



## **SCOPING OPINION:**

# **Proposed Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire**

**Case Reference: EN0210007**

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Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) to  
Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact  
Assessment) Regulations 2017

**17 December 2025**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Description of the Proposed Development .....	3
2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment .....	5
<b>3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Waste and materials.....	7
3.2 Landscape.....	8
3.3 Visual .....	13
3.4 Ecology and Biodiversity .....	16
3.5 Cultural Heritage .....	21
3.6 Water Environment.....	24
3.7 Geology and Hydrogeology.....	27
3.8 Agriculture and Soils .....	30
3.9 Traffic and Transport.....	33
3.10 Air Quality.....	35
3.11 Noise and Vibration .....	37
3.12 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism.....	39
3.13 Health and Wellbeing .....	42
3.14 Climate Change.....	45
3.15 Major Accidents and Disasters .....	46

### APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

### APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.0.1 On 06 November 2025, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) (the applicant) under regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) for the proposed Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire (the proposed development). The applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the proposed development and by virtue of regulation 6(2)(a), the proposed development is 'EIA development'.

1.0.2 The applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0210007/documents>

1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the proposed development as currently described by the applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the applicant's Scoping Report.

1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.

1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in appendix 1 in accordance with EIA regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.

1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice pages, including '[Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#)'. AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.

1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

**'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice pages'**

1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or development that does not require development consent.

## 2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

### 2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report Sections 3 and 4)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
21.1	N/A	Flexibility	<p>The Inspectorate notes the applicant's intention to apply a 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to maintain flexibility within the design of the proposed development. The Inspectorate expects that at the point an application is made, the description of the proposed development will be sufficiently detailed to include the design, size, capacity, technology, and locations of the different elements of the proposed development. This should include the footprint and heights of the structures (relevant to existing and proposed ground levels), as well as land-use requirements for all elements and phases of the proposed development. The description should be supported (as necessary) by figures, cross sections, and drawings which should be clearly and appropriately referenced. Where flexibility is sought, the ES should clearly set out the maximum design parameters that would apply for each option assessed and how these have been used to inform an adequate assessment in the EIA and the worst case for each aspect. The description of the proposed development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations. The need and justification to support the level of flexibility sought must be explained in the ES, including how it has been considered in the assessments through relevant parameters (temporal and spatial) and a defined worst-case for resulting environmental effects. It will be essential to ensure consistency throughout the ES and any other relevant assessments supporting the application from which the ES draws.</p>
212	Figures	Legibility	<p>The Inspectorate notes that there are a number of figures, which due to scale are difficult to interpret and it is not possible to read place names (for example figure 1.2 and 3.1). The ES should ensure that all figures are clear and legible in order for the information provided in them to be easily interpreted.</p>

<b>ID</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
21.3	Paragraph 4.8.8	Construction compounds	The Scoping Report states that smaller satellite compounds may be needed during construction. The ES should include details such as location and how any necessary reinstatement works will be secured.
21.4	Paragraphs 4.8.40 to 4.8.44	Underground cabling	The Scoping Report acknowledges the potential of underground cabling. The ES should identify the number of underground cables to be laid within each trench and confirm the number of trenches required within the corridor. This should be assessed within the relevant aspect chapters of the ES.

## 2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
221	Section 4.10	Decommissioning	<p>The Scoping Report anticipates that the transmission of electricity would continue for as long as there is a business case for doing so and decommissioning activity would occur decades into the future. The Scoping Report predicts that the environmental effects associated with decommissioning are likely to be similar to those associated with construction. The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that it is not possible to assess the probable future effects as the present time due to the regulatory framework, good working practices, and the future baseline are all likely to have altered at the time of decommissioning.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that decommissioning can be scoped out of the ES on that basis that a high-level summary of potential effects for each environmental topic would be included in an appendix to the Project Description chapter with the ES. The Inspectorate expects this to include a description of likely methods for decommissioning.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
222	Table 5.5	Zone of influence (ZoI)	<p>Table 5.5 presents the ZoI used for cumulative assessment of each environmental aspect. The Scoping Report states that "The rationales for the distances chosen are explained in the relevant topic chapters." Rationales of ZoI for cumulative assessment have not been presented in each environmental aspect chapter.</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects should be based on a robust ZoI for environmental receptors. The ES should provide further justification for selection of the geographical zone for environmental impacts and identify the receptors to be included within the assessment. It is considered that the ZoI should be further informed by an understanding of receptors</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			and potential impact pathways, rather than application of a distanced based zone, and this should be explained within the ES.
223	N/A	Transboundary	Any likely significant transboundary effects should be assessed within the ES. Following the adoption of this Scoping Opinion, the Inspectorate will undertake a transboundary screening, on behalf of the Secretary of State, under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 32 continues throughout the application process.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Waste and materials

(Scoping Report paragraphs 4.6.8 to 4.6.15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Paragraphs 4.6.8 to 4.6.15	Waste and materials	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that a description of the nature and quantity of the materials used together with the information regarding the anticipated quantities and types of waste generated during construction would be included within the ES. These details would inform relevant assessments that consider waste generation and material consumption in their methodology. Furthermore, the Scoping Report states that a Site Waste management Plan (SWMP) is to be implemented.</p> <p>The Scoping Report also predicts that the operational waste and materials would be negligible due to the nature of proposed development.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees that a standalone ES chapter covering material assets and waste is not required. The ES should include information regarding the anticipated quantities and types of waste that will be produced during construction and operation. The EIA Approach and Methodology ES chapter should provide clear cross-referencing to where the relevant impacts are considered.</p>

