



Fosse Green Energy

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

VOLUME

1

Chapter 2: The Site and
Surroundings

October 2024



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2. The Site and Surroundings

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This chapter provides a description of the Site and its surrounding area, giving context to its setting, existing use, and an outline of constraints, which are detailed further within each technical topic (**PEI Report Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 14**).
- 2.1.2 In this chapter, the 'Site' is defined as comprising both the Principal Site and the Cable Corridor (**PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 1-2**).
- 2.1.3 This chapter is supported by the following Figures in **PEI Report Volume 2**:
 - a. **Figure 2-1: Environmental Constraints**; and
 - b. **Figure 2-2: Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**.

2.2 The Site and Surroundings

The Site

- 2.2.1 The Site (**PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 2-1**) lies within the county of Lincolnshire, within the district of North Kesteven. It is located approximately 9km south and south west of Lincoln City Centre in a predominantly agricultural landscape surrounded by the villages of Witham St Hughs, Bassingham, Thurlby and Thorpe on the Hill amongst others.
- 2.2.2 The maximum extent of land that is expected to be included within the DCO Application is shown on **PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 2-1**. This may be further refined as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) progresses.

Existing Conditions Within and Surrounding the Site

Landscape Setting

- 2.2.3 The Site consists primarily of agricultural fields interspersed with individual trees, small woodland blocks, hedgerows, linear tree belts, farm access tracks, and local transport roads. The nature of the landscape is largely flat with open views. The figures contained within **Chapters 6 to 14** in **PEI Report Volume 2** show the location of existing baseline features in relation to the Site. **Plate 2-1** to **Plate 2-4** illustrate the open nature of the fields with tree belts, hedgerows and access tracks across the Site.



Plate 2-1: View north east from PRow Aubo/8/1



Plate 2-2: View south west from the A46 overbridge



Plate 2-3: View east from PRow Bass/21/2, opposite North Field Farm



Plate 2-4: View north west from PRow ThuN/2/1

- 2.2.4 The hedgerows within the Site are predominantly low and intermittent. Hedgerows on the boundaries of the Site are typically well established and in excess of 2m in height. The arable fields are large and generally of regular shape.
- 2.2.5 There is woodland adjacent to the north of the Site at Morton, known as Housham Wood and Tunman Wood, and at Aubourn, known as Moor Covert

and Fox Covert, with pockets of woodland, such as Stocking Wood, located adjacent to the centre and northern sections of the Site. There are a few small blocks of woodland located in the Cable Corridor with the largest associated with the dismantled railway line.

2.2.6 Neither the Site nor the immediate surrounding area is covered by any statutory landscape designations, such as National Parks, or National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) as shown on **PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 2-1**. The Site does however fall within the Witham Valley Country Park¹, which includes the entirety of the Principal Site.

2.2.7 More information on landscape designations is presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity**.

Settlements and Surrounding Land Use

2.2.8 The landscape features immediately surrounding the Principal Site comprise several small rural villages, including:

- a. Thorpe on the Hill, approximately 0.4km north east of the Principal Site;
- b. Morton Hall and Morton, approximately 0.4km and adjacent to the west of the Principal Site, respectively;
- c. Witham St Hughs, adjacent to the west of the Principal Site;
- d. Norton Disney, approximately 0.6km south west of the Principal Site;
- e. Bassingham, adjacent to the east of the Principal Site;
- f. Thurlby, adjacent to the south east of the Principal Site;
- g. Haddington, approximately 0.3km east of the Principal Site; and
- h. Aubourn, approximately 0.6km north east of the Principal Site.

2.2.9 The Cable Corridor is approximately 10km in length and passes largely through agricultural land between the villages of Bassingham, Boothby Graffoe and Coleby. The Cable Corridor is proposed to cross the River Brant in a single location west of Broughton Lane and continuing east, before crossing the A607 between the villages of Coleby and Boothby Graffoe. The Cable Corridor is proposed to cross under the existing 400kV overhead powerline in at least one location where it will then continue east and south towards the point of connection crossing Heath Lane (B1202) and Green Man Road.

2.2.10 At the time of writing, National Grid is consulting upon a proposed substation at Navenby, prior to submitting an application to North Kesteven District Council seeking planning consent. Therefore, flexibility has been maintained

¹ The Witham Valley Country Park is a Country Park comprising public green space which provides areas for recreation and for people to enjoy the outdoors and experience nature in an informal semi-rural park setting. The Country Park covers approximately 40 square miles of countryside. The Proposed Development does not encroach upon any publicly accessible recreation areas.

to consider the options for the Cable Corridor within the assessments presented in this PEI Report.

- 2.2.11 There are limited industrial or commercial land uses within the immediate vicinity of the Site Boundary.
- 2.2.12 Other infrastructure within the surrounding area includes 400kV overhead powerlines carried by pylons (shown in **Plate 2-5**, below). These overhead pylons largely follow the Cable Corridor and are located within the Site Boundary from areas south west of Coleby through to the point of connection.
- 2.2.13 Further information on utilities is presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics** Section 14.7.



