO's published Transmission Entry Capacity ("TEC") Register), need to be fully considered and worked through.	
ExQ1 - NGET-002	Q1.2.15(b)	NGET's RR says that there is the potential that significant NGET infrastructure will need to be delivered to	NGET is not currently able to confirm the scope of any additional infrastructure required. NGET has identified a need for a new electricity substation, known as	The Applicant notes NGET's response and refers to response ID NGET-007 in **The Applicants Response to Relevant Representation Part 2 - Statutory Bodies, Undertakers and Notable**

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
		facilitate the project's connection to the National Electricity Transmission System and that there needs to be careful co-ordination and consultation undertaken to ensure that the scope of the infrastructure to be delivered becomes clear and is unhindered through planning and delivery. What, if any, significant NGET infrastructure would be required in this instance beyond that proposed in the application for development consent?	North Anglia Node E. A siting study has therefore been commissioned to support the identification of a proposed location for the new substation which will facilitate a number of planned customer connections as set out in the TEC Register. An initial study area has been identified based on customer connections and proximity to the existing overhead line network. The siting study process includes an assessment of suitable sites which meet the basic requirements of a substation site and environmental appraisal to identify a suitable short list of sites. Site visits and further environmental and technical desk-based assessments will then be undertaken to refine the short list further and identify a preferred substation site option. In undertaking the siting study, NGET must act in accordance with its statutory duty under section 9(2) of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an economic and efficient system of electricity	**Parties with whom the Applicant is seeking a Statement of Common Ground [PDA-009]**. The Applicant's position is further set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072]** and the Applicant will continue to engage with NGET on this matter.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
			transmission and, therefore, have regard to the electricity transmission network as a whole and the needs of all customers seeking to connect in this area. In this context, NGET notes that the Applicant's submitted proposals would not provide sufficient connection capacity for all potential customers as currently documented in the TEC Register.	
ExQ1 - NGET-003	Q1.2.15(c)	What is NGET's current position on the proposed siting and details of the proposed National Grid substation (Work No.4 in the dDCO)?	NGET refers to its response to Question 1.2.15(b). NGET does not object, in principle, to the inclusion of the proposed substation within the Order Limits. However, equally NGET is not in a position (and will not be in a position for some time) to confirm whether it can support (or otherwise) the design, sizing or location of the proposed substation. Until all connection offers have been finalised, NGET cannot confirm what the final size, design or location of the final point of connection solution will be. However, NGET must always act in accordance with its statutory	The Applicant notes NGET's response and refers to response ID NGET-007 in **The Applicants Response to Relevant Representation Part 2 - Statutory Bodies, Undertakers and Notable Parties with whom the Applicant is seeking a Statement of Common Ground [PDA-009]**. The Applicant's position is further set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072]** and the Applicant will continue to engage with NGET on this matter.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
			duties to provide an economic and efficient transmission network.	
ExQ1 - NGET-004	Q1.2.15(d)	Is there potentially a situation where NGET may decide that its substation would need to be located in a different location to that proposed in this application? If so, where might it be proposed?	NGET refers to its responses to Questions 1.2.15(a) to 1.2.15(c) (inclusive). NGET has considered the Applicant's proposed substation location and supporting information but has not confirmed or accepted it as the final location of the NGET substation. NGET has explained to the Applicant that the final location must take account of the Connections Reform process, the requirements of other connecting customers, and the overarching need to ensure the economic and efficient development of the national electricity transmission network.	The Applicant notes NGET's response and refers to response ID NGET-007 in **The Applicants Response to Relevant Representation Part 2 - Statutory Bodies, Undertakers and Notable Parties with whom the Applicant is seeking a Statement of Common Ground [PDA-009]**. The Applicant's position is further set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072]** and the Applicant will continue to engage with NGET on this matter.
ExQ1 - NGET-005	Q1.2.15(e)	To what extent are NGET's plans for new grid infrastructure in this location, including a new National Grid substation, related to any other proposed energy schemes (such as the potential Tasway	NGET refers to its responses to Questions 1.2.15(a) to 1.2.15(c) (inclusive). NGET expects that the position will become clearer following completion of the Connections Reform process, at which point it will be made clear which customers have been successful in securing connection	The Applicant notes NGET's response. As set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072]** the Applicant holds a grid connection offer allowing for a Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) of 500 MW (AC) export to and 500 MW (AC) import from the NETS, as entered into in July 2023.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
		Energy Park, notwithstanding its current status)?	to the electricity transmission network in this area.	As set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072],** as part of the ongoing Connections Reform process, the Scheme received confirmation from NESO that the connection for the solar component of the Scheme has secured a Gate 2, Phase 1 offer. Whilst a Gate One notification has been received for the BESS element, it is fully anticipated that, should the Scheme receive consent, co-located technologies will be prioritised and the Gate offer for the BESS would be upgraded or improved. The Applicant notes that further rounds of notifications are anticipated, which are expected to reflect advances in project timelines across the network. The Applicant clarifies that Gate offers are only granted to parties that have secured a grid connection with National Grid, as set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072].**
ExQ1 - NGET-006	Q1.2.15(f)	What is NGET's timescale for the delivery of the National Grid substation and are there any known	As noted, a substation siting study is ongoing. Following completion of that siting study, NGET notes that all necessary land acquisition and consenting processes will need to	The Applicant notes NGET's response and refers to response ID NGET-007 in **The Applicants Response to Relevant Representation Part 2 - Statutory Bodies, Undertakers and Notable**