## 3.2 Landscape

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
321	Paragraph 6.7.8	Landscape designations and Landscape Character Areas (LCA) beyond the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and/or study area	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out effects on all landscape designations and LCAs which fall outside of the final study area (3km) and/or the extent of the ZTV. This is on the basis that there will be a lack of pathway for effect due to distance from the proposed development and/or lack of visibility. It is noted that the final study area and ZTV are to be finalised once ground-truthed field work has been completed and therefore the final ZTV may extend beyond 3km.</p> <p>The Applicant should make effort to agree the methodology for the ZTV and the study area with relevant consultation bodies including local authorities. Once the ZTV has been finalised, Inspectorate agrees that any impacts on landscape receptors located outside of the final ZTV are unlikely to result in significant effects. This matter can be scoped out of the ES.</p>
322	Table 6.2	Impacts on the North Norfolk Coast National Landscape – construction and operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on the North Norfolk Coast National Landscape from temporary alterations to key characteristics and/or the impression of the landscape resulting from direct and/or indirect change.</p> <p>The Scoping Report explains that the North Norfolk Coast National Landscape is located over 30km from the scoping boundary and therefore states there will be no discernible impacts. The Inspectorate agrees that due to the distance between the proposed development and the North Norfolk Coast National Landscape, this matter may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
323	Table 6.2	Impacts on Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG) - construction	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on all RPGs from the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lighting associated with the construction of the new overhead line and substations.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			Due to the temporary nature of construction works, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.
324	Table 6.2	Impacts on RPGs associated with reconductoring of the existing ZA overhead line – construction and operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on all RPGs resulting from the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lights associated with reconductoring of the existing ZA (ZA is the NG code for the existing Cottam – Grendon – Staythorpe overhead line) during construction, and from the reconductoring of the existing ZA OHL during operation.</p> <p>Due to the temporary nature of construction works, and limited impacts during operation, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
325	Table 6.2	Impacts on Grimsthorpe Castle RPG associated with substations - operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on the Grimsthorpe Castle RPG during operation on the basis that the nearest proposed substation is located approximately 4.5km from Grimsthorpe RPG.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
326	Table 6.2	Impacts on Stapleford Hall RPG during operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on the Stapleford Hall RPG during operation on the basis that the RPG is located approximately 2km from the scoping boundary. The Scoping Report states that although there is potential for indirect change, it is limited by distance, local topography and vegetation.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
327	Table 6.2	Impacts on locally designated landscapes (SLAs) – during construction and operation of the new OHL and substations and from	<p>The Scoping Report states that there are no SLAs located within the study area. During operation, the reconducted OHL will have a similar appearance to the existing OHL.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate considers these matters may be scoped out of the ES.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		reconductoring of the existing ZA OHL	
328	Table 6.2	Impacts on National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) - of the new OHL and substations and from reconductoring of the existing ZA OHL - construction and operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on all NLCA (with the exception of NLCA 46: The Fens, NLCA 75: Kesteven Uplands, and NLCA 74: Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds) during construction as these are located further than 3km from the new OHL and reconductoring works.</p> <p>As discussed in 3.2.1 above, the ZTV has not been finalised and therefore it is uncertain at this stage whether there may be significant effects on certain receptors beyond 3km.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that any impacts on NLCA receptors located outside of the final ZTV, once ground truthed by field work, are unlikely to result in significant effects. The ES should assess effects on NLCA beyond 3km where likely significant effects could occur.</p>
329	Table 6.2	<p>Impacts on Landscape Character Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vale of Catmose LCA</li> <li>• Cottesmore Plateau LCA</li> <li>• Clay Woodlands LCA.</li> <li>• Vale of Belvoir LCA.</li> <li>• Melton LCA</li> </ul> <p>- construction and operation</p>	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts from alteration to key characteristics and/or the impression of the landscape resulting from indirect/direct change, on these LCAs during construction and operation. The Scoping Report explains that these LCAs are outside of the scoping boundary and only small parts are located in the study area. Furthermore, the Scoping Report states that there would be no effects from the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lighting associated with construction of the new OHL on the basis that they are located outside of the scoping boundary and will not be affected directly.</p> <p>On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees that this can be scoped out of the ES.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3210	Table 6.2	Impacts on the Melton LCA – construction and operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on the Melton LCA during construction and operation from the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lighting associated with construction of the new OHL. This is because the LCA is located in the urban area of Melton Mowbray and construction will not take place in this LCA.</p> <p>On this basis the Inspectorate agrees this can be scoped out of the ES.</p>
3211	Table 6.2	Impacts on all local landscape units Landscape Character Types (LCT) and LCAs from reconducted existing ZA OHL - construction	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on LCTs and LCAs during construction from the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lights associated with the reconductoring of the existing ZA OHL. The Scoping Report states that any changes will be temporary, of short duration and localised with a limited influence on landscape character.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.</p>
3212	Table 6.2	Impacts on all local landscape units (LCT's and LCA's) as a result of the reconducted existing ZA OHL - operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope impacts from alterations to key characteristics and/or the impression of the landscape, resulting from direct and/or indirect change, on local LCTs and LCAs. This is on the basis that the reconducted OHL will appear largely the same as the existing.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
3213	Table 6.2	Impacts on all identified landscape designations and landscape character units beyond 3km from the order limits and/or outside the ZTV/ extent of potential visibility	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on all identified landscape designations and landscape character units outside the final study area (3 km from order limits) and/or outside the ZTV/ extent of potential visibility. This is on the basis that there is no potential for change on receptors outside of the ZTV and a small amount of potential for impacts on receptors beyond 3km from the order limits.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that the final ZTV has not yet been defined and the final ZTV may identify impacts wider than 3km. The Inspectorate agrees that any impacts on landscape receptors located outside of the final ZTV, once ground truthed by field work, are unlikely to result in significant effects. This matter can be scoped out of the ES.</p>

<b>ID</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Applicant's proposed matters to scope out</b>	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
		- all phases	
3214	Table 6.2	Impacts on all identified landscape receptors from maintenance activities associated with the new OHL and reconducted existing ZA OHL - operation	The Scoping Report explains that any change would be limited and localised, would be temporary and short term in nature and localised. On this basis the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.

<b>ID</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
3215	Paragraph 4.8.40	Cable installation and reinstatement	The Scoping Report explains that it is currently assumed that the new transmission line will be an overhead line. However, the Scoping Report also explains the process involved in the event that underground cables are required. The ES should include details on any underground works required for the proposed development and assess impacts from the excavation and reinstatement of trenched areas or from trenchless techniques. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should address the potential for permanent landscape effects due to any planting restrictions introduced for any easement required.
3216	N/A	Lighting	The Scoping Report explains that construction lighting will be directional and minimised where possible. The ES should provide details of lighting to be used for construction during hours of darkness, including for any works undertaken out of normal working hours such as night time working associated with trenchless crossings.  The ES should provide information of lighting to be used during operation, such as security lighting and include an assessment of operational lighting on sensitive landscape receptors, where likely significant effects could occur.

### 3.3 Visual

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	Table 7.2	Impacts on road and rail users – construction and operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on road and rail users from construction works including the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lights associated with construction of the new overhead line and substations; and during the operational phase. The Scoping Report explains that road and rail users generally travel at speeds and would have limited visibility of construction works and of the proposed development during operation.</p> <p>On this basis the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.</p>
3.3.2	Table 7.2	Impacts on all potential visual receptors outside the assessment study area and/or with no potential visibility of construction	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on potential visual receptors from construction works including the introduction of temporary structures, access tracks, activity and lights associated with construction of the new overhead line and substations. The Scoping Report explains that there is potential for localised views of aspects of construction but due to the distance separation, effects would not be significant.</p> <p>On this basis the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.</p>
3.3.3	Table 7.2	Impacts on all potential visual receptors – construction and operation	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on all potential visual receptors from the reconductoring of the existing ZA overhead line during construction and operation. The Scoping Report explains that the works will be temporary, of short duration and with a localised influence on views and visual amenity. During operation, the ZA OHL will appear largely the same as the existing.</p> <p>On this basis the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.34	Table 7.2	Residents in individual properties outside 150m Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) Study Area	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope this matter out in relation to the introduction of the new overhead line, substations and associated lighting, on the basis that significant effects will not occur beyond 150m.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that the 150m study area proposed accords with the Landscape Institute published Residential Visual Amenity Assessment guidance methodology. However, at this stage, siting and design has not been finalised and it may be possible for views to occur beyond 150m.</p> <p>At this stage, the Inspectorate is unable to scope this matter out of the ES. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of effects visual receptors beyond 150m, where likely significant effects could occur. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from the Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.</p>
3.35	Table 7.2	Impacts on all potential visual receptors – maintenance	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on all potential visual receptors during maintenance activities, stating that any change would be of short duration, temporary, localised and occur in the context of overhead lines and substations.</p> <p>On this basis the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.36	N/A	Lighting	<p>The Scoping Report explains that construction lighting will be directional and minimised where possible. The ES should provide details of lighting to be used for construction during hours of darkness, including for any works undertaken out of normal working hours such as night time working associated with trenchless crossings.</p> <p>The ES should provide information of lighting to be used during operation, such as security lighting and include an assessment of operational lighting on sensitive visual receptors, where likely significant effects could occur.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
337	Paragraph 4.8.40	Cable installation and reinstatement	<p>The Scoping Report explains that it is currently assumed that the new transmission line will be an overhead line, though explains that underground cables may be required and this would be via excavated trenches.</p> <p>The ES should include details on any underground works required for the proposed development and assess impacts from the excavation and reinstatement of trenched areas, or from trenchless techniques. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should address the potential for permanent effects on visual amenity due to any planting restrictions introduced for any easement required.</p>

## 3.4 Ecology and Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Section 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
34.1	Table 8.5	Impacts on statutory and non-statutory designated sites (without mobile qualifying criteria) further than 2km from the scoping boundary during maintenance of the overhead line and substations	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts from maintenance activities on the basis that any impacts would be temporary, localised and of short duration. The Scoping Report confirms that no permanent habitat loss or fragmentation is anticipated during maintenance works. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.</p> <p>The term 'mobile qualifying criteria' with regards to this aspect has not been specifically defined, though it is assumed these are birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals as set out in appendix 8A of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate advises that the ES should clearly define this term.</p>
34.2	Table 8.5	Impacts on protected or otherwise notable habitats or designated sites within 200m of the affected road network as a result of changes to air quality during maintenance activities	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on ecological features during maintenance, stating that any impacts would be limited, localised, temporary and of a short duration. Furthermore, the Scoping Report states that due to separation distance, there would not be a risk of significant effects. No permanent habitat loss or fragmentation is anticipated during maintenance works.</p> <p>On this basis of the justification provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
34.3	Table 8.5	Impacts on designated sites up to 10km and protected and notable habitats and species up to 2km from scoping boundary as a result of	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts during maintenance of the new overhead line and substations from pollution (dust deposition, water) on the basis that changes in water quality and dust are not anticipated to result in significant effects upon significant effects on ecological reasons. These are presented in Chapter 10: Water environment and Chapter 14: Air Quality.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		changes in water quality and dust - maintenance	<p>Chapter 10: Water environment states that no significant effects are anticipated due to the nature and scale of the maintenance activities and which would not cause pollution of the water environment and any physical disturbance would be highly localised. It also states that good practice methods and mitigation measures would be implemented during maintenance works.</p> <p>Chapter 14: air quality states that no significant effects are anticipated as a result of dust from maintenance activities on the basis that maintenance works would be temporary and infrequent.</p> <p>On this basis of the justification provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES.</p>
34.4	Table 8.5	Habitat gains for nesting birds such as hobby, kestrel and peregrine from the creation of permanent infrastructure	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out potential beneficial effects on kestrel, hobby and peregrine on the basis that any beneficial effects would be localised and not significant. The Inspectorate agrees with this reasoning and agrees that this matter may be scoped out of the ES.
34.5	Table 8.5	Impacts on all identified features from reconductoring - operation	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts from reconductoring on the basis that the reconductoring section will be the same as the current baseline and no significant effects are anticipated. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
34.6	N/A	Sensitive environmental information	Under Regulation 12(5)(g) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing sensitive environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>Sections of the ES containing specific survey and assessment data relating to the location of sensitive species (for example, badgers, rare birds, and plants) or other vulnerable environmental features should be provided in separate annexes by the applicant. This approach reduces the sensitive ecological feature's risk of disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation arising from publication.</p> <p>The applicant's approach should be proportionate and only use these separate annexes for species where there is a genuine risk of harm.</p> <p>All other assessment information should be included in an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder providing a justification as to why annexes have been withheld and that a full version of the ES has been submitted to the Inspectorate.</p>
34.7	Paragraphs 8.6.46 and 8.9.3	Fish	<p>Paragraph 8.6.46 of the Scoping Report identifies fish as likely to be found in the study area due the presence of suitable habitat. It is not clear from reading paragraph 8.9.3 of the Scoping Report of appendix 8A whether surveys for fish will be undertaken. The ES should explain any fish surveys undertaken and any necessary mitigation measures and how they would be secured.</p>
34.8	Paragraph 8.6.38	Hazel dormice	<p>The Scoping Report states that contact will be made with the Protected Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) to establish whether dormice are present within the scoping boundary. Appendix 8A of the Scoping Report states that a desk based assessment will be undertaken which will inform the need for survey work. The ES should explain any necessary survey work to establish locations of dormice in the study area, and to explain mitigation and how the mitigation would be secured.</p>
34.9	Paragraph 8.6.50	Bird surveys	<p>The Scoping Report explains that 16 vantage point locations have been identified for bird surveys and that these will be surveyed for a minimum of six hours per month. The ES should include full details of surveys undertaken and ensure that surveys are undertaken at varying times to ensure a maximum number of species are accounted for.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
34.10	Paragraph 8.7.8	Habitat reinstatement	The Scoping Report states that areas of habitat loss will be reinstated and where possible, this would be reinstated to the type of habitat affected. The ES should explain if any areas will not be possible to be reinstated as per its original use, for example, for areas of easement above cable installations if underground cabling is required or from trenchless techniques.
34.11	Table 8.5	Electromagnetic fields (EMF)	The Scoping Report states that impacts on breeding and non-breeding birds from EMF will be scoped in, on the basis that EMF may result in negative impacts on wildlife, particularly birds, bats and insects. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should also assess effects on EMF and heat impacts on fish species. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from the Environment Agency (EA) in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.
34.12	Paragraph 8.7.11	Seasonal restrictions	The Scoping Report highlights that seasonal restrictions may apply in some areas. The ES should provide full details regarding the reasons for any seasonal restrictions which may be required, including relevant species, location and how any seasonal restrictions would be secured.
34.13	Appendix 8A	Receptors - great crested newts (GCN)	<p>Appendix 8A of the Scoping Report explains that surveys for GCN will be undertaken to inform whether a Natural England District Level Licence (DLL) will be required for the proposed development. The Inspectorate understands that the DLL approach includes strategic area assessment and the identification of risk zones and strategic opportunity area maps.</p> <p>If a DLL is required, the ES should include information to demonstrate whether the proposed development is located within a risk zone for GCN. If the applicant enters into the DLL scheme, NE will undertake an impact assessment and inform the applicant whether their scheme is within one of the amber risk zones and therefore whether the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on GCN. The outcome of this assessment will be documented on an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC). The IACPC can be used to provide additional detail to inform the</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			findings in the ES, including information on the proposed development's impact on GCN and the appropriate compensation required.

## 3.5 Cultural Heritage

(Scoping Report Section 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
35.1	Table 9.2	Physical impacts on designated heritage assets - construction	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that there will be no physical impacts on designated assets within the scoping boundary as they will be avoided by the construction works. Paragraph 9.6.1 states that embedded measures “will endeavour to” include design intervention to avoid physical and indirect impacts on both designated and non-designated heritage assets. The Inspectorate notes that impacts to heritage assets as a result of changes to their setting have been scoped in for assessment.</p> <p>The Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient detail has been provided at this time to justify scoping this matter out. The Inspectorate would expect the ES to provide a suitable baseline which has been agreed with the relevant consultation bodies for designated cultural heritage assets to be included in the assessment. Further detail regarding the mitigation measures to avoid physical impacts on designated assets should be provided within the ES, noting the phrase “will endeavour to” suggests there is a lack of certainty around this. The applicant should seek to agree the suitability of mitigation measures with the relevant consultation bodies and provide evidence of this within the application documents.</p>
352	Table 9.2 and paragraph 4.7.22	Impacts to heritage assets as a result of changes to their setting for the reconductoring of existing overhead line - operation	<p>The Scoping Report states that the change in the appearance of the existing overhead line would be minimal and as such LSE are unlikely. Paragraph 4.7.22 explains that there is no horizontal, and limited vertical realignment proposed. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
353	Table 9.2	Impacts to the access of heritage assets - operation	Considering the number of heritage assets present within, and in proximity to, the Scoping Boundary and given the lack of detail regarding the confirmed siting of the operational infrastructure, the Inspectorate considers it premature to scope out this matter. The ES should assess impacts to heritage assets during operation from all permanent infrastructure, including pylons and substations, where significant effects are likely, or information demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies that there would not be a likely significant effect.
354	Table 9.2	Physical impacts to heritage assets or impacts to heritage assets as a result of changes to their setting due to vehicular traffic and maintenance activities - operation	The Inspectorate agrees that physical impacts to, or changes to settings of heritage assets as a result of maintenance activities and traffic are not likely to result in significant effects and can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
355	Paragraphs 9.8.1 to 9.8.6	Study area	The flexible study area approach should be taken forward for both designated and non-designated assets. The applicant's attention is drawn to the response from Historic England (HE) in appendix 2 of this Opinion.
356	Paragraphs 9.8.7 to 9.8.9	Data sources	The Scoping Report lists the data sources that have been used to inform a desk study, the ES should also refer to the additional data sources identified in the responses from HE, Leicestershire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council provided in appendix 2 of this Opinion.