Plate 2-5: 400kV overhead powerlines carried by pylons within surrounding landscape

Transport Network

- 2.2.14 The A46 intersects the Principal Site within the northern section, and the A607 intersects the Cable Corridor. Local minor roads including Moor Lane, Bassingham Road, Clay Lane, Thurlby Road, Stone Lane, Fen Lane, The Avenue and Fosse Lane are located within or adjacent to the Principal Site. In addition to the A607, the Cable Corridor crosses Broughton Lane, Heath Lane, Green Man Lane, Gorse Hill Lane and an unnamed road.
- 2.2.15 The Cable Corridor crosses the River Brant which flows south to north and passes through the Site to the north east of Bassingham and to the west of

Broughton Lane. The River Witham passes through the south east of the Principal Site to the north east of Thurlby, to the west of Bassingham Road.

- 2.2.16 There is no operational railway infrastructure within the Site Boundary. A dismantled railway line is located within the Cable Corridor, to the east of the River Brant.

Land Use and Soils

- 2.2.17 The land within the Site Boundary is predominantly Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Grade 3b (moderate quality agricultural land) with some Grade 3a (good quality agricultural land). There is no Grade 2 or Grade 1 land within the Site. Further information on the soil classification is presented in **PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report**.

Ecology and Nature Designations

- 2.2.18 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), Scheduled Monuments, or Listed Buildings within the Site Boundary. For further details refer to **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation**.
- 2.2.19 There are two areas of ancient woodland within 2km of the Principal Site, which include:
- a. Tunman/ Housham Woods, adjacent to the north of the Principal Site; and
 - b. Hawdins/ North Big Wood, approximately 860m west of the Principal Site.
- 2.2.20 There are no areas of ancient woodland within 2km of the Cable Corridor.
- 2.2.21 Within a 10km radius of the Site Boundary, there are a number of statutory designated nature conservation sites, including Ashton's Meadow SSSI, which is located 1.5km to the west of the Site Boundary and Lea Marsh SSSI, which is located 1.7km north west of the Site Boundary. There are 11 non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation within 2km of the Site Boundary, all designated as LWSs. Further information is presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation**.

Archaeology and Heritage

- 2.2.22 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site Boundary. There are four Scheduled Monuments within the 3km study area of the Site Boundary, namely:
- a. Churchyard Cross, St Germain's Churchyard (NHLE 1013082), located within 200m of the Site Boundary to the Principal Site;
 - b. Remains of a Preceptory, Fishponds and Post-Medieval Gardens at Eagle Hall (NHLE 1008316), within 2km to the north west of the Principal Site;

- c. Churchyard Cross, All Saints' Churchyard (NHLE 1009215), approximately 2km to the south west of the Principal Site; and
 - d. Hall Close: A Medieval a Post-Medieval Hall Complex South of Dovecote Lane, with Dovecote, Gardens, Fishponds, Churchyard and Cultivation Remains (NHLE 1021080), abutting the Site Boundary to the Principal Site.
- 2.2.23 There are no Listed Buildings within the Site. There are 114 Listed Buildings within 3km of the Site, comprising seven Grade I, six Grade II* and 101 Grade II Listed Buildings. These Listed Buildings are largely grouped in the settlements of Gate Burton, Lea, Upton, Brampton, Marton, Willingham, Stow and Torksey. Of these designated heritage assets a single Grade II listed building, River Farmhouse (NHLE 1168186), is located within a land parcel excluded from, but surrounded by the Site Boundary.
- 2.2.24 The Site is not within a Conservation Area. The nearest Conservation Area is Gainsborough Riverside Conservation Area, which is located on the northern edge of the 3km study area.
- 2.2.25 There are no other designated heritage assets recorded within the 3km study area, including World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, or Registered Battlefields.
- 2.2.26 Further information on archaeology and heritage is presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage**.

Flood Risk

- 2.2.27 The Principal Site is located predominantly within Flood Zone 1², with areas of Flood Zone 2³ located within parts of both the south east of the Principal Site and central sections, associated with the River Brent and River Witham, respectively.
- 2.2.28 The western extent of the Cable Corridor, west of Broughton Lane is located within areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3. There are also discrete areas immediately east of Broughton Lane located within Flood Zone 2.
- 2.2.29 The remaining areas of the Site are located within Flood Zone 1.
- 2.2.30 Part of the Site is located within the Witham Washland Flood Compensation Area as shown on **PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 9-3**.
- 2.2.31 Further information on flood risk is presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment**.

² Flood Zone 1 refers to land and property with a low probability of flooding (less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding).

³ Flood Zone 2 refers to land and property with a medium probability of flooding (between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding, or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding).