



Fosse Green Energy

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

VOLUME

3

**Appendix 1-C: Environmental
Impact Assessment Scoping
Opinion Responses**

October 2024



Prepared for:

Fosse Green Energy Limited

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited

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1. Scoping Opinion Responses

1.1 Matters addressed in the Scoping Opinion

- 1.1.1 This technical appendix of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report summarises the issues raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion on the Proposed Development (refer to **PEI Report Volume 1, Appendix 1-B**) and describes how the views of the Planning Inspectorate and other consultation bodies have been or will be taken into account in the environmental studies and ongoing design of the Proposed Development. This is presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Matters from the Scoping Opinion addressed in PEI Report

Consultee	Topic	Planning Inspectorate ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Response
Planning Inspectorate	Alternatives and Design Evolution	2.0.0	The Scoping Report identifies several options that remain under consideration within the design and that the Applicant intends to maintain flexibility within the Development Consent Order to allow for developing technologies in, for example, battery storage and solar panel design. 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 ground levels), as well as land-use requirements for all elements and phases of the 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 design parameters that would apply and how these have been used to inform an adequate assessment in the ES.	This comment is noted. It remains the Applicant's intention to maintain flexibility within the DCO to allow for developing technologies. Within the PEI Report the design parameters of the Proposed Development have been defined within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development; the indicative layout of the Proposed Development is shown on PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 3-2A and Figure 3-2B. The DCO application will comprise a suite of documents which will further define the key parameters of the Proposed Development.
Planning Inspectorate	General	2.0.1	The Scoping Report refers in places to 'temporary works' without defining the durations or phases these refer to. The ES should be clear, for the purposes of the assessment, which elements of the Proposed Development are considered to be temporary, and which are considered permanent features for all phases of development. Indicative timescales should be provided for all temporary works.	The description of the Proposed Development (as provided within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development) clarifies the components of the Proposed Development that are considered permanent and those that are considered temporary for all phases of development, in sufficient detail to enable assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	General	2.0.2	The design presented within the ES should demonstrate consideration of the locations of existing transmission infrastructure. Attention is drawn to the comments from National Grid that mitigation plans should demonstrate consideration of the use of low growing trees and shrubs around existing overhead lines.	PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 2-1 identifies the location of existing transmission infrastructure and shows that the only interaction is with the Cable Corridor. Consideration has been given to the need to pass under the existing transmission lines and allows flexibility for an agreement to be reached with National Grid on a preferred crossing point location.
Planning Inspectorate	General	2.0.3	The Scoping Report describes that the numbers and configuration of different elements of the design would be influenced by technical and environmental factors. The Inspectorate notes the presence of numerous environmental constraints within areas proposed for the Solar and Energy Storage Park, for example, large areas of land within Flood Zone 3 and the proximity of the Proposed Development to existing settlements such as the village of Thurlby. The ES should demonstrate how the presence of these constraints has been taken into account within the design of the Proposed Development and how any choices made on siting, use of particular technologies, types, scale and layout of the Solar and Energy Park have been influenced by environmental factors. The ES should also demonstrate how identified environmental effects, including cumulative effects, have been reduced or eliminated through the iterative design process with reference to the mitigation hierarchy where appropriate.	This comment is noted. At the PEI Report stage the design of the Proposed Development located equipment such as Solar Stations away from Flood Zone 2 and 3. Site layout and mitigation planting have been developed to reduce the effects on the local receptors. The layout of the Principal Site will be further refined for the ES stage taking into account the findings of the PEI Report and feedback received during the statutory consultation. The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to be submitted with the DCO application will assess the Proposed Development and inform the design requirements and constraints.
Planning Inspectorate	General	2.0.4	The ES should justify the reasons for the selection of any buffer distances provided within the design from sensitive landscape and ecological features. Consideration should be given to maintaining buffers during construction as well as operation in order to protect sensitive receptors. The mechanisms for maintaining these buffers should also be contained within the outline management plans provided within the ES and secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO). Stated buffer distances from watercourses should also be taken from the top of the watercourse bank.	The layout of the Principal Site incorporates buffers from a range of sensitive receptors, which includes residential receptors, PRoW users, watercourses, trees and hedgerows. Published guidance and best practice have been used to determine undeveloped areas around ecological features. These have informed the indicative layout presented in PEI Report Volume 2, Figures 3-2A and 3-2B. The mechanisms for maintaining these buffers will be contained within the Framework Landscape and Ecology Management Plan and secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO).
Planning Inspectorate	General	2.0.5	The ES should set out the types and numbers of plant and machinery assumed for the construction phase of both the Solar and Energy Park and the grid connection corridor within the assessment.	As far as reasonably practicable, PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Proposed Development and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 11-D: Construction and Operational Noise Modelling provide a summary of the types and numbers of plant and machinery assumed for the construction phase, based on the current design.

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Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.1	The Inspectorate considers that there is potential for the options that are currently still under consideration – such as overhead lines or underground cabling across three different potential routes – to give rise to very different environmental effects. The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. At the time of application, any Proposed Development parameters should not be so wide-ranging as to represent effectively different developments. The parameters should use the maximum envelope within which the built development may be undertaken to ensure a worst-case assessment. The ES should identify the parameters that have been assumed as the worst-case scenario for each aspect scoped in to the assessment and ensure that interactions between aspects are taken into account relevant to those scenarios. The development parameters should be clearly defined in the draft DCO and in the accompanying ES. The Applicant, in preparing an ES, should consider whether it is possible to robustly assess a range of impacts resulting from a large number of undecided parameters. 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.	Following the receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion it was decided to eliminate both the northern grid connection corridor and the potential overhead line options ahead of non-statutory consultation held between September and October 2023. PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution provides further justification for the identification of the preferred grid connection corridor that at this stage is presented with a width of 250m. As surveys continue and as feedback is received on the alignment of the route further optimisation will be undertaken and a refined corridor will be included at the point of DCO application submission.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.2	The ES should clearly differentiate between habitat creation and green infrastructure provided as mitigation for environmental effects or as compensation measures in the EIA. This should be set out separately from the stated aim for the Proposed Development to provide 10% biodiversity net gain.	This comment is noted. The documents submitted with the DCO application will differentiate between compensation for environmental effects and enhancement (e.g. through improvement to retained habitats) to achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.3	The Inspectorate notes that the anticipated programme is for construction to commence in 2031 and operation in 2033. The ES should therefore clarify how the future baseline will be defined and how any changes to the baseline will be identified given the timescales to construction.	PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Assessment Methodology provides a summary of the future baseline and each of the technical assessment (Chapters 6 to 14) of the PEI Report set out how the future baseline has been established and what it is considered to comprise ahead of the preliminary assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.4	The Scoping Report identifies that there will be several construction compounds set up across the Solar and Energy Storage Park during the construction phase. The landscape and visual impact assessment (Scoping Report Chapter 11) indicates that there could be some overlap of construction activities within different solar plots. The ES should set out the worst – case assessment years that have been assumed for the assessment. Where there is potential for construction activities to occur across several sites simultaneously this should be considered to ensure a worst-case assessment is provided. Where different aspect assessment define different assessment years, the reasons for the selection of assessment years should be clearly explained in each case.	PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Assessment Methodology of the PEI Report provides a summary of the assessment scenarios considered based on the description of construction set out within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development . Where required, technical chapters of the PEI Report Volume 1 (Chapters 6–14) specify the worst-case scenario assumed for the assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.5	The Scoping Report states that an operational lifespan would not be specified in the application and that a time limited consent would not be sought. However, it also states that the solar panels would be designed to be operational for 40 years which could be extended if the panels continue to provide viable renewable energy. The ES needs to be clear as to whether decommissioning is to take place after 40 years or whether components are likely to be replaced to extend the lifespan of the development. Should components be replaced to extend the lifespan of the Proposed Development, the scale of this (particularly in the case of a comprehensive refurbishment of panels) and the likely significant effects should be assessed. The ES should clearly set out how decommissioning is to be assessed and any components which may remain following decommissioning. The Inspectorate would expect to see decommissioning secured through the inclusion of an Outline Decommissioning Plan or similar submitted with the Application.	As set out within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development, the operational life of the Proposed Development is 60 years. The same chapter also provides details on the approach to maintenance (including replacement of key components during operational life) and decommissioning. A Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be submitted as part of the DCO application, and the preparation of a detailed DEMP will be secured via a requirement of the DCO.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.6	In light of the number of ongoing developments within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, the ES should clearly state which developments will be assumed to be under construction or operational as part of the future baseline.	In discussion with North Kesteven District Council, an agreed shortlist of cumulative developments has been presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Cumulative and Effect Interactions . This includes the identification of those developments considered to form part of the future baseline (i.e. completed and operational) and those that have the potential to be concurrent with the construction of the Proposed Development. Discussions with

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				North Kesteven District Council will continue in the lead up to the DCO application submission and an appropriate cut off date agreed ahead of finalisation of the documentation for submission.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.7	The ES should provide full details of alternative sites, layouts and energy generation technologies considered for the Proposed Development. This should include a comparison of the environmental effects.	PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development outlines the design envelope / parameters that the preliminary assessments have been based on. As both east-west tracking and south fixed panels are being considered, as well as AC-coupled and DC-coupled BESS options, the technical assessments (PEI Report Volume 1, Chapters 6 to Chapter 14) present a preliminary assessment of effects for all options, where relevant considering the worst-case option for the purposes of assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.8	The cumulative effects assessment within the ES should not be limited by the current proposed 5km search area used to identify potential projects for the assessment. The Applicant should seek to agree an appropriate study area, methodology for the cumulative effects assessment and the list of projects that should be assessed with relevant consultation bodies. This should include but not be limited to consideration of other solar farm developments coming forward in the local area. Developments considered in the cumulative effects assessment should also be presented on an appropriate figure in the ES for ease of reference.	In discussion with North Kesteven District Council, an agreed shortlist of cumulative developments has been presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Cumulative and Effect Interactions . This includes the identification of those developments considered to form part of the future baseline (i.e. completed and operational) and those that have the potential to be concurrent with the construction of the Proposed Development. Discussions with North Kesteven District Council will continue in the lead up to the DCO application submission and an appropriate cut off date will be agreed ahead of finalisation of the documentation for submission.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.9	The ES should contain an outline of the proposed Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Management Plans. This should include details of the measures proposed to manage, control and remedy any identified environmental effects.	Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 3-A) is provided as part of the PEI Report for consultation. The DCO application will be accompanied by management plans containing mitigation measures and practices for each phase of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning).
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.10	The Inspectorate notes that some matters that have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment have been omitted from Table 17-1 (Scope of Technical Topics and Elements to be Scoped Out). The Applicant should ensure there is consistency in any conclusions that are presented across chapters in the ES to aid understanding and readability. Please see ID 3.8.6 of this Scoping Opinion for the Inspectorate's comments on Table 17-1.	Each technical chapter of the PEI Report Volume 1 (Chapter 6 to 14) provides a clarification on the agreed scope of the EIA considering the comments received in the EIA Scoping Opinion.
Planning Inspectorate	EIA Methodology	2.1.11	The Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) has considered the Proposed Development and concludes that it is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the Proposed Development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts. The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Proposed Development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision. The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process. The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/	This is noted. No further information on Transboundary Effects is therefore presented in the PEI Report.
Planning Inspectorate	Climate Change	3.0.0	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of the combined impact of the Proposed Development and future climate change on the receiving environment. The Inspectorate agrees that the	Noted. Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and drainage design to be developed for the DCO application will consider climate change in relation to future flood risk and flood defences, in line with the

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			Proposed Development is not likely result in significant in-combination impacts relating to changes in wind patterns and this matter can therefore be scoped out of the assessment. However, the Inspectorate considers there is insufficient evidence in relation to temperature, precipitation change and sea level rise to scope these matters out of the assessment at this stage. Given part of the Proposed Development lies within the Witham Washlands Flood Storage Area, the Inspectorate considers there is potential for incombination effects with the Proposed Development and likely future changes in precipitation. These matters should be assessed in the ES.	requirements of the NPPF – this has been raised by the EA in their response. An In-Combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment will be undertaken alongside the further development of the Proposed Development design as it progresses and the outputs will be presented in the ES. It will consider the combined impacts of temperature, precipitation change and sea level rise on the Proposed Development.
Planning Inspectorate	Climate Change	3.0.1	The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development is not located in an area susceptible to sea level rise. The Planning Inspectorate considers that in the absence of tidal flood modelling through the lifetime of the Proposed Development to demonstrate that the Proposed Development would not be affected, this matter cannot be scoped out of the assessment at this stage. Subject to the provision of an evidence-based justification that considers the whole lifetime of the Proposed Development, however, this matter could be scoped out of the assessment.	Noted, this is presented in the Preliminary FRA within PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C . The impact of sea level rise on the Proposed Development as a result of Climate Change will be assessed. The outputs of this assessment are summarised in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 6-B .
Planning Inspectorate	Climate Change	3.0.2	The Scoping Report sets out the criteria that will be used in the GHG Emissions assessment to determine the significance of effect. Table 7-4 sets out the significance criteria and refers to guidance from the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2022). The Inspectorate notes that Table 7-4 does not completely align with the stated guidance in relation to the significance of 'minor adverse' effects. The ES should ensure that where guidance is used to inform the assessment methodology, that it is clear how it has been applied and, where differences occur in the approach, that reasons are given for any proposed change.	The preliminary GHG assessment has been undertaken in line with the IEMA Guidance and the assessment result are presented in the climate chapter. The significance criteria used within the GHG assessment has also been amended within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Planning Inspectorate	Climate Change	3.0.3	Where flexibility is being sought on the types of panels or batteries within the Proposed Development, the ES should present a worst-case assessment for the options under consideration.	The preliminary GHG assessment represents a 'worst-case scenario' based on the parameters defined in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development , and has been undertaken in line with the IEMA Guidance as outlined in Section 6.4 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Planning Inspectorate	Climate Change	3.0.4	The ES should seek to agree the approach to the climate change assessment with relevant consultation bodies.	Consultation responses received in relation to climate change will be considered and included in the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.1	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.	This comment is noted. No further action has been taken.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.2	The Inspectorate considers that the study areas used for the assessment should be illustrated on an appropriate figure within the ES. Effort should also be made to agree the study areas and likely receptors for the assessment with the relevant consultation bodies, and justification for the use of the study areas proposed provided.	The study areas agreed to in the Scoping Report are shown in PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 7-1, Figure 7-2 and Figure 7.3 .
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.3	The Scoping Report identifies a World War II aeroplane crash site as asset reference MLI98924. This site is mentioned in the text as occurring within the study area for the assessment, but the Inspectorate could not locate it on the associated figures. The ES should ensure that any references made to sites within the text can be easily located on appropriate figures for ease of reference.	The WWII airplane crash site MLI98924 is shown on PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 7-2 . Figures within PEI Report Volume 2 show the locations of assets referenced within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.4	As well as considering the effects of the Proposed Development on individual heritage assets, the assessment should also consider the potential for interrelationships between heritage assets within the wider landscape in the assessment of significant effects. Site walkover surveys should therefore consider not only the intervisibility of the Proposed Development on individual heritage assets, but also the wider context within which they are experienced.	The assessment within the ES will consider the potential inter-relationships between heritage assets within the wider landscape context, notably in respect of setting.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.5	The ES should contain information on how the results of the desk based and field-based assessments and surveys have informed the ongoing design development and supported the design of an appropriate mitigation strategy.	The ES will include this information for the results of the desk based and field assessments as well as surveys, which will inform the appropriate mitigation strategy.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.6	Where trial trenching is proposed to inform the baseline for the assessment, the need for, methodology, extent and coverage of trial trenches should be agreed in advance with relevant consultation bodies,	A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will be submitted to the Lincolnshire County Archaeologist and the North Kesteven

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			including North Kesteven District Council's archaeological advisor. This should include preparation of a Written Scheme of Investigation.	Archaeological Advisor and an agreement will be made upon methodology, extent and coverage of the trial trenches.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	3.1.7	A Settings Assessment/Heritage Impact Assessment should demonstrate an understanding of the significance and context of each of the assets in order to assess the impact of the Proposed Development and propose mitigation.	This will be included within the assessment for the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.1	The Scoping Report identifies that there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated within the 2km study area, and no internationally designated sites within 10km (or sites designated for mobile species such as bats within 30km) of the Proposed Development. However, the water environment chapter of the Scoping Report identifies potential hydrological linkages between the Proposed Development and Swanholme Lakes SSSI, 4.2km northeast of the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate does not agree therefore that effects on nationally designated ecological sites can be scoped out of the assessment at this stage until evidence that no pathway exists between the Proposed Development and Swanholme Lakes SSSI. Appropriate cross reference should therefore be made in the ES between the ecology and biodiversity and water environment assessments in the ES.	The assessment within this PEI Report confirms that there are no SSSIs within 2km of the Site Boundary and no internationally designated sites within 10km (or sites designated for mobile species such as bats within 30km). On the basis of Ordnance Survey mapping and further assessment, as presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment , there is no hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and Swanholme Lakes SSSI. This SSSI can be scoped out of further assessment, particularly noting its distance from the Proposed Development and lack of hydrological connectivity to the Site.
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.2	The Scoping Report states that there is some evidence that some species of aquatic invertebrates can be attracted to solar panels. The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the effects on aquatic invertebrates attracted to solar panels on the basis that there are no statutory sites designated for aquatic invertebrates within 1km of the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate notes however that Whisby Nature Park Local Nature Reserve lies within 500m of the Solar and Energy Storage Park and is designated due to its complex of flooded gravel pits. The River Witham Aubourn to Beckingham Local Wildlife Site is also situated within the boundary of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Both therefore could have potential to contain populations of aquatic invertebrates. In the absence of evidence of agreement with consultation bodies, and as aquatic invertebrate surveys have not yet been completed to inform the baseline, the Inspectorate considers that this matter cannot be scoped out of the assessment at this stage.	Aquatic macroinvertebrate desk study and field surveys have been completed, the results of which are presented in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-C: Aquatic Ecology Baseline . A preliminary assessment of the potential effects of the solar arrays on aquatic invertebrates present within Whisby Nature Park Local Nature Reserve is included in Table 8-13 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation . The Applicant notes that the Environment Agency advises wherever solar panels will be 10 m from a watercourse or waterbody, that mitigation should be provided for aquatic insects, and the risk of them being attracted to solar panels by way of wet woodland marginal planting.
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.3	The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development is not situated on a migratory flyway or flightpath used by congregations of birds and there is no evidence in the UK that solar panels increase the risk of mortality or displacement of bird populations. Risk of collision with solar panels is therefore proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. In the absence of evidence of agreement with consultation bodies and as bird surveys are yet to be completed, the Inspectorate considers that displacement and collision effects on birds cannot be scoped out of the assessment at this stage.	Surveys for breeding and non-breeding birds have been undertaken across the Site, the full results of which are included in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-G: Breeding birds and Appendix 8-H: Non-breeding birds . The Applicant will seek to achieve agreement with consultation bodies that the risk of birds being displaced by and colliding with solar panels can be scoped out of the assessment, and this will be completed in the ES chapter submitted as part of the DCO application.
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.4	The Scoping Report Description of the Proposed Development indicates that some elements of the Proposed Development will have operational lighting from dusk, including the primary substation. The ES should therefore consider the potential for effects from light disturbance on sensitive ecological receptors during operation.	Any lighting used during construction or operation will be task-specific and will avoid unnecessary light-spill onto adjacent habitats. Permanent lighting will be avoided and the use of security lighting with Passive Infrared (PIR) sensors is proposed. The potential impacts of lighting on sensitive ecological features are considered throughout PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation , where relevant.
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.5	The Inspectorate notes the presence of Stocking Wood, which appears to directly adjoin Tunman Wood Local Wildlife Site and is within the boundary of the Proposed Development. The ES should consider this site within the baseline and assess the potential for significant effects on this site.	The Proposed Development design has removed Stocking Wood from the Site Boundary and there will be no direct impacts to this woodland. The potential for significant indirect effects to affect Stocking Wood is considered within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation .

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Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.6	The ES should consider the potential for bat and bird collision and displacement effects with the proposed new overhead lines during operation, where this option remains under consideration within the ES.	Following the receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion, the design has evolved to remove the potential overhead lines, as presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.7	The ES should also consider the potential for the proposed overhead lines to create a barrier to the movement of mobile species such as birds and bats during operation, where this option remains under consideration within the ES.	Following the receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion, the design has evolved to remove the potential overhead lines, as presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology and Biodiversity	3.2.8	The Scoping Report notes that the design would avoid impacts on veteran / ancient trees. The ES should therefore be supported by appropriate baseline data, including field survey, to identify the presence and condition of existing veteran and ancient trees, including hedgerow trees. Effects on ancient and veteran trees should be addressed in the ES, where significant effects are likely to occur	Veteran and ancient trees have been identified in the desk study and any within the Site would be retained and avoided. Whilst a preliminary assessment has been included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation, the ES will provide appropriate baseline data to identify the presence and condition of existing veteran and ancient trees, including hedgerow trees, and assess effects on ancient and veteran trees, where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES will provide appropriate baseline data, including field survey, to identify the presence and condition of existing veteran and ancient trees, including hedgerow trees, and assess effects on ancient and veteran trees, where significant effects are likely to occur. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment will be provided with the ES and will inform the biodiversity assessment and be included with the Ecology and Nature Conservation chapter of the ES and submitted as part of the DCO application.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.1	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.	This comment is noted, no further action has been taken.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.2	The ES should provide justification for the 1km study area for the water environment assessment and describe any waterbodies located outside of the established 1km study area that have also been included in the assessment, such as those downstream. This should be supported by appropriate figures in the ES.	Noted, the study area is described in full in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment , and is supported by PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 9-1 Surface Water Features and their Attributes showing its extent.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.3	The assessment of flood risk should consider the North Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, (2009).	Noted, the Preliminary FRA (PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C) has taken account of all local published reports and guidance, including the North Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, (2009).
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.4	The Inspectorate notes the proposed use of mitigation measures, namely Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs). The design of such mitigation measures should be informed by relevant and up to date climate change allowances for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Noted, PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-D: Preliminary Surface Water Drainage Strategy has been prepared and takes account of the most up to date climate change allowances at the time of its development.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.5	The ES should include a description of any measures proposed to reduce pollutant runoff into nearby watercourses, for example, design measures or best practice measures to be secured via the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or within the drainage strategy.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment provides details of all mitigation measures proposed to reduce pollutant runoff into watercourses. This will include, but not be limited to, measures included in the CEMP during construction and a drainage strategy during operation. The water environment impact assessment within the PEI Report determines the likelihood of any significant impacts occurring once this embedded mitigation is in place. This will be re-assessed at the ES stage when further design details are available.

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Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.6	The Scoping Report identifies potential for pollution of surface or groundwater to occur from soil, sediments, oils, fuels and other chemicals from construction activities. The Inspectorate notes that in the absence of a separate chapter for the assessment of major accidents or disasters, that consideration for spillages from hazardous roads as a result of traffic accidents will be considered within existing technical assessments. The water environment assessment should therefore include an assessment of these potential risks, where there is potential for significant effects to occur.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment considers all potential water quality risks to watercourses, including the risk of spillages from construction and operational access tracks or roads across or around the site. An assessment of major accidents and disasters is presented within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics with other PEI Report chapters signposted where relevant. The ES will ensure that the impacts are assessed and signposted along with appropriate mitigation measures either within relevant chapters or within a separate section of the Other Environmental Topics chapter, as presented in the PEI Report.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.7	The Inspectorate notes that there is potential for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to be used as a non-intrusive method of cable laying. Where HDD is proposed for watercourse crossings, the ES should include an assessment of the potential effects from release of drilling fluids during crossings and also consider potential effects on existing flood defences from noise and vibration. This assessment should therefore make appropriate cross reference to the ground conditions and noise and vibration aspect assessments.	Noted. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment includes assessment of the effects of the release of drilling fluids during HDD beneath watercourses, having taken account of appropriate mitigation that will account for this (including site-specific risk assessment and frac-out risk assessments). Appropriate cross reference have been made to the assessments of ground conditions, noise and vibration where appropriate. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration includes the assessment of noise effects from HDD activities.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.8	The Scoping Report identifies infrastructure assets, buildings and property as flood risk receptors. In areas of increased flood risk, the ES should also consider the risk to people and employees.	Noted. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.9	The ES should differentiate between Flood Zones 3a and 3b in order to determine which parts of the site are located in areas considered as 'high probability of flooding' and 'functional floodplain'. Where development is to be located within Flood Zone 3, then an assessment of the floodplain loss should be made and floodplain compensation provided. This should include consideration of the cumulative losses from solar panel mountings. Essential infrastructure located within Flood Zone 3a should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe in times of flood and throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development, taking account of climate change.	Noted, the SFRA mapping published Flood Zone 3b maps; EA mapping including Flood Zone 3b extents have also been obtained. Flood risk and extents will be agreed with the EA within the FRA to be prepared as part of the ES. Proposed solar PV infrastructure within Flood Zone 3a has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.10	The ES should include an assessment of the potential impacts from construction compounds on water environment receptors. The ES should also explain how flood risk and the location of existing flood defences have been taken into account in the location of construction compounds and the access to them.	Noted, this is assessed within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.11	The ES should consider flood risk impacts of decommissioning and how the floodplain may return to its natural state thereafter. The flood risk effects from decommissioning should therefore be discussed with the relevant consultation bodies prior to the production of any outline decommissioning environmental management plan.	Noted, PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment consider decommissioning where appropriate.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	3.3.12	The ES should consider the potential effect that landscaping schemes could have on flood flow routes, including appropriate cross reference to the landscape and visual aspect assessment.	Noted. PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-D: Preliminary Surface Water Drainage Strategy takes account of landscaping where appropriate and exceedance flow routes.
Planning Inspectorate	Landscape and Visual Amenity	3.4.1	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.	This comment is noted, no further action has been taken.
Planning Inspectorate	Landscape and Visual Amenity	3.4.2	The ES should consider the potential for visual effects by transient receptors such as recreational users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) footpaths and bridleways, and people travelling by car, bus or cycles. Considering the proximity of the site to navigable rivers (such as the River Witham), receptors navigating along rivers should also be considered where there is potential for significant effects to occur.	Noted. These receptors are covered in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 10-F: Visual Assessment .

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Planning Inspectorate	Landscape and Visual Amenity	3.4.3	The Scoping Report states that the extent of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area and suitable viewpoints for the assessment will be developed in consultation with the Local Planning Authorities. The reasons for the selection of viewpoints should be explained in the ES. Consideration should also be given in the ES to the potential for wider views from the Lincolnshire Escarpment and Cliff villages to the Proposed Development, including the potential for reflection and glint and glare from solar panels.	Noted. This is addressed within PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 10-B: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology , and Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
Planning Inspectorate	Landscape and Visual Amenity	3.4.4	The ES should cover the establishment period of any landscaping scheme and any long-term management needs. Any assumptions made with regards to the height that proposed mitigation planting would have reached by the assessment years should be clearly presented and justified.	Noted. This will be addressed within the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan to be prepared as part of the DCO application.
Planning Inspectorate	Landscape and Visual Amenity	3.4.5	The Inspectorate considers that the ES should have regard to the following documents that have been identified in scoping consultation responses: • 2007 North Kesteven District Council Landscape Character Assessment; • Policy S62: 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value' of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023); and • The 2019 Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership baseline Green Infrastructure Map for Central Lincolnshire	Noted. This has been taken into account within Volume 3 Appendix 10-C: Landscape Character Baseline .
Planning Inspectorate	Noise and Vibration	3.5.1	The Scoping Report refers to DMRB LA 111, which states that operational vibration should be scoped out of the assessment methodology as a maintained road surface will be free of irregularities as part of project design and under general maintenance. The Scoping Report concludes that operational vibration will not have the potential to lead to significant adverse effects. Additionally, it explains that the condition of road surfaces on the highway network falls outside the scope of the Proposed Development. Based on the nature and characteristics of the Proposed Development the Inspectorate agrees that construction road traffic vibration can be scoped out of the assessment.	This point has been noted and a preliminary assessment of construction traffic vibration is scoped out of the EIA.
Planning Inspectorate	Noise and Vibration	3.5.2	The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development would not use any plant capable of generating perceptible levels of vibration, and that as such there will be no associated operational vibration effects. Considering the characteristics of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out. The ES should demonstrate that operational plant and equipment is of a type and to be used in locations unlikely to result in significant vibration impacts on sensitive receptors.	Operational vibration is scoped out and the ES will demonstrate that operational plant will not generate significant effects.
Planning Inspectorate	Noise and Vibration	3.5.3	The Scoping Report considers that the cable corridor is unlikely to generate any operational noise emissions. The Inspectorate considers that given the stage of design of the Proposed Development and as the preferred option for the Grid Connection Corridor has yet to be determined, that operational noise cannot be scoped out of the assessment at this stage. The ES project description should contain information on potential sources of operational noise and their location in order to inform the assessment of potential significant effects on sensitive receptors.	Proposed infrastructure in the Cable Corridor is limited to underground cables. Cables generate very low levels of noise and would be underground, so any noise emissions are unlikely to be perceptible above ground. As such, operational noise in the Cable Corridor is scoped out.
Planning Inspectorate	Noise and Vibration	3.5.4	The noise assessment presented for the construction phase is considered to be representative (or an overestimate) of the decommissioning stage. The Scoping Report considers a separate assessment to be unnecessary. Limited information is provided regarding the activities proposed for the decommissioning phase, and there is little evidence to support the claim that the decommissioning phase impacts would be less significant than during construction. On the basis of the information provided, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage.	Noise associated with the decommissioning phase will be explicitly considered within the ES. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration assumes that the noise assessment presented for the construction phase is considered representative (or an overestimate) of the decommissioning phase.
Planning Inspectorate	Noise and Vibration	3.5.5	The Scoping Report refers to assessments of noise and vibration on ecological and cultural heritage receptors. The Inspectorate considers that noise and vibration may also have the potential to lead to adverse effects on landscape and visual receptors (for example in terms of tranquillity), and as such the effects of noise and vibration on these receptors should also be assessed.	The noise and vibration ES chapter will relate to effects on human receptors. The landscape and visual amenity chapter will further consider effects on landscape and visual receptors.
Planning Inspectorate	Noise and Vibration	3.5.6	The Scoping Report states that a 500m study area will be used to assess operational noise from the Solar and Energy Storage Park. The study area has been determined based on previous experience of solar farm projects. The ES should explain how the study area and sensitive receptors were selected, including provision of appropriate figures. Effort should be made to agree the study area with relevant consultation bodies. As	The ES will explain how the study area and sensitive receptors were selected and include appropriate figures. Consultation will be undertaken with local authorities on the study area, noise monitoring locations and sensitive receptors. The ES will identify the extent of likely operational noise levels to demonstrate that effects

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			flexibility is sought to accommodate future developments in technology, the ES should identify the extent of likely operational noise levels and be able to demonstrate that effects have been determined on a worst-case basis.	have been determined on a worst-case basis. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration describes the study areas agreed with Kesteven District Council and applied to the assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.1	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out effects on Mineral Safeguarding Areas as none are identified within the site boundary. Two safeguarded areas are however noted to be in proximity to the site boundary: MS04-LT: Swinderby Airfield, Witham St Hughs and MS05-LT: Norton Bottoms Quarry, Stapleford. The proposed development is also noted to be partially located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel and limestone. The Inspectorate does not therefore consider that there is sufficient evidence for effects on mineral safeguarding areas to be scoped out of the assessment at this stage. The ES should include a figure to identify the location of these safeguarded areas and the study area that has been used for the assessment of effects on minerals resources. This should also cross refer to the assessment of ground conditions. The ES should demonstrate that the Minerals Planning Authority has been consulted in respect of all of the proposals and that the Proposed Development does not impact on future ambitions for minerals extraction within the region.	An assessment of MSAs will be considered as part of the assessment of Development Land within the Socio-economic and Land Use assessment at ES stage. PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-C: Minerals Assessment Report provides a preliminary assessment of minerals and includes a figure showing the relevant MSAs with respect to the Site and the relevant Study Area, and this will be considered further for the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.2	The Scoping Report does not provide details of the study area that would be used to consider the extent of potential socio-economic, recreation and land use effects. This should be set out in the ES, supported by an appropriate explanation of how the study area has been defined, with appropriate figures provided. Effort should be made to agree the study areas with relevant consultation bodies.	The extent of the study area(s) applicable to socio-economic, recreation and land use effects is defined in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use . The explanation of the study area is supported by PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 12-1, Figure 12-2, Figure 12-3 and Figure 12-4 to represent geographical areas visually.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.3	The ES should include an assessment of the effects on soil resources and soil structure, due to the potential for soil stripping during construction, compaction from construction activity and to identify potential measures for appropriate soil handling and storage. The ES should therefore include an outline soil management plan as part of any CEMP.	An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey has been undertaken for the Proposed Development (see PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 12-B). The assessment of the effects on soil resources and soil structure presented in this PEI Report reflects the findings of the ALC survey with the baseline described in Section 12.5 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and an assessment provided in Section 12.7. The methodology for this assessment is set out within Section 12.4 of the chapter. A Framework Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO application.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.4	The Scoping Report does not describe how the baseline will be established for recreational and community facilities and open space. The ES should provide details of all desk and field-based sources of information used to support the baseline and assessment of effects from changes in land use.	Section 12.5 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use provides details of how the baseline has been established with respect to relevant socio-economic and land use receptors, which will include stating all sources of information used to identify such receptors. These sources include local policy/evidence base documents where available, along with geographical information system tools.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.5	The approach to the assessment of effects on agricultural land should be clearly and separately defined within any socio-economic assessment in the ES. Effort should be made to agree the methodology, study area and approach to the baseline Agricultural Land Classification surveys with relevant consultation bodies. Effects and surveys should be considered for the grid connection corridor as well as the Solar and Energy Storage Park, where there is potential for significant effects to occur.	An Agricultural Land Classification Survey has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on agricultural land presented within the PEI Report reflects the findings of the ALC survey with the baseline described in Section 12.5 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use and provides assessment in Section 12.7. The methodology for this assessment is outlined within Section 12.4 of the chapter. The ES will reflect the findings of the ALC survey within the socio-economics and land use assessment. The methodology for this assessment will be clearly separated when stated within the relevant section of the ES chapter.

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Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.6	The Scoping Report notes that a soil survey will be undertaken. This should also consider Natural England guidance (Agricultural Land Classification; Protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049), 2012) and agreement sought on the locations and numbers of soil samples to be taken with relevant consultation bodies. This should be used to support the assessment of effects on best and most versatile agricultural land from the Proposed Development.	An ALC Survey has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. The survey undertaken by Roberts Environmental Ltd includes an initial desk-based study using published data sources, as well as an investigative soil survey comprising at least one hand auger boring per hectare to a depth of 1.2m below ground level (where achievable) in accordance with current guidelines. The survey takes into consideration the ALC guidelines from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. BMV agricultural land is also considered using guidance from the NPPF. The socio-economics and land use assessment reflects where relevant the findings of the soil/ALC survey in the assessment of agricultural land. The ALC survey report is appended at PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B and will be appended to the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.7	The ES should consider potential for effects at all stages of the Proposed Development. The following effects should therefore also be considered, where there is potential for significant effects to occur: • effects of the temporary influx of construction workers on local businesses and employment (construction); • changes to the nature of local employment within the farming industry; • effects on public access, greenspaces and their amenity value during construction and operation; and • assessment of the temporary and permanent loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. Effects should be considered both from the Proposed Development, and cumulatively with other developments.	An assessment of the temporary influx of construction workers is undertaken relating to Gross Value Added (considering additionality effects) and the preliminary findings presented in Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use . An assessment of the impact of the influx of construction workers on the local accommodation sector and private rented sector has also been conducted given the magnitude of employment and the preliminary findings presented in Section 12.7 of the chapter. As stated within the EIA Scoping Report (PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 1-A), the assessment is undertaken relating to long term employment opportunities and consideration of existing employment uses on-site relating to agricultural uses, therefore the changes to the nature of local employment (including within the farming industry) is included within the assessment. An assessment of recreational facilities and open space has been conducted for all stages of the Proposed Development and the preliminary findings presented in Section 12.7 of the chapter. An assessment of the potential temporary and permanent loss of BMV land is considered within the assessment of agricultural land, including reference to the ALC survey being undertaken. The preliminary findings are presented in Section 12.7 of the chapter.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.8	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 from both the Solar and Energy Storage Park and Grid Connection Corridor should be considered where there is potential for significant effects to occur. This should consider both effects alone and cumulatively with other projects. 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.	An assessment of potential effects on agricultural land is presented within Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use . This comprises consideration of effects on farm businesses, agricultural production and the long-term viability of farm holdings as soil impacts directly affect soil usage for farmers and thus economic value. Farm businesses are incorporated as businesses into the local amenity assessment which takes into account severance, displacement and other impacts from the Proposed Development on the amenity value of agricultural land.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.9	The ES should demonstrate how any retained agricultural land will be available for future productive use and consider the potential economic effects of any changes in land use patterns as a result of the Proposed Development.	Commentary is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics relating to agricultural land uses compatible with the operation, and following decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including whether the Proposed Development has the potential to degrade or help recover soils. The ES will include a

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				description of areas of land within the Site Boundary that will be retained agricultural land following the completion of construction.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-Economics and Land Use	3.6.10	The ES should consider the potential effects of the Proposed Development on local recreational facilities, including the Witham Valley Country Park, local circular walking routes within the area of the park and public rights of way. Effects should be assessed for both construction / decommissioning and operational phases of the Proposed Development, where significant effects are likely to occur.	To clarify, the assessment of effects on users of recreational facilities, open space (including Public Rights of Way (PRoW)), and community facilities will be conducted for all phases of the Proposed Development and the preliminary findings are presented in Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics . The suggested receptors have been noted and will be considered within the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Traffic and Transport	3.7.1	The Scoping Report considers that there are not expected to be any hazardous and dangerous loads associated with the Proposed Development. Measures within an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan are proposed to ensure the safe vehicular transport of components to and from the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Given that no information has been provided regarding vehicle movements and to the type and nature of hazardous and dangerous loads, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should provide the number and composition of any hazardous loads and describe any safety measures. Scoping Report Table 15-1 indicates that risks from spillages of hazardous loads due to accidents will be considered within the assessment of water environment effects. The ES should therefore ensure that clarification and cross-referencing is present in the assessment of any potential risks within the traffic and transport chapter.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport sets out the preliminary number of large loads and their composition in Section 13.7; the collision review is outlined in Section 13.5 and the appropriate safety measures are outlined in Section 13.6. The ES Traffic and Transport chapter will include further details related to Hazardous and Large Loads based on the new IEMA Guidance (2023). At this stage, it is only expected that Large Loads (comprising abnormal vehicles/loads) will need to be considered, as there are not expected to be any Hazardous and Dangerous Loads associated with the Proposed Development e.g. vehicles transporting explosives, oxidising/ toxic substances, radioactive material or corrosive substances. The ES will therefore provide details of abnormal vehicle types and movements. Whilst there will be a requirement for abnormal loads, a Police escort will be arranged to assist with traffic control. Further details related to the abnormal loads required to transport specific material to the site i.e. On-Site Substation transformers and cable drums for the cable corridor will be detailed within the CTMP which will be produced in support of the DCO application.
Planning Inspectorate	Traffic and Transport	3.7.2	The Scoping Report advises that the operation of the Proposed Development is likely to generate a low level of trips along the local network within network peak hours. The Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out subject to the provision of information regarding the type of maintenance visits and vehicles required, and confirmation that these would not exceed relevant thresholds of effect (e.g. as set out in IEMA Guidelines: Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement 2023). This should also take into account any cumulative traffic effects.	This is noted. Operational traffic is scoped out of the PEI Traffic and Transport Chapter and the ES assessments. The ES Traffic and Transport chapter will include further information regarding the type and number of operational trips to/from the site, to demonstrate that these fall below the relevant thresholds of effect identified within the new IEMA Guidance (2023).
Planning Inspectorate	Traffic and Transport	3.7.3	The Scoping Report states that a stand-alone travel plan is not proposed to be produced as part of the DCO and that therefore it has been scoped out. Instead, certain aspects of a travel plan, such as the mitigation and management of construction staff, are to be included as part of an Outline Construction Travel Management Plan. This is to be discussed and agreed with the Local Highway Authority. The Inspectorate has considered the nature and characteristics of the Proposed Development and is content with this approach. The ES should include a description of any necessary mitigation measures relevant to impacts from Traffic and Transport and explain how such measures would be secured through the DCO or other legal mechanism.	This is noted. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport Section 13.6 sets out the embedded mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the Proposed Development design. The ES Traffic and Transport chapter will include the details of proposed mitigation, to be secured as part of the Framework CTMP, as part of the DCO.
Planning Inspectorate	Traffic and Transport	3.7.4	The Scoping Report states the assessment of the decommissioning phase will be assumed to be the same as the anticipated impact during the construction stage. Traffic effects from decommissioning are proposed to be scoped out due to the uncertainties with likely future traffic flows. The Inspectorate notes that it is difficult to predict traffic data for the future decommissioning phase but considers that given traffic flows during decommissioning could be similar to that of construction, that this matter cannot be scoped out of the assessment at this stage. An outline decommissioning travel plan should also be included within the ES.	As identified within the Scoping Report, the decommissioning effects of the Proposed Development are expected to be of a similar (or lesser) magnitude to the construction effects. On this basis, the construction period is expected to have the greatest change on the surrounding transport network. Therefore, rather than scoping out an assessment of the decommissioning phase, the likely impacts of the Proposed Development during the decommissioning phase (as well as any mitigation) will be based on the assessment of the construction phase. Any mitigation to be implemented during the

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				construction and decommissioning phases would then be secured through the DCO, such as through the Framework CTMP, Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan and Decommissioning Strategy/ Environmental Management Plan. The ES will include details of the proposed mitigations to be secured as part of the DEMP, therefore it is not considered that a Decommissioning Travel Plan (TP) is appropriate and necessary to be included as part of the ES, as a stand-alone TP for the construction phase has already been scoped out. This point will be further discussed with the Local Highway Authorities (LCC) and the appropriate mitigations, management and methodology with be agreed and set out within the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Traffic and Transport	3.7.5	The Scoping Report indicates that the impact assessment is based on Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Road Traffic (1993). The ES should take into account that the Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Road Traffic (1993) have been replaced by new guidance from the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment: Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement, July 2023.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport is based on the new IEMA guidance on the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (July 2023), which will be the same for the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Air Quality	3.8.1	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out construction air quality effects from traffic on the basis that HGV numbers are likely to be below the criteria for large construction sites in published guidance for significant effects (Environmental Protection UK, Institute of Air Quality Management). No details of the likely levels of construction traffic are provided in the Scoping report and details are not yet available on the location of all construction access points, construction compounds, or the likely method for exporting electricity to the transmission network from the Proposed Development (overhead or underground). On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree that air quality effects from construction activities can be scoped out of the assessment at this stage.	It is not anticipated that significant increases vehicles movements will occur as a result of the Proposed Development. Construction traffic flows will be reviewed at the ES stage and detailed in the ES report.
Planning Inspectorate	Air Quality	3.8.2	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out operational air quality given that there will no emissions from on-site infrastructure and movement of vehicles during operation are expected to be minimal. The Inspectorate agrees that it is unlikely that the operation of the Proposed Development would generate significant emissions to air or significant operational traffic and that these matters can therefore be scoped out of the assessment. The ES must however provide information on the nature of vehicle movements during the operational phases (alone and cumulatively) and confirm these projections fall below the relevant thresholds set out in guidance. The ES project description should also confirm that there are no emissions from operational plant that require further assessment.	It is not anticipated that significant increases vehicles movements will occur as a result of the Proposed Development. Operational traffic flows will be reviewed at the ES stage and detailed in the ES report. The Proposed Development does not include operational plant with emissions to air during the normal operation of the site.
Planning Inspectorate	Glint and Glare	3.8.3	The Scoping Report proposes that as glint and glare effects will be less during construction and as measures within a Construction Environmental Management Plan will be used to avoid possible glint and glare effects during construction, that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment. The Inspectorate agrees that glint and glare during construction is likely to be temporary and localised, and on the basis of specific measures to control effects within a CEMP, that this matter can therefore be scoped out of the assessment.	Noted. Glint and glare during construction has been scoped out of the assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	Pollution – Operation	3.8.4	The Scoping report proposes to scope out effects from accidental spillages from maintenance activities during operation, on the basis of preparing an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) following grant of any Development Consent Order. The Inspectorate agrees that it is unlikely that the operation of the Proposed Development would generate significant pollutants and that these matters can therefore be scoped out of the assessment. The ES must however provide information on the nature and quantities of the likely chemicals used during maintenance activities and provide an outline of the OEMP. The OEMP should contain information on how adverse effects will be avoided or mitigated.	The operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development will not require the use of any considerable quantities of chemicals. PV panels are cleaned by water. The DCO application will be accompanied by a Framework OEMP which will contain pollution prevention measures relevant to the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.
Planning Inspectorate	Human Health	3.8.5	The Inspectorate notes that a standalone human health assessment is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, noting that matters relating to human health would be covered within the landscape and visual, noise and vibration, traffic and transport and air quality assessments in the ES. The Inspectorate notes the potential for a 400 kV overhead line being proposed as part of the Proposed Development. Where this option is progressed within the ES, it should demonstrate the potential for significant effects on	The overhead line is no longer part of the Proposed Development. A separate human health chapter has therefore been scoped out of the PEI Report, although assessments of noise, air quality, and traffic and transport are included and are relevant to human health.

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			human health during operation, construction and decommissioning. Providing such a justification is present, the Inspectorate is content that a standalone ES chapter for Human Health is not required and agrees that this aspect can be scoped out. The ES should ensure sufficient clarification and cross referencing is present. Consideration should be given to direct and indirect impacts on human health receptors. The assessment should be informed by relevant guidance such as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 2022 guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment'.	
Planning Inspectorate	Telecommunications, television receptors and utilities	3.8.6	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out these matters on the basis that a standalone desk-based assessment will be carried out. The Inspectorate considers that insufficient evidence has been supplied to confirm the potential effects of the Proposed Development on telecommunications, utilities and television reception, particularly given the stage of the design for the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate does not therefore agree that these matters can be scoped out of the assessment at this stage	This point is noted and a preliminary assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on telecommunications, television reception and utilities is presented in Section 14.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics .
Planning Inspectorate	Major Accidents and Disasters	3.8.7	Based on the information provided within the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of the following major accidents or disasters, in relation to both the risk of the Proposed Development causing, and the Proposed Development's vulnerability to, can be scoped out: • geological disasters – landslides, earthquakes, sinkholes; • hydrological disasters – limnic eruptions, tsunamis / storm surge • meteorological disasters – blizzards, cyclonic storms, droughts, • thunderstorms, hailstorms, heat waves, tornadoes, air quality events (emissions); • transport – rail accidents; • engineering accidents – bridge failure, tunnel failure or fire, • tunnel failure, dam failure, mast and tower collapse, building failure or fire; • industrial accidents – defence industry, energy industry (fossil fuel), nuclear power, oil and gas refinery / storage, food industry, chemical industry, manufacturing industry, mining/extractive industry; • terrorism / civil unrest; • war; and • disease – human disease, animal disease	This point is noted and a preliminary assessment of project specific major accidents and disasters is presented in Section 14.6 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics .
Planning Inspectorate	Structure of the ES	3.8.8	The Inspectorate notes the approach within the ES to provide a single chapter supported by technical notes to address Air Quality (dust and vehicle and plant emissions), Glint and Glare, Contaminated Land, Major Accidents and Disasters and Waste effects. The Inspectorate considers that there is insufficient evidence yet available to conclude that these aspects will not give rise to significant effects. Each aspect assessment should nevertheless be supported by proportionate information. Each section should provide a baseline, appropriate figures to allow identification of sensitive receptors and study areas and evidence to support any conclusions with reference to appropriate published aspect – specific guidance where relevant. Where significant effects are likely to occur, an appropriate methodology for the assessments, that refers to the overarching EIA methodology in the ES, should also be provided. This information should all be easy to locate within the ES.	Each aspect assessment within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics is supported by proportionate information. This information will also be provided in the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Glint and Glare	3.8.9	The ES should include a full comparison of impacts of the two potential options considered in the Scoping Report for the deployment of either tracking or fixed solar panels, unless the detailed design has reached a point where the proposed panel type is confirmed. Should tracking solar panels be selected, glint and glare potential in relation to the degree/orientation and any pivot of the panel should also be considered within the ES.	This is noted. Section 14.3 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics presents a preliminary assessment of glint and glare effects for fixed south facing and tracker panel arrangements. For other assessments within the PEI Report the panel arrangement is not relevant, and the assessment is carried out based on the maximum parameters defined in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Proposed Development .
Planning Inspectorate	Ground Conditions	3.8.10	The scope of the assessment provided in the Scoping Report indicates several pathways to significant effects from contaminants (such as release of drilling fluids from Horizontal Directional Drilling and potential for spillages from hazardous loads) and identifies potential for ground instability from previous quarrying activities. As baseline data have not yet been gathered and no details are available of the nature of the potential contamination sources within the site boundary, ground stability or the Proposed Development,	A Phase 1 PRA Report has been prepared for the Proposed Development and is provided as PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 14-B . A Framework CEMP is included at PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 3-A and will be further refined within the ES. This

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			the Inspectorate considers that significant effects on ground conditions cannot be excluded at this stage. The ES should therefore contain an assessment of potential effects on ground conditions, where significant effects are likely to occur.	presents measures to minimise the risk of release of drilling fluids from Horizontal Directional Drilling and potential for spillages from hazardous loads. An assessment of the potential effects on ground conditions will be discussed in the Other Environmental Topics chapter of the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Major Accidents and Disasters	3.8.11	The Inspectorate notes the approach to considering the identified short list of major accidents or disaster risks in existing technical assessments rather than as a specific aspect chapter. Not all shortlisted effects in Table 15-1, however, appear as part of the scope of the assessment presented in the stated technical chapters of the Scoping Report. The ES should contain appropriate signposting so that it is possible to locate these assessments and to ensure that all identified effects are appropriately considered in the relevant aspect chapters.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics Section 14.6 Major Accidents and Disasters signposts to relevant chapter or appendix of the PEI Report where these matters are addressed.
Planning Inspectorate	Major Accidents and Disasters	3.8.12	The ES should also consider the effects from failure of the proposed battery storage systems. This should include consideration of the risks from overheating, or explosion. Mitigation measures to control or eliminate potential adverse effects should also be described.	A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application covering the safety measures designed for the BESS and demonstrating alignment with the relevant fire safety guidelines.
Planning Inspectorate	Waste	3.8.13	A description of the potential streams and volumes of construction and operational waste disposal are proposed to be covered within the ES description of development chapter. Impacts are proposed to be addressed through an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan, and a Site Waste Management Plan within a CEMP. The Scoping Report states that solar panels would be disposed of or recycled in the decommissioning phase and that operational waste will be negligible. The ES should include an assessment of waste impacts for the decommissioning phase. This should outline what measures, if any, are in place to ensure that components (e.g. from batteries and / or panels) are able to be diverted from the waste chain and disposed of safely given that some types of solar panels can contain hazardous materials. Waste should be managed in line with the waste hierarchy based on available technology at the time. The ES should also consider the requirement for cumulative impacts to be assessed at decommissioning due to a number of solar farms in the local area also likely to be decommissioning in a similar timescale.	The materials and waste section of the PEI Report (PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 14 Section 14.5) provides a qualitative assessment of waste impacts and cumulative impacts for the decommissioning phase. Further assessment will be provided in the ES. A Framework DEMP will accompany the DCO application and will set out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A DEMP based on the Framework DEMP will be prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities at that time of decommissioning, in advance of the commencement of decommissioning works. This will be secured through a DCO requirement.
Planning Inspectorate	Electromagnetic Fields	3.8.14	The Scoping Report indicates that the electricity to be generated by the Proposed Development is expected to be exported via a 400kV connection either underground or overhead to a new National Grid substation. Where a 400kV overhead line option is progressed, the ES should consider the potential for effects on human health from possible EMF, taking into account relevant guidance, where significant effects are likely to occur.	400kV overhead electricity transmission lines are no longer proposed as part of the project.
Natural England	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Natural England have not had any pre-application engagement with this project. We consider there to be no known designated site issues; however we consider that the implications for Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land to be of primary importance for this project, due to land take involved.	This point is noted, consideration is given to this point within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .
Natural England	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	It is recognised that due to the nature of the solar panels a good proportion of the agricultural land affected by the development will not be permanently lost. However, the report acknowledges that the development may operate beyond the stated minimum 40-year development lifetime and the applicant is not seeking a time limited consent. In order to both retain the long-term potential of this land and to safeguard all soil resources as part of the overall sustainability of the whole development, it is important that the soil is able to retain as many of its essential functions and services (ecosystem services) as possible. Natural England consider that potential for a longer-term loss of agricultural land should also be included within any assessment where the 40-year lifespan is not definite.	This point is noted and an assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-economics .
Natural England	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Paragraph 2.2.2 states that Natural England soils report that most of the land has a Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) of Grade 3, with some Grade 2. The distribution of Grade 3a, Grade 3b and Grade 2 land needs to be determined, Grade 3a is considered BVL. Paragraph 2.2.2 states that an ALC survey will be undertaken and at paragraph 13.6.13 that this will be undertaken with reference to the Natural England guidance	This point is noted. The results of the ALC survey are presented in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report .

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Natural England	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Natural England reiterates that the following issues should be considered and included as part of the Environmental Statement (ES): • The quantity and quality of land that will be permanently and temporarily lost to the development. This should include the cable route. The ALC survey should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. The survey data can inform suitable soil handling methods and appropriate reuse of the soil resource where required (e.g. agricultural reinstatement, habitat creation, landscaping, allotments and public open space). • Details of how any adverse impacts on soils, in particular BMV agricultural land, can be avoided or minimised through site design/masterplan. Also details of how soils will be sustainably used and managed on site. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts. Mitigation should include reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. • Details of any proposed agricultural use of the site during the operational phase, and details of intended restoration following decommissioning.	ALC survey has been completed for the Principal Site, with survey methods and results described in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report. A Framework Soil Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application which will contain soil handling methods for the entire Site, including the Cable Corridor.
Navenby Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	How the choice of site for this project is coherent with Government policy on the use of best and most versatile land	PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12A: Socio-Economics Legislation and Policy outlines government policy relating to soils and agriculture. Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution.
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	It is disappointing that the Scoping Report does not even reference the 'East Midlands Agricultural Land Classification Map (ALC005)' and therefore does not provide any tabulated data on potential proportions of BMV across the study area. Reference to that mapping suggests that most of the study area is undefined Grade 3, with some discreet areas of Grade 2 land around Witham St Hughes, Thorpe on the Hill and Haddington.	A detailed baseline following the completion of ALC surveys is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	ALC soil survey should be carried out across the extent of the proposed DCO boundary rather than being 'discretionary' as is inferred. Notwithstanding, paragraph 13.6.13 then notes that an ALC survey of the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be undertaken with reference to the Natural England guidance. The February 2021 Natural England 'Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land' document (TIN049) alongside the MAFF 1988 guidance should be adopted which requires augering every hectare on a regular grid on agricultural land in the proposed development area	This point is noted. The results of the ALC survey are presented in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report .
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	The ALC should identify where BMV land is and the scheme should seek to protect and minimise damage to higher grade land wherever possible in line with national planning policy. There is undoubtedly a lot of BMV land in this vicinity and only a full ALC will identify where it is and what the Grade and quality is. Laboratory analysis of representative samples should be used to determine textures.	This point is noted. The results of the ALC survey are presented in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report .
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	With reference to the proposed cable route options, it seems likely that 50-100% of the cable route will be BMV, where any loss is likely to be significant. However, irrespective of the land quality issues, there will be matters of concern to farmers and landowners including: • Land drainage • Weed burden • Biosecurity for plant diseases • Timeliness of soil stripping, storage and handling • Compaction of subsoil • Re-instatement to previous quality/standard. These matters will need to be addressed if the scheme is to proceed	Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution. It is noted that the land within the Cable Corridor will be returned to its original use (agriculture) upon completion of construction. A Framework Soil Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application which will contain soil handling methods for the entire Site, including the Cable Corridor.
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Paragraph 13.6.14 notes that it is not currently confirmed how the land will be managed under and around the solar PV modules but that there is potential for continued agricultural use of the land through grazing and that the proposals relating to this will be presented in the ES to inform the assessment. The ES chapter should be structured to reference:	Grazing may be used within the solar PV areas during operation where and when appropriate, and the Applicant is exploring this option. PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics assumes that the land within the solar PV array areas will not be in

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			➤ Acknowledging the proposed change from primarily arable farming to solar ➤ Whether any pastoral farming (for example sheep grazing) is proposed within the site, and if so where and how this is to be secured. This should include; ➤ identifying whether contracts are in place for pastoral farming; ➤ whether those contracts span the operational duration of the scheme (60 years minimum); ➤ whether and how the applicant considers that such contractual obligations, and more broadly, a change from one type of agricultural activity (pre-development) to another (postdevelopment) could be legally secured, monitored and enforced through the DCO regime –for example through the use of Requirements/legal agreement ➤ For all other areas within the site whether or how those areas will remain in agricultural activity with the presence of solar panels and BNG habitat/landscaping implementation.	agricultural use for the duration of construction, operation and decommissioning activities at the Principal Site.
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	In order to satisfy Schedule 4 (7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 the applicant must be able to identify and arguably secure any measures relied upon to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects; not least where this is partly relied upon by any proposed change in agricultural activity across the site.	Mitigation measures relied upon within the EIA will be stated within the framework management plans accompanying the DCO application and secured through the requirements of the DCO.
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Grazing represents a form of disturbance to the area, thus preventing any one species becoming too dominant. It also helps manage the sward to provide an optimum habitat for invertebrates. Stock densities are generally monitored and adjusted to prevent either under and overgrazing and to ensure the sward contains a mix of long and short vegetation with some plants in flower. There is therefore some conflict between maintaining the land in agricultural production and improving biodiversity. Whilst not incompatible, site based issues, such as soil type(s) and local agricultural practices may therefore pose conflicts which the relevant ES chapter/s should assess.	The Applicant welcomes the recognition that grazing provides a valuable means of managing grassland areas with a view to achieving an enhanced biodiversity as compared with current agricultural husbandry. It is acknowledged that stocking densities need to be monitored and, when necessary, adjusted to achieve the right level of grazing for given types of grassland as dictated by soil types and drainage. Grazing may be used within the solar PV areas during operation where and when appropriate, and the Applicant is exploring this option.
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	The ES should consider the potentially negative effects associated with the inevitable removal of land from agricultural production and that there may be businesses/tenants/occupiers currently undertaking agricultural operations across the site boundary who may cease to do so for the duration of the operational phase of the development	This comment is noted and an assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	With reference to cumulative BMV/ALC considerations, the ES should reference the other Lincolnshire solar energy NSIP schemes referred to elsewhere in this response. The situation is a moving picture as new proposals come forward from time to time.	This point is noted. A preliminary cumulative effects assessment is presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Cumulative and Effect Interactions . A full cumulative effects assessment will be undertaken and presented within the ES.
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	For a project of this scale where the project will tie up the land for up to 40 years, there will invariably be some impact both individually and cumulatively; if the BMV proportions are greater and of higher grades following the completion of sampling (in line with TIN049) then the loss of such a large area of land would on an individual basis normally be considered as significant at District level, even though the use is 'temporary', and cumulatively of potentially greater significance at a County level. Any temporary or permanent loss of land due either through construction, or through the creation of BNG areas, may affect this assessment further.	This point is noted and has been considered within the preliminary cumulative assessment presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .
North Kesteven District Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	We also advise that the ES contains a farm holdings impact statement with reference to the farm holdings affected by the proposal and which addresses viability, infrastructure and long term consequences on the individual holding. The Soils Management Plan (SMP) should include reference to soil structural issues and waterlogging that has occurred on solar farms elsewhere in the UK.	A Framework Soil Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application which will contain soil handling methods.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that an Agricultural Land Classification Report should be submitted as part of the ES, setting out the justification for the loss of BMV land and how criterion b of Policy 67 has been met. As required under Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023, Policy 67	This point is noted. The results of the ALC survey are provided in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report .
Coleby Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Information in an Environmental Statement: this is the information that Coleby Parish Council proposes for inclusion in an Environmental Statement: Ø An Agricultural Land Classification Report, as per Local Plan Policy Number 67. Ø Alternative sites for this development should be considered and details given (in	This point is noted. The results of the ALC survey are appended to the PEI Report as PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report and rationale for the site

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			section 4 of the Scoping Report, the Applicant confirms that no other sites have been considered by them). Ø Reports from independent and appropriate experts. This list should include RSPB, The Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Tr	selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Lincolnshire County Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Loss of Agriculture The Council requests this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES. The ES and Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment should clearly identify how much of the site comprises of agricultural land and identify its ALC grade and current use. The ES should identify what (if any) measures would be taken to retain the agricultural land in productive use (i.e. sheep grazing, hay/silage production) and how this would be secured. The ES should also give consideration to the economic effects of the loss or change to the use of the agricultural land as well as a consideration of the potential carbon footprint created through the displacement or removal of this land from productive use. This needs to be properly calculated to ensure that the full carbon gains or benefits of this proposal are accurate. The 'alternatives' exercise needs to consider alternative site layouts and potentially a reduction in MW generating capacity in order to demonstrate avoidance or minimisation of agricultural land impacts.	An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-economics . Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	The document discusses that 2,500 acres of BMV land at Grade 3 will be used for the solar farm therefore removing agricultural growing capacity and National Food security. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see how Fosse Green can justify the use of Grade 3 agricultural land for an Industrial solar farm as opposed to providing food for the country.	The Applicant has commissioned ALC survey within the Principal Site; the results of the ALC survey are provided PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report . The majority of the Principal Site is classed as non-BMV. An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-economics . Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Coleby Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	A significant acreage of productive grade 3 arable land will be lost as a result of the development. Global climate change will result in a higher rate of crop failure. Long term yields per hectare of arable land are consequently expected to fall. A larger land area will therefore be required in order to ensure UK food security. This resource should not be compromised.	An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics . As the Parish notes, the largest threat to farming is climate change; the project will be part of the UK solution to achieving net zero and avoiding contributing to climate change. The Applicant is currently gathering information from the landowners on food crops onsite and more information on the loss and its impact on the national food security will be provided in the ES.
Coleby Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Food Production: the project covers a very large area of good to moderate farming land. The Government's aim via DEFRA is to make our food production more sustainable – the most basic way to do this is by being as self-sufficient as possible with food production in our own country. Losing vital farming land does not seem a wise decision with this in mind, particularly brought home in the last year or so by the war in Ukraine and the rising cost of living	An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .
Navenby Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	The absence of a Government solar energy planning and usage strategy risks yet another large-scale solar energy scheme being built in a rural area where others exist already, displaced from where the energy is needed, and undermining the UK's strategic food security capacity.	This comment is noted.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council requests that the ES contains a full consideration of the impact the loss of 2,500 acres of BMV land will have on the GLLEP agri-food priority and further, that this impact assessment be set in the context of the cumulative land loss effect of other solar farms proposed in the area.	An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .
Wellingore Parish Council	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	The report does not deal in any detail with the loss of agricultural land. It is not true to say that the land is of limited agricultural productivity. Indeed, it has supported farming, farming families and the fabric of society in this area for centuries. The versatile land is capable of growing a wide range of agricultural crops and has done so, including potatoes and sugar beet with the proximity of the sugar processing factory at Newark being advantageous to production of this crop. The proposal would lead to an annual loss of agricultural output in the order of £2m. A full analysis of the land use should be scoped in and we are alarmed to see that this was scoped out in the recent Springwell application.	The Applicant has commissioned an ALC survey within the Principal Site; the results of the ALC survey are provided PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-B: Agricultural Land Classification Report . The majority of the Principal Site is classed as non-BMV. An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics .

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Wellingore Parish Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Scoping of land use should include the effect of the loss of agricultural activity leading to the loss of jobs in the area, both those of farm workers and of tenant farmers and of those whose industry rely on the provision of inputs to the farming sector. This should be assessed in detail, including land quality and classification.	An assessment of effects on agricultural land is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-economics . The assessment presented in Chapter 12: Socio-Economics also considers job loss and creation.
Wellingore Parish Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	It appears that tenants on agricultural holdings may lose part of their land and as a result could find themselves with unviable holdings and may lose not just their business but their house and their livelihood and security into retirement. The number of tenants and the effect on their livelihoods and businesses should be considered.	There will be a change of jobs onsite due to the Proposed Development, and PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics notes that The Applicant has estimated that to operate and maintain the solar farm there will be a gross number of four permanent jobs generated by the Proposed Development. It is expected that with visiting workers and additional staff occasionally required when the solar infrastructure needs replacing or cleaning, up to 20 staff per day may be working onsite. There will also be additional offsite jobs supported by the Proposed Development. The tenant farmers may have opportunities to change to sheep farming along with wider contractual opportunities for the management of the site, which the Applicant aims to implement in the solar PV areas. Further consideration will be given to jobs in the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	In this section consideration also needs to be given to looking at the benefits of keeping the land, subject of this project, in agricultural use and the impact on food production in the region.	Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Navenby Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	What other sites were considered for this project, and why Lincolnshire (and this area in particular) was selected	Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Navenby Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	What evaluation has been completed to determine that this and other large-scale solar farms are the most appropriate form of renewable energy for installation in this area – e.g. how many wind turbines would be required to generate the same amount of power	Rationale for the selection of technology is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
North Kesteven District Council	Alternatives	N/A	Turning to the chapters/sections of the report, other than noting the proposed grid connection corridor options (north, central and south) the drawings do not even present an indicative internal layout of the proposed solar array/battery storage development – nor – crucially is a grid connection location illustrated. Whilst three route options, as above, are noted we understand that there is not yet a grid connection secured by the applicant (or if there is this is not matter of public record) which reinforces our concerns regarding prematurity.	An indicative layout is presented in PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 3-2 . The Proposed Development will connect to the National Grid's proposed substation near Navenby. National Grid completed consultation on the new substation in the Navenby area on 16 October 2024.
North Kesteven District Council	Alternatives	N/A	Nevertheless, the March 2023 Scoping Report for the Springwell Solar Farm illustrates land in the area of Navenby Heath as capable of accommodating a new NG substation and it is assumed that both the Fosse Green and Springwell schemes would connect into this. The Council awaits confirmation from the National Grid following recent correspondence, although paragraph 3.2.28 suggests that this might be imminent. The Planning Inspectorate should therefore satisfy themselves that the Fosse Green Solar scoping report is sufficiently detailed (in relation to grid connection issues) to enable a meaningful assessment of potential significant environmental effects given that this remains a significant 'unknown' at the present time and has particular implications for the consideration of 'alternatives'.	This point is noted. The location of the proposed substation is a decision made and justified by National Grid.
North Kesteven District Council	Alternatives	N/A	Paragraphs 4.1.3 and 4.2.1 state that the alternatives analysis is likely to focus on different Proposed Development layouts, sizing, technologies and design parameters, and site location and that the reasons for site selection will be detailed in the ES. There is no specific reference to alternative sites, nor the degree to which the various environmental or other constraints will be factored into the search parameters in order to identify and potentially rule out (with evidence) what those alternatives are.	Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
North Kesteven District Council	Alternatives	N/A	It is accepted that the grid connection option is a key locational factor for solar farms however as above there is (currently) no grid connection available, and no information on the location, timings and responsibilities for delivering a new NG substation near Navenby. Whilst this might evolve as the scheme develops, at present therefore the 'alternatives' search area is potentially very extensive	National Grid plans for the new substation near Navenby have advanced. Consultation on the new substation in the Navenby area has been completed on 16 October 2024.

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			(District/County/Regional) reflective of there presumably being NG substation connections elsewhere. We would therefore suggest that the scoping opinion cannot/should not specify anything other than an extensive alternatives/site selection zone at this stage. This also has a crossover with the application of the flood risk sequential test referred to below, and (depending on detailed augering and ALC analysis) BMV land considerations.	
Norton Disney Parish Clerk	Alternatives	N/A	4. A mixture of much smaller solar panel sites and wind turbines would be preferable and may generate as much energy	It is acknowledged that various forms of renewable energy could make a valuable contribution towards UK's net zero targets. Wind power has not been taken forward due to its unsuitability to the Site. Rationale for the selection of technology and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that the ES contains a full comparative analysis of all alternative technologies that could be employed, including wind turbines.	Rationale for the selection of technology and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request the ES contains full details of other sites considered, particularly brown field sites and those not including a high proportion of BMV land, and full details of why those sites were considered less suitable.	Rationale for the site selection and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Wellingore Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	The scoping is inadequate to the point of disingenuous on grid connection. To merely state that there are three possible routes to grid connection suggests that the application is not yet fit for submission. Further, such grid connection is dependent upon the Springwell development and the construction of a new substation – this is far from pre-determined nor is it necessary or desirable, nor is there any proven need. Better by far to utilise existing grid connections without construction of additional unnecessary infrastructure. This matter requires further detail to be made available and subject to scrutiny	At this stage of the Proposed Development the grid connection strategy is well defined. The design of the Proposed Development has been refined to one Cable Corridor connecting the Principal Site to the new substation in the Navenby area. National Grid completed consultation on the new substation in the Navenby area on 16 October 2024.
Wellingore Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	There is no consideration of alternatives. On shore wind turbines could generate a similar output of electricity and occupy just three hectares of land. Substantial investment in offshore turbine capacity mitigates the need for large scale solar installations. Further, solar power production is singularly mismatched to usage, producing very little in the winter. Scoping should include analysis of alternative power generation and usage data, particularly as there is no local need or connection. Such scoping should also include land use for energy crops and availability of sites of lesser land quality.	It is acknowledged that various forms of renewable energy could make a valuable contribution towards UK's net zero targets. Wind power has not been taken forward due to its unsuitability to the Site. Rationale for the selection of technology and design evolution is provided in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution .
Wellingore Parish Council	Alternatives	N/A	Amenity use of land also supports hospitality and other rural jobs and vocations. Cyclists and walkers will not abound to walk amongst 3m high panels and fenced footpaths, roadways and tracks. The likely effect on use of the area by such user groups should be scoped in	The design of the Proposed Development incorporates buffers (minimum 10m) between the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and the fence line, with wider buffers and sympathetic planting proposed at selected locations. Additional permissive paths are proposed complementing the network of the existing permissive paths and PRoW, thus improving the connectivity through the Site. Recreational users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) have been considered as a receptor within various assessments such as Landscape and Visual Amenity (PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10) , Traffic and Transport (PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13) and Noise and Vibration (PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11) .
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Arboriculture Landscape Ecology	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that the A46 woodland belt and other woodland as listed should be identified and included in the ES. It is further requested that trees and hedges along highway verges and field hedgerows should also be identified and included in the ES.	All woodland, hedges and trees within the Site, including those along the A46 have been mapped and included in PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 8-4: Phase 1 Habitat Map . An Arboricultural Impact Assessment will be completed, the results of which will be included with the ES chapter and submitted as part of the DCO application.
Forestry Commission	Arboriculture	N/A	Details should be provided of how the existing trees and woodlands within the site will be protected during the construction phase, protection measures can include taking care not to cut tree roots or causing soil	The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid impacts on trees and woodlands as much as practicable.

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			compaction around trees (e.g., through vehicle movements or stacking heavy equipment) or contamination from poisons. Protection measures can include fencing of Root Protection Zones, Directional lighting to avoid light pollution in the Ancient Woodland, damping down tracks to reduce dust pollution etc. We also particularly refer you to further technical information set out in Natural England and Forestry Commission's Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland – plus supporting Assessment Guide and “Keepers of Time” – Ancient and Native Woodland and Trees Policy in England.	Arboricultural Impact Assessment will be provided at the ES stage and will include tree protection measures.
Coleby Parish Council	Battery Safety	N/A	Ø Safety: the safety of the Battery Energy Storage Systems is of concern, especially as the Government has chosen not to include them under the auspices of COMAH. The Fordham/Allison article in June 2021 on the safety of Grid Scale Lithium reveals how dangerous the BESS can be, and the extensive facilities needed to try and control any failure. Safety and the specific locations of the BESS in relation to residential areas should be reported on, as well as high pressure gas lines, the fuel network for RAF Waddington, and any commercial storage areas of fuels and chemicals. In Appendix B of the Scoping Report Fosse Green Energy reveal their assessment of dangers, and the two below is where they mention BESS. Ø They judge with no detail that weather temperatures are not expected to have any impact, and they only ‘anticipate’ that the cooling systems will regulate temperatures to safe conditions - Section 3.6 heat waves. Ø In 3.8 under Fires, they suggest that there will be ‘adequate’ separation between the battery banks. Presumably as they are not under the regulation of COMAH, there is no confirmed safety distance, and in the Fordham/Allison article they suggest the danger is not just from fire, but thermal runaway, explosions, and the release of flammable gasses.	Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are becoming more common in the UK and are a safe to operate due to careful design, equipment selection and provision of safety measures in line with the relevant regulations such as secure access for firefighting and onsite storage of firefighting water. A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO application demonstrating compliance with the applicable safety and operational requirements from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).
Navenby Parish Council	Battery Safety	N/A	Many experts do not believe the large storage batteries to be safe, and it is understood that should one catch fire it could not be extinguished and would have to be left to burn itself out. Furthermore, given that potentially unfriendly nations hold much of the finite supply of raw materials needed for battery construction, how would the risk of batteries becoming increasingly expensive be mitigated	Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are becoming more common in the UK and are a safe to operate due to careful design, equipment selection and provision of safety measures in line with the relevant regulations such as secure access for firefighting and onsite storage of firefighting water. A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO application demonstrating compliance with the applicable safety and operational requirements from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Battery Safety	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that a full assessment of the potential hazards and risk to life of placing an estimated 192 batteries, each 6.5m by 2.5m by 3m in proximity to residential housing be included in the ES. This should include a full impact assessment of a fire and explosion, not just a dismissal of these events as unlikely to happen. This assessment should take note that the UK's record temperature, 40.3 degrees centigrade, was recorded within 35 km of the proposed site.	A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO application demonstrating compliance with the applicable safety and operational requirements from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).
Wellingore Parish Council	Ecology	N/A	The biodiversity net gain (BNG) of the project is not adequately dealt with, nor is the construction of the site such as to enhance the landscape for deer, hare and other species of animal and bird as may otherwise proliferate. Fenced areas create corridors trapping deer, hare and hunting owls at the mercy of road traffic. There will be significant change to flora and fauna under this massive extent of panelling. This change in habitat, food supply and breeding cycles should be scoped in	A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken (using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric) to identify opportunities for contributing to BNG. These opportunities will be identified and set out within the ES, in line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the NPPF and local planning policy, including the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The assessment of impacts on biodiversity will follow CIEEM guidelines and the preliminary assessment presented in this PEI Report outlines effects on ecological features during construction and operational phases, including any reduction in connectivity resulting from the Proposed Development, such as through fencing. This will include ensuring that fencing will be permeable for animals and offset from roads to ensure that fauna is not put at risk from road traffic as well as not putting road users at risk. The integration of biodiversity enhancement within the design of the solar farm will include measures to increase biodiversity of mammals, birds and insects (and other invertebrates). These

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				enhancements will be linked together within the solar farm as well as to green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape, contributing to the Local Nature Recovery Network. This will include ensuring that fencing will be permeable for these animals and offset from roads to ensure that fauna is not put at risk from road traffic as well as not putting road users at risk.
Environment Agency	Climate Change	N/A	Paragraph 7.5.6 and Table 7-2 The In-combination Climate Change Impacts (ICCI) for an increase in precipitation may need to be considered owing to the significance of the Witham Washlands flood storage area in protecting Lincolnshire. The arrays of solar panels may increase the rate of runoff as they form an impermeable surface and will cover a significant area and in combination with the “wetter” winters. The applicant should provide an evidence-based justification for scoping out sea level rise that considers the whole lifetime of the development which should be assumed to be 75 years (e.g., from the tidal river Trent). The assessment should be quantitative (no method has been proposed).	Regarding runoff from solar panels, it is largely accepted that the panels drain at source in between the panel spaces and the maintenance strips, with no effective increase in peak runoff from the PV field areas. However, a drainage strategy will include SuDS and techniques such as rural SuDS (RSuDS) to utilise planting where runoff falls from the panel to prevent erosion and channelling of overland runoff. Swales / attenuation will also be utilised to intercept runoff from any impermeable areas, with edge swales around PV fields to provide betterment. Sea Level rise will be assessed in line with the Gov.uk advice for a quantitative assessment. Tidal modelling is not proposed at this stage subject to this assessment and EA agreement. An In-Combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment will be undertaken and the outputs will be presented in the ES. It will consider the combined impacts of precipitation change on the Proposed Development. The Design life in operation of the Proposed Development is 60 years, the assessment is based on a 60 year design life.
Environment Agency	Climate Change	N/A	Paragraph 7.7.1 and Table 7-5 See above and which suggests that sea level rise and precipitation may need to be scoped in depending on the evidence presented for ICCI. Similarly, consideration may also need to be provided for the Climate Change Resilience Review for sea level rise and precipitation depending on the evidence presented to demonstrate that these parameters are negligible for the lifetime of the development.	Noted, this will be covered through the approach set out above. Climate change resilience review and ICCI assessment will be undertaken and the outputs to presented in the ES and will consider the combined impacts of sea level rise and precipitation on the Proposed Development.
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change	N/A	Climate Change (chapter 7) Request that this chapter includes details on the following matters: • What is the energy consumption and associated carbon emissions of any battery storage system? • What are the carbon emissions associated with the solar PV panels themselves – separated into manufacture, operation, and maintenance (and which panels are to be used – poly, multi, single crystal silicon)? Is the embedded carbon associated with the panel manufacture included in any payback of carbon (bearing in mind that the panels are likely to be imported)? • Power losses and associated carbon footprint of connecting cables to the grid need estimating. • With regard to greenhouse Gas Emissions this should be directly be compared to the number of years it will take for development to be carbon neutral. However to get a true reflective understanding of the benefits/harm to the environment it should be compared to a least one fossil fuel, nuclear and at least one alternative renewable energy. It is considered that by doing this the clear environmental benefits should be highlighted and allow for careful consideration against the impacts of the development.	The GHG assessment has been undertaken according to the IEMA Guidance with consideration of construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, including the product embodied carbon, and the assessment methodology is outlined in the climate chapter. The perceived benefit of the project on GHG impact is covered in the chapter.
North Kesteven District Council	Climate Change	N/A	However, it would be beneficial if the applicant can clearly evidence the estimated lifetime emissions compared to estimated CO2 saved from renewable energy generation (and therefore the carbon payback period). During these calculations, we will expect the applicant to use the latest conversion factors (2022), rather than the 2021 conversion factors as referenced in the scoping report. We would also request consideration of current electricity measure mix when calculating emissions data and expecting savings, rather than comparison with gas generated electricity.	A benchmarking approach is adopted in the GHG assessment for the PEI Report, within which emission factors are not used. The latest emission factors available will be applied within the ES. The GHG assessment has been undertaken according to the IEMA Guidance. The assessment methodology is outlined in Section 6.4 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change . The perceived benefit of indirect emission reduction associated with the Proposed Development is also discussed in the Chapter 6: Climate Change .