<b>ID</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
357	Section 9.8	Consideration of assets as a collective	The interrelationships and group value of assets located across the open fenland and the limestone uplands should be considered within the ES. The applicant's attention is drawn to the response from Lincolnshire County Council in appendix 2 of this Opinion.
358	Table 9B.1 of appendix 9.B	Survey programming	The Scoping Report sets out the timings of the Heritage Survey Strategy. These timeframes should be agreed with consultees. The applicant's attention is drawn to responses from Historic England, and Leicestershire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council which are provided in appendix 2 of this Opinion.

## 3.6 Water Environment

(Scoping Report Section 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
36.1	Table 10.7	Impact on flood conveyance arising from scaffolding structures on river banks - construction	On the basis that scaffolding installations would be temporary and managed through regulatory permitting processes, the Inspectorate agrees that effects on flood conveyance would be localised and unlikely to be significant. This matter can be scoped out of the ES. However, should the applicant choose to disapply Flood Risk Activity Permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (or any other relevant consents) through the DCO, this potential impact should be assessed within the ES.
362	Table 10.7	Impact to groundwater – surface water interactions from any dewatering for substation - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope the matter out on the basis that the levels of permeability and baseflow index (BFI) values for most gauged water courses are low and the construction works would be temporary. The Inspectorate notes control and management measures have been identified for temporary dewatering activities during construction and provided in appendix 4A: Initial Outline Code of Construction Practice. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter may be scoped out of the ES.
36.3	Table 10.7	Increased water pollution risk associated with operational runoff from impermeable surfaces	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that there would be no significant sources of potential pollution associated with the overhead line infrastructure once construction is complete. The Inspectorate agrees with this reasoning and agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
36.4	Table 10.7	Pollution of watercourses and physical disturbance associated with the use of machinery and vehicles for non-intrusive inspections and localised repairs - maintenance	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the nature and scale of the maintenance activities would not cause pollution of the water environment and any physical disturbance would be highly localised. The Scoping Report states that good practice methods and mitigation measures would be applied to all maintenance works. The Inspectorate agrees with this reasoning and agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
36.5	Paragraphs 4.8.40 to 4.8.44	Impacts to ground water associated with heat emissions from underground cables	The Inspectorate notes that installation of underground cables could be involved in the proposed development. If underground cables are required, the ES should assess the potential thermal impacts from these cables on sensitive groundwaters receptor during operational phase or provide evidence to demonstrate there would not be any LSE. The applicant's attention is drawn to the response from the EA provided in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.
36.6	Paragraphs 4.8.40 to 4.8.44	Impacts to water environment associated with water quality from underground cables	The ES should assess any likely significant effects on the water environment in regard to this matter. For example, from the use of drilling fluid, should underground cables form part of the proposed development.
36.7	Paragraph 10.5.23	Agricultural drainage	The Scoping Report states that there are 10 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) which cover large spatial areas within the scoping boundary. The ES should include an assessment of any likely significant effects on retained existing agricultural drainage or the removal of this from the construction and operation of the proposed development.
36.8	Paragraph 10.9.1	Permanent foul drainage	Whilst it is acknowledged that the need for a permanent foul drainage solution from the proposed new substations is yet to be confirmed. The ES should confirm the overall drainage strategy with details of wastewater management for the proposed development at all stages.
36.9	N/A	Water resources	The proposed development is located within an area of 'serious water stress' designated by the EA. The ES should assess the potential impact of the proposed development on water resources where there is potential for significant effects to occur and include details relating to the water supply and demand requirements during all phases of the proposed development. The assessment should also consider how the water supply will be impacted by future climate conditions and the proposed development. The applicant's attention is

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			drawn to the responses from Anglian Water and the EA in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.
36.10	N/A	Firewater run-off	The Scoping Report does not refer to any potential impacts from firewater run-off, particularly from the operation of substations. The ES should include consideration of the potential for escape of firewater/foam and contaminants as they may contain as an impact pathway to surface and groundwater receptors. Suitable protection measures should be identified for any LSE identified. The applicant's attention is drawn to the response from the EA in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.
36.11	N/A	Ordinary watercourses	The applicant should make efforts to identify flood risk for ordinary watercourses which do not have associated flood zones on the EA's Flood Map for Planning and to include this information within the assessment of flood risk. In particular, attention should be drawn to small ordinary watercourses that are located within close proximity to WMEL-B and potential fluvial flood risk flow paths in the vicinity of WMEL-A. The applicant's attention is drawn to the response from the EA in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.

## 3.7 Geology and Hydrogeology

(Scoping Report Section 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Table 11.2	Explosion or asphyxiation as a result of ingress and accumulation of ground gas within structures - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that embedded engineering measures would be implemented to mitigate the potential effect to the structures from localised areas of gas generating soils. The Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that it will be considered as part of the standard engineering design process.
3.7.2	Table 11.2	Damage to designated geological conservation sites associated with construction activity involving ground disturbance	The Scoping Report proposed to scope this matter out on the basis that there is no designated geological conservation sites identified within the study area at present. Subject to confirmation that there are no designated geological conservation sites within the study area as part of further baseline characterisation to support the ES, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.7.3	Table 11.2	Harm to human health and aquifers from disturbance of historical mining associated with potential emergency of sink holes - construction	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the potential impact would be addressed by the engineering/geotechnical study and design.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that the Holwell Nature Reserve and surrounding area is affected by old ironstone mining and quarrying works. Furthermore, no aquifer mapping is present within the Scoping Report which reduces clarity on groundwater sensitivity. The applicant's attention is drawn to the respective responses on these matters from Ab Kettleby Parish Council and EA which are provided in appendix 2 of this Opinion.</p> <p>For these reasons, the Inspectorate does not agree this matter can be scoped out of the ES at this stage. The ES should assess the potential impacts on the human health and</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			aquifers from disturbance of historical mining associated with potential emergency of sink holes during construction.
3.74	Table 11.2	Harm to human health through exposure to contamination associated with presence of residual soil contamination from construction activities – operation	Whilst some ground disturbance may be necessary during maintenance, the Inspectorate assumes that this would be to land previously disturbed during construction. The Inspectorate notes that the potential release of contamination and sediment by construction activities would be assessed in the ES. Environmental and site management controls were proposed to minimise these effects as far as possible. On the basis that earthworks or materials movement during operation is suitably controlled, the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.75	Table 11.2	Physical effects on aquifers, such as depletion of the aquifer and increased solids/turbidity associated with groundwater control measures – operation	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that permanent dewatering requirements are not expected during the operational and maintenance phases. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES subject to no excavations and dewatering being required during operation.
3.76	Table 11.2	Structural damage associated with unstable or chemically aggressive ground conditions – operation	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that embedded engineering measures would be implemented to mitigate the potential effect to the structures from unstable or chemically aggressive ground conditions. The Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that it will be considered as part of the standard engineering design process.
3.77	Table 11.2	Harm to human health via exposure to contamination associated with	Whilst some ground disturbance may be necessary during maintenance, the Inspectorate assumes that this would be to land previously disturbed during construction. The Inspectorate notes that the risk of pre-existing contamination associated with disturbance of ground during construction would be assessed in the ES. Environmental and site