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
		impediments that could potentially delay its delivery?	be initiated and progressed in accordance with contractual milestones. In any case, other factors, including the need to divert existing services to facilitate construction, and/or the ability to acquire land by voluntary agreement as opposed to compulsory purchase will have a direct impact on any future delivery timetable.	**Parties with whom the Applicant is seeking a Statement of Common Ground [PDA-009]**. The Applicant's position is further set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [REP1-072]** and the Applicant will continue to engage with NGET on this matter.
ExQ1 - NGET-007	Q1.2.15(g)	Can NGET provide an update on its engagement with the applicant on the proposed new substation and grid connection?	NGET has maintained ongoing engagement with the Applicant regarding the proposed new substation and grid connection at East Pye. This has included meetings and correspondence since 2024 concerning the proposed Point of Connection, substation location, land and consenting arrangements, and wider network requirements. NGET has considered the Applicant's proposed location and supporting information but has neither confirmed nor accepted it as the final location of the NGET substation. NGET has explained that the final location must take	The Applicant notes NGET's response, and both welcomes and will continue to engage with NGET.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
			account of the Connections Reform process, the requirements of other connecting customers, and the economic and efficient development of the transmission network. Engagement with the Applicant has continued throughout the DCO process to date, including discussion of NGET's Relevant Representation and the Statement of Common Ground. NGET's current position is that the new substation should be progressed through NGET's siting, land acquisition and consenting processes, while continuing to engage constructively with the Applicant.	
ExQ1 - NGET-008	Q1.2.15(h)	What is NGET's position regarding the application proposals for works in connection with a connection to the existing overhead transmission electric line (Work No.5 of the dDCO)?	NGET does not wish to comment further at this stage and reserves its position pending the outcome of the substation siting study.	The Applicant notes NGET's response and has no further comments.

ID	ExQ1 Ref	ExQ1 Question	NGET Response	Applicant's Comments
ExQ1 - NGET-009	Q1.2.15(i)	What is NGET's current position on the drafting of the protective provisions proposed in part 4 of schedule 4 the dDCO [AS-032]?	NGET remains in discussion with the Applicant regarding the content and drafting of the protective provisions included in Part 4 of Schedule 4 to the draft DCO and intends to provide the Examining Authority with a further progress update in due course. Further detail regarding the required form of protective provisions is set out in NGET's Written Representation which is also submitted at Deadline 1.	The Applicant will continue to engage with NGET regarding protective provisions and will provide updates to the Examining Authority as appropriate. The Applicant has responded to NGET's written representation at Deadline 2 in **The Applicant's Response to Submissions Received at Deadline 1 - Statutory Bodies [EXAM/9.29]**.
ExQ1-NGET-010	Q1.2.15(j)	Are there other further points that NGET wishes to make regarding the East Pye Solar application and proposed grid connection?	None as matters stand. However, NGET reserves its right to make further submissions during the course of the remainder of the Examination.	The Applicant notes NGET's response and has no further comments.