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North Kesteven District Council	Climate Change	N/A	In addition to the quoted national legislation, NPPF, national guidance and local planning policy, key NKDC documents alluding to climate change – namely our Climate Emergency Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan – should also be referred to. The Council has a separate target timeline to government targets and this should be considered during the assessment.	The local strategies are considered in the assessment which is in alignment with the local strategies as listed in Section 6.2 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
North Kesteven District Council	Climate Change	N/A	We welcome the consideration of carbon sequestration within the scoping report however would like further data on the management of this and consideration of multi-use approaches, whether this includes some livestock or planting of species to increase the organic matter over the operational lifetime of development.	Carbon sequestration impacts as a result of land use change are discussed in Section 6.4 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
North Kesteven District Council	Climate Change	N/A	Whilst not directly a matter for EIA Scoping, we would also request that the applicant give consideration to an agreement that a % of renewable energy could be directed to and utilised locally. In addition, a commitment to publishing annual kWh generation would lend itself to understanding and calculating our carbon footprint as a District, since NSIP developments are not included in government LA GHG emissions calculations.	Electricity generated by the Proposed Development will be exported to the national electricity transmission system (NETS), where it will be mixed with electricity from other sources before being distributed to consumers. Consequently, it is not technically feasible to direct a portion of the electricity generated by the Proposed Development exclusively to local consumers.
North Kesteven District Council	Climate Change	N/A	Finally, table 7.1, 'primary emission sources' sets out that it will consider operational GHG emissions from material use and waste generation resulting from ongoing site maintenance. This should be expanded to include GHG associated with the manufacture and transport of replacement parts, components, plant and equipment during the course of the 40-year operation of development	The GHG assessment has been undertaken according to the IEMA Guidance with consideration of construction and operation phases, including maintenance, of the Proposed Development. The assessment methodology is outlined in Section 6.4 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Environment Agency	Climate Change Proposed Development	N/A	Where development involves the use of any non-road going mobile machinery with a net rated power of 37kW and up to 560kW, that is used during site preparation, construction, demolition, and/ or operation, at that site, we strongly recommend that the machinery used shall meet or exceed the latest emissions standards set out in Regulation (EU) 2016/1628 (as amended). Use of low emission technology will improve or maintain air quality and support LPAs and developers in improving and maintaining local air quality standards and support their net zero objectives. We also advise, the item(s) of machinery must also be registered (where a register is available) for inspection by the appropriate Competent Authority, which is usually the local authority. The requirement to include this may already be required by a policy in the local plan or strategic spatial strategy document. The Environment Agency can also require this same standard to be applied to sites which it regulates. To avoid dual regulation, this advice should only be applied to the site preparation, construction, and demolition phases at sites that may require an environmental permit. Non-Road Mobile Machinery includes items of plant such as bucket loaders, forklift trucks, excavators, 360 grab, mobile cranes, machine lifts, generators, static pumps, piling rigs etc. The Applicant should be able to state or confirm the use of such machinery in their application	Benchmarking approach is adopted in the GHG assessment for this stage. The GHG assessment of site plant use at the construction phase has been undertaken followed the IEMA Guidance, adopting a reasonable worst case scenario. Potential carbon saving measures are covered in the mitigation section of the climate chapter. Any additional specifications for non-road going mobile machinery will be considered at the ES stage.
Environment Agency	Climate Change Water Environment Landscape Noise Transport	N/A	Table 17-1 • Climate change: In the absence of any assessment of modelled flood data, we would advised that sea level rise and precipitation are scoped in, as discussed above. • Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water: Where possible flood risk should be assessed quantitatively rather than qualitatively. • Landscape and Visual Amenity: Where changes in levels are proposed these should be assessed in relation to impacts on flood risk on site and elsewhere. • Noise and Vibration: Ground-borne vibration from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development should be included. Applicant needs to demonstrate that work will be safe for the flood defences. • Transport and Access: We need to see the access routes in relation to the flood defences. Routes have not been identified so we cannot say yet whether this is a risk.	Effects due to vibration generated from construction and decommissioning activities have been considered in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration . Operational vibration has been scoped out as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate. Sea level rise and climate change, including precipitation, has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . Drainage, including quantity and quality has been assessed. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-D: Preliminary Drainage Strategy .
Wellingore Parish Council		N/A	There is no mention of CIL or any form of social payback by the developer to the local social fabric, schools, educational trusts and funds or local churches, playgroups or similar.	Whilst there is no CIL associated with a Development Consent Order application (like it may be for a Town and Country Planning Act application), the Applicant is seeking to provide community benefits as part of the Proposed Development.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council	Consultation	N/A	There is no mention of RAF Waddington or consultation with the Ministry of Defence within the document on the proposed Fosse Green Solar farm. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like	PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 14-C: Glint and Glare Assessment concluded that the overall impacts on aviation assets, including RAF Waddington, are acceptable and not significant. As

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			to see a section on consultation with the Ministry of Defence and whether this project is likely to interfere with flight operations of RAF Waddington.	stated in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics (Section 14.7) the Proposed Development is unlikely to interfere with telecommunications infrastructure due to the relatively low height (under 5m from the ground level) of the solar PV panels, BESS, and supporting infrastructure, which will not provide an obstacle for telecommunication waves. Therefore, no such effects are anticipated in the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
Norton Disney Parish Clerk	Consultation	N/A	1. There has been no consultation by/with Fosse Green Energy. An imposed deadline for submissions by affected communities prior to any form of consultation on such a large proposal is ludicrous and is bound to foster 'hostility'	All relevant parish councils will be consulted with during statutory consultation.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	We disagree with the suggested study area at paragraph 8.2.1 namely for non-designated assets extending to a distance of 1km from the Site boundary, and 3km in the case of designated heritage assets. We would suggest that the minimum study area of 5km is adopted for both designated and non-designated heritage assets and note that PINS have adopted a 5km study area for other solar NSIP projects in the District.	The study areas proposed align with other solar farm schemes in Lincolnshire. Applying a 5km study area for both designated and non-designated would scope in thousands of heritage assets and is not proportionate. A 3-5km study area has been applied for designated assets of high significance around the Principal Site.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	With reference to paragraph 8.2.2 it is unclear what is meant a 'flexible approach will be taken to the identification of high-value assets' on which there may be an impact upon setting, up to 5km from the site boundary. As above, we consider that a minimum of 5km should be adopted for all heritage assets however there might be designated heritage assets outside of the study boundary which require individual consideration/agreement; for example potentially long distant views of Lincoln Cathedral from the area within the Witham/Brant valley southeast of Bassingham	Any views relating to Lincoln Cathedral will be considered at ES stage along with potential setting relationships between land within the Proposed Development and the Cathedral. Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) will be produced to assess possible views. In respect of the study areas applied to the assessment, please see the response comment above. For those high status assets within the 3-5km study area, the flexible approach is based on professional judgment, interrelationships and views which will be supported by ZTVs at ES stage.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The section under 'Local Planning Policy' does not reference the adopted Conservation Area appraisals for Harmston, Coleby, Navenby and Bassingham (the first three with reference to the cable connection corridor).	The conservation area appraisals will be taken into account for those conservation areas scoped in for assessment at ES stage.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	Table 8-1 and paragraph 8.6.2 references criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets. It differentiates between 'conservation areas' and 'conservation areas of demonstrable high value'. However, there is no such differentiation in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 nor in the appraisals and management plans adopted by the Council and there is no reference in the scoping report as to how this will be applied. As such we favour that all conservation areas are placed in the 'high' asset value category	The methodology approach aligns with the same that has been undertaken for other solar farm assessments in Lincolnshire.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	In addition the same table contains a number of subjective asset description references, e.g. 'non-designated heritage assets (archaeological sites, historic buildings, monuments, parks, gardens or landscapes) that can be shown to have demonstrable national or international importance' and 'well preserved historic landscape character areas, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s)'. It is unclear where these are derived from and how assessments will be made in due course	The table is one that is applied on other comparable schemes and is the accepted norm for guiding assessments for historic environment assets.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	With reference to paragraphs 8.6.3 and 8.6.4 it is not particularly clear how 'value' will be applied to the heritage assets. The Scoping Report refers to "embedded mitigation", which is a subjective value, with potentially limited impact assessment, weighed against mitigation that has been designed prior to understanding the heritage value of the asset concerned. The Council is concerned that this is not a balanced approach.	Value for heritage assets is assessed as set out in the methodologies at scoping, PEI Report and at the ES stages. Embedded mitigation is design that has incorporated an approach to reduce impact on known heritage assets such as listed buildings, including setbacks to exclude them from the Site Boundary and with extended grassland areas around them so solar PV areas are not in close proximity. Assessment is undertaken on the assumption the embedded mitigation is applied and before later mitigation is introduced, which results in the residual effects.

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North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	With reference to 8.6.9, the adopted Conservation Area Appraisals for Coleby, Harmston, Navenby and Bassingham will be applicable depending in part on the preferred option for the cable connection route.	Noted.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	With reference to archaeological matters, we would refer you to the comments of the Council's consultant archaeologist at the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, attached as Appendix 1. As above, the Scoping Report states that the study areas have been defined as 1km from the site boundary for non-designated heritage assets and 3km from the site boundary for designated assets. The search areas for the desk-based assessment should be as a minimum 2km from the site boundary (including the cable route options) for non-designated heritage assets (although as above we recommend 5km) and 5km from the site boundary for designated heritage assets.	Please refer to earlier responses on the study areas.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The Settings Assessment/Heritage Impact Assessment needs to demonstrate an understanding of the significance and context of each of the assets in order to assess the impact of the development upon them and propose any mitigation.	Noted. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The Report states (8.6.10) that consultation will be undertaken with relevant heritage bodies including Historic England; the Historic Environment Officers for Lincolnshire; and the Conservation Officer for North Kesteven District Council. Consultation on cultural heritage, relating to matters on archaeology, should also include the archaeological advisor to North Kesteven District planning authority.	Noted. The relevant stakeholders will be consulted during the statutory consultation.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The baseline described in the Report comprises a summary overview of the designated and non-designated heritage assets recorded in the current search areas. No further studies are reported or summarised in the Scoping Report. The desk-based assessment should take into account a search of the recommended study areas (see above). The full suite of deskbased information needs to be assessed to inform the baseline. Desk based sources should include LiDAR and aerial photo coverage and assessment. The LCC guidance document 'entitled 'Guidance for large schemes including NSIPs and EIAs, General Scoping Opinion for the Historic Environment' also sets out the data sources that should be included to inform the baseline conditions. The scope (content) of the individual desk-based assessments should be established in discussion with the archaeological consultees.	A LiDAR and aerial photograph report has been done and is included with PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 7-D . Previous archaeological investigations are mapped and described in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 7-B: DBA and PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage . Further archaeological surveys will be agreed for implementation in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, along with relevant WSIs.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The Scoping Report (8.6.13) states that the desk-based research will be supported by a programme of non-intrusive and intrusive archaeological evaluation. The EIA will require desk-based research, non-intrusive surveys, and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact.	Noted. PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 7-B: DBA has been completed. Geophysical surveys are ongoing, and trial trenching surveys is being planned. The results of the completed surveys will be provided with the ES.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	It is stated that geophysical survey will be undertaken within the Solar and Energy Storage Park and along the Grid Connection Corridor, once a single route option has been selected. Geophysical surveys are required across all areas of potential impact. The results of the geophysical survey will inform the programme of trial trenching required.	Geophysical surveys are ongoing. The results of the completed surveys will be provided with the ES.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The report states that 'trial trenching evaluation and detailed setting assessments will be undertaken as part of the assessment process'. The results of the full desk-based assessment, including the aerial photographic and Lidar assessments, together with the results of the geophysical survey will inform the programme of trial trench evaluation. Trial trenching is required to establish the baseline conditions and to understand the nature and extent of the impacts on the archaeological remains. In order to determine the presence, absence, significance, the depth and extent of any archaeological remains which could be impacted by the development, trial trenching should target areas where archaeological remains have been identified in the foregoing, non-intrusive surveys as well as areas where the surveys have not detected archaeological remains.	Trial trenching will be undertaken and will inform the assessment and proposed mitigation measures to be provided as part of the ES.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The programmes of archaeological evaluation should be set out in a written scheme(s) of investigation (WSIs)s to be agreed with the archaeological consultees prior to commencement of the field investigation(s)	A WSI for trial trenching will be prepared and consulted upon with the relevant consultees.
		N/A	The ES will require desk-based research, non-intrusive surveys, and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of the proposed impact. Without the relevant surveys and site evaluation it will not be possible to	Noted. PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 7-B: DBA has been completed. Geophysical surveys are ongoing, and trial trenching

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			assess the likely significant effects of the proposed development and design an appropriate mitigation strategy.	surveys is being planned. The results of the completed surveys will be provided with the ES.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	The ES should consider opportunities for enhancing the environment and the positive and beneficial effects of the programme of archaeological surveys and investigations to be undertaken during ES process and the added value that a large development can make to archaeology and cultural heritage. The programme of archaeological works should include proposals for community outreach, public engagement and dissemination of the results.	Noted and will be considered.
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage	N/A	With reference to decommissioning the nature of the archaeological resource has yet to be determined and assessed and, for example where identified assets may have been avoided / protected in situ during construction / operation they may be under threat from disturbance or destruction during decommissioning. Therefore, cultural heritage should be a consideration as part of any outline decommissioning plans.	A Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be provided as part of the DCO application.
Coleby Parish Council	Cumulatives	N/A	The abundance of vast sites that are currently being proposed via The Planning Inspectorate, have a massive cumulative effect, as a huge swathe of land becomes industrial, rather than agricultural. It becomes a brownfield site, not the greenfield site it has been for so long. There are places for industrial type developments, and that is where large scale Solar and Energy Storage facilities should be considered, after appropriate planning and strategy, and investigations are undertakes as set out above.	From a biodiversity and ecological perspective, it is erroneous to equate size with negative impact and to regard solar farms as brownfield sites. Agriculture has already industrialised much of this landscape with associated use of pesticides and fertilisers along with drainage and irrigation, a significant proportion of the land being brown for periods of the year. The larger a solar farm, the greater the benefit to the soil and the watercourses into which the land drains; streams and rivers which have been previously altered by agriculture.
Lincolnshire County Council	Cumulatives	N/A	Cumulative Impacts Consideration needs to be given to the other NSIP schemes for solar farms across Lincolnshire. Many of these projects are now at the examination phase so details are available, and therefore the ES should include commentary on the cumulative impacts on the topics included in the ES from resulting from the other solar schemes in the area.	From a biodiversity and ecological perspective, the other NSIP schemes will act synergistically with the Proposed Development achieving overall that much more positive impact on the soil resource in the region and in particular the water quality, hydrology and biodiversity of watercourses from ditches to rivers. Likewise, the biogeographical configuration of what will be hot spots of biodiversity in the landscape will achieve an overall greater enhancement in the biodiversity of the county/region, increasing the size of these islands of biodiversity and decreasing the distance between them.
Natural England	Cumulatives	N/A	The Environmental Statement should include in-combination/cumulative assessment cumulative effects. We acknowledge Section 6.6 which notes that a review of other developments will be undertaken, following the identification of a 'zone of influence' (ZOI) of 5km. The approach to in-combination assessment appears suitable and will consider impacts from other development up to 5km away. The list at Paragraph 6.6.12 and the project named at 6.6.13 of other development' at Paragraphs to be included in the assessment of cumulative effects should be reviewed and updated as necessary.	In-combination and cumulative impacts are considered in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions .
Natural England	Cumulatives	N/A	Natural England are aware of a number of other solar projects in the surrounding area. The closest being Springwell Solar Farm to the south east of the project, as acknowledged in the scoping report. This, and potentially other solar and NSIPS within Lincolnshire, should be included within the in-combination assessment.	From a biodiversity and ecological perspective, the other NSIP schemes will act synergistically with the Proposed Development achieving overall that much more positive impact on the soil resource in the region and in particular the water quality, hydrology and biodiversity of watercourses from ditches to rivers. Likewise, the biogeographical configuration of what will be hot spots of biodiversity in the landscape will achieve an overall greater enhancement in the biodiversity of the county/region, increasing the size of these islands of biodiversity and decreasing the distance between them.
North Kesteven District Council	Cumulatives	N/A	The 5km search area is not necessarily appropriate and the use of a suggested 'blanket' ZOI is not supported by the Council in each case. For the avoidance of doubt the Council suggests that cumulative effects associated with BMV agricultural land impacts (i.e. in relation to 'soils and agricultural land') should as a minimum include all of the NSIP solar projects in Lincolnshire at Heckington Fen, Springwell Solar	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics considers BMV land in the context of other large scale projects in the region.