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		disturbance of ground that is affected by pre-existing contamination for maintenance purposes – operation	management controls were proposed to minimise these effects as far as possible. On the basis that earthworks or materials movement during operation is suitably controlled, the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.78	Paragraph 11.7.4	Minerals safeguarding	Paragraph 4.6.13 of the Scoping Report states that likely significant effects regarding minerals and waste was unlikely as there is limited presence of minerals and nature of the proposed development. However, this matter would be addressed through a stand-alone Minerals Sterilisation Report to be submitted as part of the DCO application if the proposed development crosses through mineral safeguarding areas for compliance with relevant policy. Whilst this approach may be familiar to relevant consultees, the applicant is reminded that all likely significant effects should be assessed within the ES. For the avoidance of doubt, any likely significant effects on mineral safeguarding should be assessed within the ES.
3.79	Paragraph 11.7.4	Risk of damage to structures from vibrations caused by piling	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out of the geology and hydrogeology assessment on the basis that this is a matter of consideration for a structural engineer. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter is outside the scope of the geology and hydrogeology assessment, however any likely significant effects should be assessed as appropriate within the Noise and Vibration chapter.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.10	N/A	Aquifers status	The ES should include figures to show the location and classification of aquifer identified within the study area to support the assessment of groundwater sensitivity. The applicant's attention is drawn to the response from EA in appendix 2 of this Opinion in this regard.

## 3.8 Agriculture and Soils

(Scoping Report Section 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
38.1	Table 12.12	Impacts on agricultural land quality - operation	<p>The Scoping Report states that periodic vehicle access for routine maintenance and emergency repairs may require temporary access tracks and small compound areas but these are likely to be limited in extent. It states that all soil handling would be undertaken in line with published good practice. At present, the location and extent of temporary access tracks and compounds are not determined.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree this matter can be scoped out. The ES should assess any likely significant effects on agricultural land quality during the operation and maintenance phase based on the expected maximum extent of any routine maintenance activities.</p>
382	Table 12.12	Impacts on soil ecosystem services - operation	<p>The Scoping Report notes that maintenance works would impact soils at a smaller scale than construction and that disturbance to soils during maintenance would be undertaken in accordance with good practice soil handling methods. At present, the location and extent of temporary access tracks and compounds are not determined.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree this matter can be scoped out. The ES should assess any likely significant effects on soil ecosystem services during the operation and maintenance phase based on the expected maximum extent of any routine maintenance activities.</p>
38.3	Table 12.12	Impacts on agricultural land holdings - operation	<p>The Inspectorate acknowledges that temporary access tracks and small compound areas required for maintenance activities and emergency repairs are likely to be smaller in extent than during construction. At present, the location and extent of temporary access tracks and compounds are not determined.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree this matter can be scoped out. The ES should assess any likely significant effects on agricultural holdings during the operation</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			and maintenance phase based on the expected maximum extent of any routine maintenance activities.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
384	Paragraph 12.4.1	Study area	The Scoping Report states that the study area for the agricultural land and soils assessment covers the scoping boundary only, and there is no buffer as it describes the impacts regarding loss of agricultural land relate only to those soils directly affected. The ES should consider any adjoining agricultural land if that might be affected (for example from changes to drainage patterns and land holdings) and should provide a clear justification for the extent of the study area chosen and how this relates to the extent of the likely impacts. The study area should be clearly depicted on figures to aid understanding.
385	Paragraphs 12.5.22 to 12.5.24	Future baseline	The Inspectorate notes the future baseline considers the longer-term effects in relation to climate change, including greater rainfall intensity and droughts which may affect the soil conditions, land grade and farming practices. The applicant should also take into account the effects from any short-term changes when consider the future baseline as such trends may affect farming practices such as increased irrigation.
386	N/A	Agricultural land classification (ALC) and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land	The ES should quantify the areas of land according to Grades 1 to 5 of the ALC, including differentiating between Grades 3a and 3b. The ES should contain a clear tabulation of the areas of land in each ALC to be temporarily or permanently lost as a result of the proposed development, with reference to accompanying map(s) depicting the grades. Specific justification for the use of the land by grade should be provided. Consideration should be given to the use of BMV land in the applicant's discussion of alternatives.
387	N/A	Impact on agricultural operation –	The ES should include an assessment of any likely significant effects on agriculture routine activities, such as irrigation from the construction and operation of the proposed development.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
		construction and operation	
388	N/A	Impact on agricultural production – construction and operation	<p>The ES should identify the agricultural land uses that will be displaced by the proposed development. Potential effects on farm businesses, loss of agricultural production and implications for food security should be considered where there is potential for significant effects to occur. Effects such as severance to farm access or changes to the scale and long-term viability of farm holdings affected by the proposed development should also be considered. This should consider both effects alone and cumulatively with other projects.</p>

## 3.9 Traffic and Transport

(Scoping Report Section 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Table 13.2	Impacts of hazardous loads on general public - construction	Table 13.2 states that there is low potential for significant effects on the general public as a result of a road traffic accident leading to a Hazardous Load spill. The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that low numbers of fuel for construction plant would be expected to be delivered during construction. However, there is no information of the locations, routes and frequency of the hazardous loads provided in the Scoping Report to demonstrate that no likely significant effect is anticipated. The Inspectorate is not in position to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should therefore assess the likely significant effects of the transportation of hazardous loads during the construction phase.
3.9.2	Table 13.2	Impacts of closure of railway line on railway users - construction	The Scoping Report states that blockades/temporary closures to install protection/temporary works would occur overnight and tower locations would be designed to avoid the rail line to avoid/minimise impact. Given the stage of the proposed development and the location of tower are not confirmed yet. The Inspectorate considers that there is insufficient evidence at this stage to scope this matter out of the assessment. The ES should include an assessment of the potential impacts to the railway network and operational rail safety, where there is potential for likely significant effects to occur. The applicant should make effort to agree the approach to assessment with relevant consultation bodies including Network Rail.
3.9.3	Table 13.2	Impacts of closure of navigable waterways to navigable waterway users - construction	The Scoping Report states that temporary culverts or temporary spanned bridges would be used for construction traffic to cross navigable waterways. Given the stage of the proposed development and the lack of information on the requisite construction methods, the Inspectorate considers that there is insufficient evidence at this stage to scope this matter out. The ES should assess any likely significant effects on

<b>ID</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Applicant's proposed matters to scope out</b>	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			navigable waterway users from the construction and use of temporary culverts or temporary spanned bridges across navigable waterways.
394	Table 13.2	Impacts of increased traffic volumes associated with operational staff trips on road users, public transport users (bus), pedestrians and cyclists	The Scoping Report states that the number of operational and maintenance trips are anticipated to be lower than 10% of existing traffic and movements. The ES should provide a description of the likely number and type of vehicles required during all phases of development to demonstrate that the number of trips would not trigger the screening thresholds specified in the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines – Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (2023), the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out from further assessment. Should the number of movements exceed this threshold, the Inspectorate expects the ES to assess the likely significant effects of increased operational traffic on these receptors.
395	Table 13.2	Impacts of vehicle crossing points on railway users - operation	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that there are no impacts anticipated as maintenance vehicles would only cross railway lines using existing highway crossing point. The Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out on the basis that there is no new vehicle crossing points on railway required during operation.

<b>ID</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
396	Paragraph 13.4.2	Study area	Whilst it is acknowledged that the study area is yet to be confirmed, this should be informed by the extent of the affected road network and agreed with relevant statutory consultees. The ES should include a figure to illustrate the extent of the study area used as the basis for the assessment.
397	N/A	Emergency services	The ES should consider the potential for significant effects on emergency services associated with any temporary road closures and/or temporary roadworks.

## 3.10 Air Quality

(Scoping Report Section 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	Table 14.5	Increase in traffic from construction activity and the increase of vehicle movement in the area at ecological and human receptors	<p>The Scoping Report states that there potential for significant effects associated with the deterioration in local air quality (NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) at local human and ecological receptors. However this will be scoped out if the EPUK/IAQM indicative criteria thresholds are not met. Provided the ES can demonstrate that this is the case, the Inspectorate agrees the matter can be scoped out of from further assessment. Should this threshold be exceeded, the Inspectorate expects the ES to assess the likely significant effects of increased operational and maintenance traffic on these receptors.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also agrees that vehicle emissions associated with diverted traffic can be scoped out of the ES, provided it can be demonstrated that the predicted volumes of diverted traffic would not exceed the relevant indicative criteria for air quality assessment set out in the IAQM guidance.</p>
3.102	Table 14.5	Pollutant emissions from traffic and activities associated with operation and maintenance at ecological and human receptors	<p>The Scoping Report states that the number of operational and maintenance trips are not anticipated to exceed the Institute of the Environmental Protection UK and Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2017) Land-Use Planning &amp; Development Control: Planning for Air Quality screening criteria. Provided the ES can demonstrate that this is the case, the Inspectorate agrees the matter can be scoped out of from further assessment. Should the number of movements exceed this threshold, the Inspectorate expects the ES to assess the likely significant effects of increased operational and maintenance traffic on these receptors.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also agrees that significant effects from dust sources are unlikely due to the infrequent, temporary and transient nature of operational and maintenance phase activities. This matter can be scoped out of the ES.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.103	Paragra ph 14.4.3	Study areas	The Scoping Report states that the study areas will be refined. These areas should be agreed with relevant consultees.
3.104	N/A	Guidance	The applicant's attention is drawn to the Defra advice 'PM2.5 Targets: Interim Planning Guidance'. The ES should explain how key sources of air pollution within the proposed development have been identified and how action has been taken to minimise emissions of PM2.5 or its precursors.

### 3.11 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report Section 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.1	Table 15.2 and section 4.6 and table 4A.2 of appendix 4A	Vibration impact from construction traffic at NSRs within the study area – construction	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter for the phase identified on the basis that vibration from traffic on the public highway is caused by irregularities in the road surface. Where the road surface is free from irregularities, such as potholes, significant vibration effects would not be expected, even at relatively short distances.</p> <p>The Control and Management Measures provided in section 4A.6 of appendix 4A Initial Outline Code of Construction Practice states that the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), an Environmental Control Plan, will be secured as a Requirement of the DCO. Table 4A.2 Environmental Control Plans (ref TT01) states will specify measures to prevent nuisance from vehicle movements and ensure the maintenance of the public highway. These Control and Management measures should also consider the presence of underground utility infrastructure.</p> <p>On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out. However in the event that substations includes piled foundations, this should be subject to further assessment.</p>
3.11.2	Table 15.2	Noise impact from overhead lines at NSRs within the study area – operation	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter for the phase identified on the basis that operational noise from the overhead line is not likely to be significant at nearby NSRs under any weather conditions owing to the proposed 'triple Araucaria' conductor bundle (section 15.6 of the Scoping Report). The applicant also proposes that, should the iterative design process result in alternative conductor types being used, consideration for LSE will be considered within the ES.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is content with this approach, however, should alternative conductor types be proposed, the applicant should submit further technical information as part of the development consent to support scoping out this matter from the noise and vibration assessment.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.3	Table 15.2	Noise from substation switchgear and auxiliary plant at NSRs within the study area – operation	Given the nature and anticipated frequency of noise from substation switchgear and auxiliary plant, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.11.4	Table 15.2	Vibration impact at NSRs within the study area – operation	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that there will be vibration isolation measures incorporated into the design of the substation plant and as with these measures, no vibration impact at NSRs is anticipated. Other than these, the Scoping Report states that there are no sources of operational vibration proposed as part of the proposed development.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is content with this approach subject to no sources of operational vibration proposed for the phase identified.</p>
3.11.5	Table 15.2	Noise or vibration impact from maintenance activities – operation	The Inspectorate agrees that noise and vibration from short term maintenance activities can be scoped out of the ES. However, the ES should consider the potential for more substantial activity to be required as part of maintenance, eg replacement of components of the proposed development, which would be more akin to the impacts described during the construction stage. The ES should include an assessment of any likely significant effects from such activities.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.6	Paragraphs 15.8.4 and 15.8.5	PRoW and public open spaces and outdoor sports/recreation community facilities	The Scoping Report states that an LSE on these receptors will be unlikely due to transient nature of their use, but it does not confirm whether these receptors will be scoped in or out. The ES should be clear in what is scoped in or out of the assessment.

## 3.12 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

(Scoping Report Section 16)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.121	Table 16.15	Potential employment and training benefits across the supply chain on the local labour market receptors - construction	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that operation of the proposed development would generate a limited number of additional jobs and is therefore unlikely to give rise to any significant effects with respect to this matter.
3.122	Table 16.15	Potential disruption to local users of promoted recreational routes and PRoW of significance from temporary closure or diversions - operation	The Scoping Report states that significant effects on promoted recreational routes and PRoW of significance in the local area are not anticipated during operation. It states that disruption to these receptors during maintenance would be avoided as far as possible and managed with a PRoW Management Plan. On this basis, and due to the infrequent, temporary and transient nature of operational and maintenance phase activities, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects would be unlikely. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.123	Table 16.15	Potential temporary or permanent loss of development land, utilities and renewables infrastructure - operation	The Scoping Report states that no significant effects on development land and utilities and renewable infrastructure are anticipated during operation, and that disruption to development land during maintenance would be avoided as far as possible. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely due to the infrequent, temporary and transient nature of operational and maintenance phase activities. This matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.124	Table 16.15	Potential temporary or permanent loss of open space - operation	The Scoping Report states that no significant effects on open space are anticipated during operation, and disruption to open space during operation would be avoided as far as possible. Given the limited amount of open space within the Scoping Boundary (as depicted on Figure 16.2), and taking into account the infrequent, temporary and transient

			nature of operational and maintenance phase activities, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.125	Table 16.15	Potential disruption during operational activities (amenity & severance) affecting communities, community facilities, visitor attractions and businesses (indirect) - operation	On the basis that access to these receptors would be reinstated post construction, and that their ongoing use would be unaffected during operation, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES. The ES should demonstrate that such reinstatement (including amenity levels) is achievable and should uncertainty remain, an assessment of likely significant effects should be provided. The applicant's attention is drawn to Ab Kettleby Parish Council's consultation response provided in appendix 2 of this Opinion.
3.126	Table 16.15	Potential temporary or permanent loss of or impact on receptors (land take) affecting communities, community facilities, visitor attractions and businesses (direct) - operation	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development has been designed to avoid direct effects on these receptors as far as possible and that should this change, and these receptors are likely to be directly impacted, these would be included in the assessment as appropriate for the ES. Subject to this caveat, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.127	Table 16.15	Potential for impacts on the availability of tourism accommodation on tourism accommodation - operation	The Inspectorate agrees that the scale of operational employment generated is unlikely to result in significant effects on tourism accommodation availability and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.128	Table 16.15	Potential temporary or permanent loss of residential property, access, and impact on	The Scoping Report states that the emerging preferred corridor for the proposed development and substation siting areas would avoid acquisition or over-sail of residential properties. Indirect effects such as access and noise would be managed through the proposed Construction Transport Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction

		amenity – construction, operation	Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to reduce the potential for significant effects. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES on this basis. However, should acquisition or over-sail of residential properties be required, the potential loss of property, access and impact on amenity should be assessed, where significant effects are likely.
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### 3.13 Health and Wellbeing