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			Farm, Beacon Fen solar park1 , Tillbridge, Temple Oaks, Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Mallard Pass along with BMV agricultural land impacts associated with the Lincolnshire Reservoir. We reserve the right to highlight other projects as and when these become known and can advise how these might be treated with reference to Table 2 of Advice Note Seventeen 'Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects'.	
North Kesteven District Council	Cumulatives	N/A	The other cumulative developments noted in 6.6.12 are accurate and accepted (Witham St Hughs Phase 3 is referenced as a cumulative project however the planning reference is wrong; it is 15/1347/OUT) however as above 6.6.13 also acknowledges the close proximity of the proposed Springwell solar farm to the grid connection corridor options. Other known projects that should be considered in terms of cumulative considerations include the North Hykeham Relief Road, the A46 Newark Bypass and St Modwen Park Lincoln – hybrid outline/full application referenced 20/1523/FUL and which is under construction.	The long and short list of cumulative schemes provided in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 15-A has been defined in consultation with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
Coleby Parish Council	Cumulatives Landscape and Visual	N/A	The size/scale of the proposed Fosse Green Energy development is likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the local landscape in our area. The cumulative visual effects will also be difficult to adequately mitigate without substantial loss of established open character/longer range vistas	Assessment of landscape and visual impacts is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
Wellingore Parish Council	Cumulatives Landscape and Visual	N/A	The proposed development is simply massive. It is correct to support solar energy in sensible and rational areas of perhaps 200 acres. A scheme of this nature being nearly 15 times that scale is simply a dramatic and disproportionate change of landscape leading to a substantial change in the nature of the social fabric and environmental features of the affected land. Analysis of these implications and the cumulative effect of a large number of these types of proposal should be scoped in	Assessment of landscape and visual impacts is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
Wellingore Parish Council	Decommissioning	N/A	The above leads to concerns about decommissioning. The site does not propose a time limited period of operation. However, a bond should be taken by the local authority in respect of decommissioning costs. The risk is that eventually the operator walks away from thousands of acres of redundant panels, twisted and useless mounting rails, rotting fencing and redundant cabling, leaving an all too familiar scene of industrial dereliction.	Decommissioning will be secured within the DCO and will be legally binding. There will be a legal obligation under the Applicant's option agreements for decommissioning funds to be held in a trust account, and its value to be reviewed periodically.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Consultation	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that a summary of a full consultation with the Ministry of Defence be included in the ES.	A summary of the consultation with the MoD will be included in the ES. It is not expected that the MoD would have any concerns with the design of the Proposed Development, and it is not expected that glint and glare will be an issue for the MoD.
Environment Agency	Design	N/A	The development should seek to design the layout and land management to maximise beneficial impacts wherever possible, e.g. creation/management of natural habitat buffers, conservation grazing, and so on.	The Applicant can confirm that with respect to the operation, mitigation and enhancement of the Proposed Development, the development will design the layout and associated land management to maximise beneficial impacts wherever possible, e.g. creation and management of natural habitat buffers, conservation grazing, and links into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape, thereby contributing to the Local Nature Recovery Network.
Lincolnshire County Council	Design	N/A	The scheme proposed would have a generation capacity of upto 350MW and storage capacity using battery storage system of upto 480MW. The application will include the solar PV panels, the battery storage system associated infrastructure and 3 potential grid connection corridors to a yet unconfirmed National Grid sub-station in the vicinity of the A15 Lincoln to Sleaford highway.	Updated description is provided within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Proposed Development .
NATS Safeguarding	Design	N/A	The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal. However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted. If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory	Noted.

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			consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.	
Forestry Commission	Arboriculture	N/A	There are also numerous small, fragmented woodlands within the development area, many of which are grant funded woodlands that are still in obligation, so it is important these are retained and protected so that public money is not wasted.	The default with respect to the design of the Proposed Development is that all the woodlands within it will be retained including those which are grant funded woodlands and which are still in obligation. Not only would these woodlands be retained but where there is biodiversity gain associated with the grant, this will be integrated into the wider green infrastructure within the solar farm to realise maximum benefit and achieve synergy across the solar farm, linking this into the wider landscape, thereby contributing to the Local Nature Recovery Network.
Forestry Commission	Arboriculture	N/A	Access to the woodlands should also be considered for future management, as woodland management will improve and maintain biodiversity. We would expect to see hedgerows and individual trees within a development site considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development.	Hedgerows, tree lines and individual trees within the Proposed Development, e.g. in relation to landscaping, will be designed in a coherent manner to achieve overall connectivity between woodlands within and in proximity to the proposed scheme and, or reducing the distance between what are presently woodland islands. This would include access to the woodlands with respect to woodland management to maintain and enhance biodiversity.
Environment Agency	Landscape Design	N/A	Section 9.7 If it is proposed to scope out the attraction of aquatic invertebrates to the solar panels, we would recommend the incorporation of embedded mitigation by way of wet woodland marginal planting wherever solar panels will be 10m from a watercourse or pond.	Proposed minimum habitat buffers between the solar infrastructure and waterbodies are at least 10m therefore this specific habitat creation is unlikely to be required. It is worth noting that current byelaws relating to IDB water courses (e.g. drains) state a minimum clear distance of 9m should be maintained from the top of the watercourse bank so this may conflict with any woodland planting in these areas.
Forestry Commission	Design Landscape	N/A	We note the scoping report suggests woodland will be retained and avoided. New woodland creation will be undertaken for visual screening and to enhance and improve habitat connectivity, and that buffer zones of at least 15m from all woodlands will be created. We would recommend that planting should be targeted to enhance existing woodland and ecological networks by buffering the existing woodland to create larger blocks of ideally at least 5ha. Species and provenance of new trees and woodland need to be considered to establish a more resilient treescape which can cope with the full implications of a changing climate. When planting new trees and woodland, ensure that biosecurity is robust to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases. Where possible, a buffer zone should contribute to wider ecological networks and be part of the green infrastructure of the area. It should consist of semi-natural habitats such as woodland or a mix of scrub, grassland, heathland and wetland planting	The default with respect to the design of the Proposed Development is that all the woodlands within it will be retained and that these will be augmented with the creation of new woodland, hedgerows and tree lines. The Applicant notes that new woodland will be planted in such a way as to: • enhance and improve habitat connectivity and be part of the green infrastructure of the area; • create buffer zones of at least 15 m from all woodlands • enhance existing woodland and ecological networks by buffering the existing woodland to create larger blocks of ideally at least 5ha; • ensure that the choice of species and provenance of new trees establishes a more resilient treescape which can cope with the full implications of a changing climate; • ensure that biosecurity is robust to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases; and • where possible, create a buffer zone to contribute to wider ecological networks, consisting of semi-natural habitats e.g. scrub, grassland, heathland and wetland planting, in addition to woodland.
Environment Agency	Design Landscape and Visual	N/A	Table 3-1 Buffer zones should be designed and managed for the benefit of biodiversity and should be undisturbed by development with no fencing, footpaths or other structures. It should not include formal landscaping, and should include the planting of locally appropriate native species. Mowing regimes should be low intensity, allowing plants to flower. Light spill within the buffer zone from external artificial lights should be kept at an absolute minimum and be located and directed so that light levels of 0-2 lux are maintained. The buffer zone will help provide more space for flood waters, provide improved habitat for local biodiversity and allows access for any maintenance requirements.	With respect to Table 3-1, the Applicant notes that as far as practicable buffer zones: • should be designed and managed for the benefit of biodiversity; • should be undisturbed by development with no fencing, footpaths or other structures; • should not include formal landscaping; • should ensure that the choice of species and provenance of new trees establishes a more resilient treescape which can cope with

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				the full implications of a changing climate; • should, for grassland, ensure mowing regimes are low intensity, allowing plants to flower; • should avoid light spill within the buffer zone from external artificial lights such that light levels of 0-2 lux are maintained; and • should allow access for any maintenance requirements.
Environment Agency	Design Landscape BNG	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.47 We welcome the commitment to achieving BNG via creation of native grassland wildflower mixes, hedgerows and woodland, however we would like to also see more tree planting, wetland creation, river restoration and a commitment to regular (e.g. every 5 years) ecological auditing to provide data to the Local Ecological Records Centre.	The Applicant notes that, with respect to Paragraph 3.2.47, that the Environment Agency welcomes the commitment to achieving biodiversity net gain via creation of native grassland wildflower mixes, hedgerows and woodland. The Proposed Development will include a significant amount of tree planting as well as wetland creation. In addition to enhancing the watercourses within the Proposed Development to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain for “rivers”, river restoration will be achieved through downstream benefits with respect to water quality and hydrology with consequent benefit to biodiversity. Concordant with the requirements of BNG monitoring, the Applicant will commit to ecological auditing/monitoring of the Proposed Development, e.g. every 5 years which will be detailed in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, and to provide data to the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre. Note: in addition to the auditing/monitoring of protected species during the operational phase, there will be a requirement as part of BNG to report on progress towards the final BNG target.
Environment Agency	Design Landscape BNG	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.54 We have concerns regarding the intention to remove any protected species (subject to appropriate surveys and licences) if they are considered to act as a hinderance to future agricultural use. It appears that the developer has approached the landowners and suggested that the land will be free to be used post-decommissioning however they (or their descendants) wish for agricultural use. Protected species legislation is very limited and can only have chance of protecting something when one knows it is present. This means that significant areas of enhanced habitat, such as wildflower strips could be destroyed by ploughing/fertilising, etc. If this is the case, the 10% biodiversity net gain intention will be a temporary uplift (albeit very long-term 40 years) and it would be a major biodiversity impact if significant areas of valuable habitat were lost after decommissioning. Perhaps the only way of protecting enhanced/created habitat indefinitely would be if they, in time, qualified as statutory designated sites. For that to happen Natural England would require ecological records of the habitats/species found hence our suggestion above (regarding paragraph 3.2.47) for a commitment to regular ecological auditing. I think this may be something we need to raise with LPA not the applicant because they applicant at this stage is effectively providing the 10% BNG voluntarily they may be more reluctant if they think there could be future restrictions placed on the land via designations. As such, we advise further discussions with Natural England in this regard.	The design of the Proposed Development seeks to avoid disturbance of any protected species and relocation of any protected species would be used only as a last resort (subject to appropriate surveys and licences). The issues raised by the Environment Agency regarding safeguarding protected species and the gains achieved in the biodiversity of the site through BNG will be addressed in the Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and would be dependent on species presence and legislation / policy at the time of decommissioning. Note: in addition to the auditing/monitoring of protected species during the operational phase, there will be a requirement as part of BNG to report on progress towards the final BNG target.
Environment Agency	Ecology Water Flood Risk	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.61 We welcome the use of multifunctional spaces to deliver multiple benefits to biodiversity, carbon savings, water and flood management, and green spaces.	The Applicant notes the Environment Agency comment and welcomes the use of multifunctional spaces to deliver environmental gain.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Any enhancement on watercourses within the development area that could address these issues should be incorporated as WFD and/or biodiversity mitigation, this will then provide embedded mitigation for any potential detrimental impact imposed by the cable crossings from the construction of the development.	The design of the Proposed Development will include • mitigation, should any be needed, for any potential negative impact due to the cable crossings, e.g. with respect to the Water Framework Directive and BNG; and • enhancements in the ecology including biodiversity for those watercourses within the Principal Site, where appropriate.

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Environment Agency	Water	N/A	There may be opportunities to remove existing ordinary watercourse culverts as part of the proposal. De-culverting and river restoration will provide environmental improvements and contribute to the delivery of BNG, will help deliver Water Framework Directive (WFD) improvements and will also reduce the risk of flooding. We strongly recommend you consider all options to remove any culverted sections of watercourses as part of your development proposals, restoring watercourses to their natural state. If de-culverting is not possible we would expect to see adequate evidence for this. Works that affect the ordinary watercourses may require the prior consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).	The Applicant will consider opportunities to remove existing ordinary watercourse culverts and to undertake the restoration of watercourses as part of the Proposed Development where appropriate and viable. This will be further developed at the ES Stage as design of the Proposed Development is progressed. A WFD Screening Report is provided within PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-B .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.44 It is indicated that construction activities will include crossing points over drainage ditches. The design of bridges and culverts will need to be carefully designed to avoid ecological, geomorphological and flood risk impacts. Any crossings over main rivers are subject to flood risk activity permitting. If non-main rivers are affected the consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority would be required.	Noted and the design and construction of structures is assessed within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Ecology	N/A	There is no mention of the Witham Valley Countryside Park. The park area contains Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, which contain species of flora and fauna that are rare to Lincolnshire. The area is rich in biodiversity and provides habitats that support a diverse plant, bird and insect population, perfect for birdwatching activities. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see a full assessment of bird population, types, migratory routes and habitats for the Whisby nature reserve and the Witham Valley Country Park as a whole. This statement is made as the Proposed Development sits right in the middle of the Witham Valley Country Park.	The habitat creation, biodiversity enhancement and landscaping, designed into the Proposed Development will result in an increase in the diversity of plants, birds and insects as well as other fauna, a significant improvement as compared to intensive arable agriculture. The design of the Proposed Development will link the habitat creation and increase in biodiversity into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape including the Witham Valley Country Park and the Local Nature Recovery Network. A search for statutorily and non-statutorily designated sites has been undertaken within relevant Study Areas and confirms that there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 5 km of the Site (as presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation). This PEI Report has also included a search for Local Wildlife Sites within the 2 km Study Area. Any sites contained within the Witham Valley Country Park, where within the relevant Study Areas of the Proposed Development, have been included within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation. Surveys for breeding and non-breeding birds have been undertaken across the Site, the full results of which are included in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-G: Breeding birds and Appendix 8-H: Non-breeding birds. There will be an overall benefit to the Witham Valley Country Park due to the improvement in the water quality and hydrology of the River Witham which is downstream of the Proposed Development due to the cessation of pesticide and fertiliser applications (used for arable farming) and likewise for irrigation.
Coleby Parish Council	Ecology	N/A	Ecology: the balance of biodiversity is bound to change in a manner that is likely to impact flora and fauna indigenous to the present landscape. The extent of the development and requirements for proliferate security fencing will potentially restrict/funnel the movement of larger fauna such as hares, foxes, badgers and deer. Avian species that rely on open fields are likely to suffer notable loss of habitat and foraging areas.	The integration of soft landscaping within the design of the Proposed Development will include measures to increase biodiversity of native mammals, birds and insects (and other invertebrates). These enhancements will be linked together within the Site as well as to green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape and the Local Nature Recovery Network, a significant improvement as compared to intensive arable agriculture. This will include ensuring that fencing will be permeable for animals and offset from roads to ensure that fauna is not put at risk from road traffic as well as not putting road users at risk. For ground nesting avian species that use open fields for foraging and nesting, mitigation (through undeveloped areas) will be provided to ensure that there is at least no net loss of resources or reduction in population size.