(Scoping Report Section 17)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.13.1	Table 17.8	Potential temporary and permanent land take affecting residential properties, community facilities and businesses on local residents, users of community facilities and owners/operators of businesses – construction	The Scoping Report states that during the construction phase, the proposed development will be undertaken so as to avoid temporary or permanent land take affecting residential properties, community facilities and businesses. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES on this basis. However, should acquisition or over-sail of residential properties be required, the potential loss of property should be assessed, where significant effects are likely.
3.13.2	Tables 13.2 and 17.8	Construction traffic increasing journey times affecting access to community facilities on local residents – construction	The Scoping Report states that disruption due to construction traffic will be localised and temporary and not likely to affect access at population level.  Table 13.2 of the Scoping Report identifies LSE on road users, public transport users (bus), pedestrians and cyclists as a result from short term and temporary construction traffic volumes and routes. For these reasons, the Inspectorate cannot scope this matter out at this time. The ES should assess LSE of construction traffic increasing journey times affecting access to community facilities on local residents
3.13.3	Table 17.8	Potential for soil and water contamination due to the emission of harmful substances on local residents and owners/operators of	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development will comply with legally required standards to minimise the risk of exposure of the population to harmful substances. Together with the pollution control measures set out in appendix 4A Initial Outline CoCP, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out.

		businesses – construction	
3.134	Table 17.8	Increased employment for the operational and maintenance workforce on the wider study area population – operation	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that there is limited potential for new employment generation and associated income opportunities during operation. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.135	Table 17.8	Potential reduced opportunities for access for physical activity, and increased severance on local residents and users of PRoW – operation	The Scoping Report states that there will be no permanent closures or diversions of promoted recreational routes and PRoW during operation. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.136	Table 17.8	Potential permanent land take leading to changes in access to open space on local residents and users of open spaces – operation	The Scoping Report states that it is unlikely that there will be permanent changes to access to open space during operation. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.137	Table 17.8	Potential for permanent land take affecting residential properties, community facilities and businesses on local residents and owners/operators of businesses – operation	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development will avoid land take affecting residential properties, community facilities and businesses. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

3.138	Table 17.8	Potential permanent impacts associated with the generation of EMFs on local residents – operation	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development would be designed to comply with existing National Grid standards and the guidelines and policies detailed in NPS-EN5, including the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines to ensure that all equipment will comply with public EMF exposure limits. It confirms that an EMF report will be prepared as part of the proposed development but separate to the EIA process. The Inspectorate agrees that an assessment of the actual effects from EMFs during operation can be scoped out provided that the ES contains a summary of the compliance report and confirms that there is no potential for significant environmental effects. The applicant's attention is also drawn to the UK Health Security Agency response provided in appendix 2 of this Opinion.
3.139	Table 17.8	Potential for soil and water contamination due to the emission of harmful substances on local residents and owners/operators of businesses – operation	The Scoping Report states that during the operation of the project will comply with legally required standards to minimise the risk of exposure of the population to harmful substances. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

### 3.14 Climate Change

(Scoping Report Section 18)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.14.1	Table 18.3	Maintenance of the built asset components and systems - operation	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development would not be designed with the expectation of any significant plant maintenance and repair activities being required. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out from the ES on this basis.
3.14.2	Table 18.3	Refurbishment	Table 18.3 states that the proposed development would not be designed with the expectation of refurbishment being required. The Inspectorate notes this contradicts the potential refurbishment activities detailed in paragraphs 4.9.7 – 4.9.11. Nevertheless, given the nature of these activities, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely and that this matter can be scoped out from the ES.
3.14.3	Table 18.3	Operational energy use and operational water use	The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that minimal operational energy use or water use is expected.  The Inspectorate notes that water use during construction is not explicitly scoped in and the applicant's attend is drawn to ID 3.6.9 of this Opinion. For the avoidance of doubt, the Inspectorate expects any likely significant effects from water use for concrete batching, dust suppression and welfare to be assessed.
3.14.4	Table 18.3	Users' utilisation of infrastructure	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development is not expected to have any direct and quantifiable impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from electricity use that is distinct from wider national trends on grid decarbonisation. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out from the ES on this basis.
3.14.5	Table 18.3	Deconstruction, Transport, Waste processing for recovery and disposal	As noted in ID 2.2.1 of this Opinion, the Inspectorate agrees that decommissioning impacts can be scoped out of the ES.

### 3.15 Major Accidents and Disasters

(Scoping Report Section 19)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.15.1	Paragraph 19.7.1 and Table 19A.1	Potential vulnerability of the proposed development to a major accident or disaster as set out in appendix 19.A of the Scoping Report - all phases	Table 19A.1 lists the potential natural hazards which the applicant does not consider the proposed development to be vulnerable to or be a potential cause of. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects on/from natural hazards are not likely and that these matters can be scoped out of the ES based on the reasoning set out in appendix 19A, apart from flood risk. The Inspectorate notes that flood risk is scoped out of the Major Accidents and Disaster ES chapter on the basis that a proposed FRA will be submitted with the ES. The Inspectorate is content with this approach on the basis that the FRA assesses the vulnerability of the proposed development to flood risk and the potential for the proposed development to increase flood risk elsewhere.
3.152	Paragraph 19.7.1 and Table 19A.	Potential for the proposed development to exacerbate existing hazard as set out in appendix 19.A of the Scoping Report – all phases	The applicant proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that the proposed development is unlikely to generate any potential significant effects on the environment if a major accident or disaster were to occur. The Inspectorate is content with this approach. The ES however should identify existing utility infrastructure, the applicant's attention is drawn to responses from Anglican Water and the Health and Safety Executive provided in Appendix 2 of this Opinion.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.15.3	Table 19A.1	Standards, measures and processes	Notwithstanding the Inspectorate's agreement to scope out an assessment of effects for Major Accidents and Disasters from the ES, the description of the proposed development in the ES should describe any standards/ measures and processes which would be relied on to exclude likely significant effects and explain how they would be secured and implemented as part of the DCO.

## APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

### TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

Bodies prescribed in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations (as amended)')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence
The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Ab Kettleby Parish Council
	Algarkirk Parish Council
	Arthingworth Parish Council
	Asfordby Parish Council
	Ashley Parish Council
	Aslackby and Laughton Parish Council
	Barkby and Barkby Thorpe Parish Council
	Barton Seagrave Parish Council
	Belton-in-Rutland Parish Council
	Billesdon Parish Council
	Billingborough Parish Council
	Bourne Town Council
	Bozeat Parish Council
	Brafield on the Green Parish Council
	Brampton Ash Parish Council
	Braybrooke Parish Council
	Brixworth Parish Council
	Broughton & Old Dalby Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Broughton Parish Council
	Buckminster Parish Council
	Burton & Dalby Parish Council
	Burton Latimer Town Council
	Burton on the Wolds, Cotes & Prestwold Parish Council
	Castle Ashby Parish Council
	Castle Bytham Parish Council
	Clarborough and Welham Parish Council
	Clawson, Hose & Harby Parish Council
	Clipston Parish Council
	Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council
	Colsterworth and District Parish Council
	Corby Glen Parish Council
	Cowbit Parish Council
	Crowland Parish Council
	Croxton Kerrial & Branston Parish Council
	Deeping St. Nicholas Parish Council
	Denton Parish Council
	Desborough Town Council
	Dingley Parish Council
	Dowsby Parish Council
	Draughton Parish Council
	Earls Barton Parish Council
	East Farndon Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	East Langton Parish Council
	Eaton Parish Council
	Ecton Parish Council
	Edenham Parish Council
	Finedon Town Council
	Fosdyke Parish Council
	Foxton Parish Council
	Freeby Parish Council
	Frisby on the Wreake Parish Council
	Gaddesby Parish Council
	Garthorpe & Coston Parish Council
	Gosberton Parish Council
	Great Bowden Parish Council
	Great Cransley Parish Council
	Great Doddington Parish Council
	Great Harrowden Parish Council
	Great Oxendon Parish Council
	Grendon Parish Council
	Grimston, Saxelbye and Shoby Parish Council
	Haconby & Stainfield Parish Council
	Hallaton Parish Council
	Hannington Parish Council
	Hardwick Parish Council
	Harrington Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Hickling Parish Council
	Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council
	Holbeach Parish Council
	Holcot Parish Council
	Houghton on the Hill Parish Council
	Hungarton Parish Council
	Illston on the Hill Parish Council
	Irchester Parish Council
	Irnham Parish Council
	Irthlingborough Town Council
	Isham Parish Council
	Kettering Town Council
	Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council
	Kirby Bellars Parish Council
	Kirkby Underwood Parish Council
	Knossington & Cold Overton Parish Council
	Lamport & Hanging Houghton Parish Council
	Little Bytham Parish Council
	Little Harrowden Parish Council
	Loddington Parish Council
	Lubenham Parish Council
	Maidwell Parish Council
	Market Overton Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Mawsley Parish Council
	Mears Ashby Parish Council
	Medbourne Parish Council
	Morton & Hanthorpe Parish Council
	Northampton Town Council
	Old Parish Council
	Orlingbury Parish Council
	Pinchbeck Parish Council
	Podington Parish Council
	Pointon and Sempringham Parish Council
	Pytchley Parish Council
	Quadrинг Parish Council
	Queniborough Parish Council
	Rearsby Parish Council
	Rippingale Parish Council
	Rolleston Parish Council
	Rothwell Town Council
	Rushden Parish Council
	Rushton Parish Council
	Scaldwell Parish Council
	Scalford Parish Council
	Skillington Parish Council
	Somerby Parish Council
	South Croxton Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	South Witham Parish Council
	Sproxton Parish Council
	Stoke Albany Parish Council
	Stoke Rochford & Easton Parish Council
	Stoke Rochford and Easton Parish Council
	Stretton Parish Council
	Surfleet Parish Council
	Sutterton Parish Council
	Swayfield Parish Council
	Swinstead Parish Council
	Sywell Parish Council
	The Moultons Parish Council
	Thorpe Malsor Parish Council
	Thrushington Parish Council
	Tilton on the Hill & Halstead Parish Council
	Toft with Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council
	Tugby and Keythorpe Parish Council
	Tur Langton Parish Council
	Twyford and Thorpe Satchville Parish Council
	Upper Broughton Parish Council
	Walgrave Parish Council
	Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold Parish Council
	Wellingborough Town Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Weston By Welland Parish Council
	Weston Parish Council
	Whaplode Parish Council
	Whissendine Parish Council
	Wigtoft Parish Council
	Wilbarston Parish Council
	Wilby Parish Council
	Witham on the Hill Parish Council
	Wollaston Parish Council
	Wymeswold Parish Council
	Wymondham & Edmondthorpe Parish Council
	Yardley Hastings Parish Council
The Environment Agency	Environment Agency
Natural England	Natural England
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)	Historic England
The relevant internal drainage board	Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board
	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
	South Holland Internal Drainage Board
	Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
Trinity House	Trinity House
The relevant Highways Authority	Leicestershire County Council Highways Department
	Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department
	North Northamptonshire Council Highways Department
	West Northamptonshire Council Highways Department
	National Highways
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
NHS England	NHS England
The Coal Authority	Mining Remediation Authority
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The relevant police authority	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire
	Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire
	Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
The relevant ambulance service	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

**TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS**

‘Statutory undertaker’ is defined in The APFP Regulations (as amended) as having the same meaning as in section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board
	NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board
	NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board
NHS England	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
	National Highways Historical Railways Estate
	Network Rail
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Canal and River Trust
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Anglian Water
	Severn Trent
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	CNG Services Limited
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Limited
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Inovyn Enterprises Limited
	Last Mile Gas Limited
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Stark Infra-Gas Limited
	National Gas
The relevant electricity generator with CPO Powers	Corby Power Limited
	Green Hill Solar Farm Limited
	Meridian Solar Farm Limited
	Spalding Energy Company Limited
	Spalding Energy Expansion Limited
	Spalding Energy Park Limited
	GT R4 Limited
	Kilnside Energy Park Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	<i>On 5 December 2025 the Inspectorate became aware that Kilnside Energy Park Limited should have been identified as a prescribed consultation body; however, this consultee was not identified due to a technical error. Kilnside Energy Park Limited provided a response to the consultation within the 28 day period and this response is included in appendix 2 of this Opinion. The consultee has been made aware of this on 17 December 2025.</i>
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) Limited
	Advanced Electricity Networks Limited
	AGR Networks Limited
	Aidien Limited
	Aurora Utilities Limited
	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Limited
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Limited
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Optimal Power Networks Limited
	Stark Infra-Electricity Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Energy System Operator (NESO)

**TABLE A3: LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 43(3) OF THE PA2008**

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Bedford Borough Council
Blaby District Council
Boston Borough Council
Buckinghamshire Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Charnwood Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Leicester City Council
Peterborough City Council
Derbyshire County Council
Fenland District Council
Harborough District Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY</b>
Huntingdonshire District Council
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Leicestershire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Melton Borough Council
Milton Keynes City Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Norfolk County Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Northamptonshire Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Rugby Borough Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rutland County Council
South Holland District Council
South Kesteven District Council
Staffordshire County Council
Stratford on Avon District Council
Warwickshire County Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY
West Northamptonshire Council

**TABLE A4: THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION**

Section 42(1)(a) of the PA2008 requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection 42(2).

ORGANISATION
The Marine Management Organisation <i>On 16 December 2025 the Inspectorate became aware that the Marine Management Organisation should have been identified as a prescribed consultation body; however due to a technical error, this consultee was not identified. The consultee was informed of this omission on 16 December 2025.</i>

**TABLE A5: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES**

ORGANISATION
Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

## APPENDIX 2: **RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES**

<b>CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:</b>
Ab Kettleby Parish Council
Anglian Water
Blaby District Council
Charnwood Borough Council
Croxton Kerrial & Branston Parish Council
Environment Agency
Grimston, Saxelbye and Shoby Parish Council
Health and Safety Executive
Hickling Parish Council
Historic England
Houghton on the Hill Parish Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Kilnside Energy Park Limited
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Lincolnshire County Council
Milton Keynes City Council
Mining Remediation Authority
Ministry of Defence
National Gas
National Highways

NATS En-Route Safeguarding

Natural England

Norfolk County Council

North Kesteven District Council

North Lincolnshire Council

North West Leicestershire District Council

Podington Parish Council

Rippingale Parish Council

Royal Mail Group

Rugby Borough Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Scalford Parish Council

South Holland District Council

South Holland Internal Drainage Board

South Kesteven District Council

Sutterton Parish Council

The Forestry Commission

The Moultons Parish Council

Trinity House

United Kingdom Health Security Agency

Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold Parish Council

Weston Parish Council

Wigtoft Parish Council