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Environment Agency	Ecology	N/A	We support the applicant's intention to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) as part of the proposals. New developments should not only protect watercourses and their riparian corridors, but also provide overall net gain for biodiversity. Net gain for biodiversity is defined as delivering more or better habitats for biodiversity and demonstrating this through use of the latest Defra Biodiversity Metric. It encourages development that delivers biodiversity improvements through habitat creation or enhancement after avoiding or mitigating harm. This approach is supported by section 4.5 of Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1), and paragraphs 174 and 179 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).	The Applicant notes the Environment Agency's support for the commitment to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) as part of the proposals and confirms that the Proposed Development will: • protect watercourses and their riparian corridors; • provide overall net gain for biodiversity, defined as delivering more or better habitats for biodiversity demonstrating this through use of the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric; and • deliver biodiversity improvements through habitat creation or enhancement after avoiding or mitigating harm. The Applicant notes that this approach is supported both locally and nationally, for example, by Section 4.5 of Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) and Paragraphs 174 and 179 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
Environment Agency	Ecology	N/A	For any BNG proposals which affecting main rivers, the applicant should consult us at the earliest opportunity.	The Applicant confirms that the Environment Agency will be consulted at the earliest opportunity regarding BNG proposals which affect main rivers and the assessment and enhancements leading to at least a 10% net gain in the biodiversity of "rivers".
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	There are no known hydrological connections between watercourses flowing through the study area to Swanholme lakes, however, we note that this will be confirmed at the next assessment stage.	On the basis of Ordnance Survey mapping and further assessment, as presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment , there is no hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and Swanholme Lakes SSSI. This SSSI can be scoped out of further assessment, particularly noting its distance from the Proposed Development and lack of hydrological connectivity to the Site.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	We agree that a Habitats Regulations screening assessment, which rules out the risk of the proposed development from having a significant effect, should be carried out and recorded in the ES.	The Applicant confirms that a Habitats Regulations pre-screening assessment (i.e. up to Stage 1) has been undertaken and is presented as PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-K: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) pre-screening report . This confirms that there are no likely significant effects on European sites.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	We note the reference to the Whisby Park Local National Nature (Paragraph 10.4.44) identified with 339M north. The ES should set out proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures and opportunities for enhancement and improving connectivity with wider ecological networks identified.	Whisby Park Local Nature Reserve, 340 m to the north of the Proposed Development will be not be directly impacted and embedded mitigation measures (included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation), such as pollution control and dust suppression, will ensure that no indirect impacts occur. The integration of soft landscaping within the design of the Proposed Development will include measures to increase connectivity across the Site and in the wider ecological network, noting the opportunities to form ecological connections to Whisby LNR.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	We welcome the information that has already been gathered, and a desk study identified records of protected or notable species of flora and fauna within the 2km study area, including Great Crested Newt, and agree with the proposed site surveys listed at Table 9-3.	The Applicant notes Natural England's comment.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example	PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation assesses the impact of all phases of the Proposed Development on protected species. Data on protected and notable plant and animal species has been obtained from the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership within a 2km Study Area of the Site

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			in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area. Potential impact pathways where further info/assessment required should be identified.	to provide context of the wider area. Field surveys have been undertaken for protected and notable habitats and species, as required. Combined, these have informed the preliminary assessment and requirements for mitigation set out within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation .
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.	Field surveys have been undertaken for protected and notable habitats and species, as required and by suitably competent and qualified ecologists, e.g. meeting the guidelines of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Surveys have been undertaken in appropriate seasons, informed by published guidance. The results of these surveys have informed the preliminary assessment and requirements for mitigation set out within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation .
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	The applicant should check to see if a mitigation licence is required using NE guidance on licencing NE wildlife licences. Applicants can also make use of Natural England's (NE) charged service Pre Submission Screening Service for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. NE then reviews a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued.	The Applicant confirms that should a mitigation licence be required, Natural England's guidance on licencing and wildlife licences will be followed, including, where relevant, using Natural England's charged service Pre-submission Screening Service for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. If necessary, a full draft licence application would be submitted with a view to Natural England issuing a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be granted.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	Section 9.3.15 shows that a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken (using Defra Metric 4.0 or the most up to date metric at the time of the assessment) to identify opportunities for contributing to BNG. These opportunities will be identified and set out within the ES, in line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the NPPF and local planning policy, including the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. We welcome the commitment to contribute to delivering a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity at Paragraph 3.2.41.	A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken (using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric) to identify opportunities for contributing to BNG. These opportunities will be identified and set out within the ES, in line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the NPPF and local planning policy, including the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The Applicant confirms a commitment to delivering a minimum 10% net gain across habitats, rivers and hedgerows.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	We note that the Environment Act requires habitats to be secured for at least 30 years. We recommend that a Framework Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan be produced and prior to the start of construction following grant of the DCO, which will set out the principles for how the land will be managed throughout the operational phase, following the completion of construction. Due to the initial 40-year lifespan of the development, this management plan is likely to fulfil the 30-year management requirement of BNG habitats.	We note that the Environment Act requires habitats to be secured for at least 30 years. The Applicant will produce a Framework Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) prior to the start of construction following grant of the DCO. The Framework LEMP will set out the principles for how the land will be managed throughout the operational phase post construction. Due to the proposed 60-year lifespan of the development, the Applicant anticipates that the management plan will fulfil the 30-year management requirement of BNG habitats.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	We recommend that all habitat creation on site should be designed to complement the surrounding area, enhancing existing features, improving connectivity across the development area and contributing to the Nature Recovery Network. Please note to the south east is Boothby Lodge Farm, which covers 617 ha of Grade 3 agricultural land and is one of the Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs) Landscape Recovery pilots. The project will rewild the site by restoring natural processes and a mosaic of dynamic habitats.	The Applicant can confirm that with respect to the operation, mitigation and enhancement of the Proposed Development, the development will design the layout and associated land management to: • maximise beneficial impacts wherever possible, e.g. creation and management of natural habitat buffers, conservation grazing; • link into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape, contributing to the Local Nature Recovery Network; and • complement, where feasible, the rewilding of Boothby Lodge Farm

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				(617ha), an Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs) Landscape Recovery pilot.
Natural England	Ecology	N/A	Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found here. Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely. We note from our mapping resource that Ancient Woodland Priority Habitat (dealt with below) and Deciduous Woodland (PH) occur within the search area. Your desk study identified that within the site boundary, priority habitats under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 are present or likely to be present (section 9.4.6) include: ancient and/or species rich hedgerows, rivers, standing water/ponds, arable field margins, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland meadows, traditional orchards and wood pasture and parkland. These habitats have potential to support a large range of protected and notable species and we note that survey 7 is required to confirm the presence of further priority habitats. The Environmental Statement should include details of: • Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys) • Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal • The habitats and species present • The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat) • The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species • Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures • Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement	Comment noted. This approach has been applied to the preliminary assessment included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation and includes the details stated, including a comprehensive desk study to identify priority habitats and presence of any protected and notable species.
North Kesteven District Council	Ecology	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.40 and table 3.1 contain proposed separation distances to ecological habitats etc however there is nothing to confirm how these were derived. Also, depending on the point at which the DCO is applied for, and during consideration of the application, either s104 or s105 of the Act will be engaged. Even if still in draft, the March 2023 consultation versions of EN-1 and EN-3 will be a material consideration.	Published guidance and best practice have been used to determine undeveloped areas around ecological features. These have informed the indicative layout presented in PEI Report Volume 2, Figures 3-2 . The Applicant will commit to vegetation management within the Proposed Development, details of which will be included in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. The Applicant will pay due attention to either Section 104 or Section 105 of the Environment Act, depending on the point at which the DCO is applied for.
North Kesteven District Council	Ecology	N/A	Paragraph 9.3.2 refers to the status of the secondary legislation associated with the Environment Act and as such comments that the Proposed Development will only 'seek to' include a minimum target of 10% BNG compared against the predevelopment biodiversity value. The Council would highlight the requirements of CLLP Policy S61 'Biodiversity Opportunity and Delivering Measurable Net Gains' which requires that all qualifying development proposals must deliver at least a 10% measurable biodiversity net gain attributable to the development.	The Applicant notes North Kesteven Council's emphasis on the requirements of Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) Policy S61 and confirms a commitment to delivering a minimum 10% net gain using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
North Kesteven District Council	Ecology	N/A	The net gain for biodiversity should be calculated using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric'. NSIP schemes, by virtue of their scale and the nature of development, are very well placed to be able to deliver at least 10% BNG, and therefore we are disappointed that the applicant's commitment is only to 'seek to' deliver 10% BNG which is therefore at odds with Local Plan policy.	The Applicant can confirm that the net gain for biodiversity will be calculated using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric and the Proposed Development will achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity gain. The progress towards achieving a 10% and beyond will be reported at key stages within the DCO process.
North Kesteven District Council	Ecology	N/A	With reference to 9.3.12, relevant local guidance comprises the Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity and GI Mapping, Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (or any subsequent replacements) which should all be referred to in the formulation of ecological enhancement/gain.	The Applicant notes relevant local guidance comprising the Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity and GI Mapping, Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (or any subsequent replacements) and confirms that these have all been reviewed and referred to in the preliminary assessment presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation and will be referenced, as appropriate, when undertaking a BNG assessment.

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North Kesteven District Council	Ecology	N/A	Paragraph 9.5.7 and Table 3-1 refer to undeveloped buffers being included to protect hedgerows, veteran/ancient trees, ponds and ancient woodland during construction and operation. However, as there are no indicative/draft layout plans it is unclear how these have been derived and whether they are appropriate.	Published guidance and best practice have been used to determine undeveloped areas around ecological features. These have informed the indicative layout presented in PEI Report Volume 2, Figures 3-2A and 3-2B .
Norton Disney Parish Clerk	Ecology	N/A	3. Its possible devastating effect on wildlife, property values and rural infrastructure.	Agriculture has already industrialised much of this landscape with associated use of pesticides and fertilisers along with drainage and irrigation, which is recognised to have had a devastating impact on biodiversity. The design for the Proposed Development will achieve at least a 10% increase in biodiversity as well as significant benefits to the soil and the watercourses into which the land drains; streams and rivers which have been altered out of recognition by agriculture.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Ecology	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that the impact on birds, particularly water birds, is not scoped out of the ES.	Surveys for breeding and non-breeding birds have been undertaken across the Site, the full results of which are included in PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-G: Breeding birds and Appendix 8-H: Non-breeding birds and a preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is included in this PEI Report.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Ecology	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that Stocking Wood be listed as a non-statutory site and, as such, the site boundary be redrawn to exclude Stocking Wood.	Stocking Wood (included as part of Tunman Wood) is now outside the boundary of the Site and located adjacent to it. The potential for significant indirect effects to affect Stocking Wood is considered in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation . There will be no direct effects as the woodland is retained. The Applicant welcomes any details on the designation of this site from Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council.
Natural England	Ecology, arboriculture	N/A	We note that the eastern and central part of the study area is typically sparsely wooded, other than a network of small woodland blocks. The western side of the central and southern parts of the study area is typically more wooded, occupied by Hawdin's Wood and Norton Big Wood, both located south west of Witham St Hughs. Both woodlands, totalling approximately 57ha, are identified as Ancient Woodland (AW). The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on the ancient woodland and any ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat of great importance for its wildlife, its history, and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Paragraph 180 of the NPPF sets out the highest level of protection for irreplaceable habitats and development should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists. Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland Inventory which can help identify ancient woodland. The wood pasture and parkland inventory sets out information on wood pasture and parkland. The ancient tree inventory provides information on the location of ancient and veteran trees. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have prepared standing advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.	The Applicant notes Natural England's advice regarding Ancient Woodland. No Ancient Woodland is within the Site Boundary (as agreed by the Forestry Commission in their Scoping response), with the nearest such woodland type being Tunman/Housham Woods which is immediately adjacent to the Site. An assessment of the potential impacts on any broadleaved woodland or Ancient Woodland is included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation , noting the Forestry Commission's advice. There will be no direct or indirect impacts to woodland habitats.
North Kesteven District Council	Ecology, Arboriculture	N/A	Finally, whilst paragraph 11.1.4 confirms that the LVIA will be undertaken with reference to other environmental topics and reports, 'including the Arboricultural and Glint and Glare Assessment' there is no other reference to the Arboricultural Assessment elsewhere in the Scoping Report. For the avoidance of doubt the DCO application should be accompanied by a full tree survey and constraints plan undertaken to BS:5837 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' standards. Reference should also be made to the Council's adopted Tree Strategy (2020) www.nkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/tree_strategy.pdf .	The Applicant can confirm that the DCO application will be accompanied by a full tree survey and constraints plan undertaken to BS:5837. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment will be completed, the results of which will be included within and inform the ES Ecology chapter and submitted as part of the DCO application. Veteran and ancient trees have been identified in the desk study and any within the Site would be retained and avoided. Whilst a preliminary assessment has been included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation , the ES will provide appropriate baseline data to identify the presence and condition of existing veteran and ancient trees, including hedgerow trees, and assess effects on ancient and veteran trees, where significant effects are likely to occur.

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Forestry Commission	Ecology Landscape	N/A	One of the most important features of ancient woodlands is the quality and inherent biodiversity of the soil; being relatively undisturbed physically or chemically it is also a major seed bank. Direct impacts of development that could result in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland or ancient and veteran trees include: · damaging or destroying all or part of them (including their soils, ground flora or fungi) · damaging roots and understorey (all the vegetation under the taller trees) · damaging or compacting soil around the tree roots · polluting the ground around them · changing the water table or drainage of woodland or individual trees · damaging archaeological features or heritage assets It is essential that the ancient woodland is considered appropriately to avoid the above impacts.	The Applicant notes the Forestry Commission's advice regarding Ancient Woodland. No Ancient Woodland is within the Site, an assessment of the potential impacts on any broadleaved woodland or Ancient Woodland adjacent to the Site is included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation , noting the Forestry Commission's advice. There will be no direct or indirect impacts to woodland habitats.
Forestry Commission	Ecology Landscape Arboriculture	N/A	We are satisfied there are no Ancient Woodlands within the proposed site, however Tunman/Housham Ancient Replanted Woodlands are adjacent to the site, on its boundary	The Applicant acknowledges the Forest Commission's agreement that there are no Ancient Woodlands within the Site. Tunman/Housham woodland is immediately adjacent to the Site, as identified in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation .
Environment Agency	Ecology Landscape BNG	N/A	Table 9-2 The development includes several locally designated floristically diverse calcareous grass verges, mostly identified in Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Life on the Verge project. The development should seek to support the management of these sites to facilitate their existing value, encourage their expansions and consider using them as donor sites for seeding new meadow bank creation within the site for biodiversity net gain.	The Applicant acknowledges that the Proposed Development includes several locally designated floristically diverse calcareous grass verges, as identified by and in Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Life on the Verge project. The Applicant will consult with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to support the management of these sites.
Navenby Parish Council	Noise and Vibration	N/A	What SME advisors will be contributing to the report to cover aspects such as loss of wildlife habitat, light nuisance (because extensive lighting is likely to be required for night time security of the site), noise nuisance (during and after any build, e.g. from move and tilt motors to steer the panels)	The PEI Report covers these aspects within the technical chapters (e.g. Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation, Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration). A Statutory Nuisance Report will be prepared as part of the DCO application. It is noted that noise effects during construction, operation and decommissioning phases will be considered. Tilt motors emit very low levels of noise (approximately 20 dB at 30m) and are unlikely to be audible at any nearby properties. As such, they are not considered in the noise assessment.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Ecology Socio-Economics	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council notes that no reference to Witham Valley Country Park is made in the scoping document. We request that the importance of the park is acknowledged in the ES. We further request that a full assessment of the environmental and socio-economic impact of placing a large solar farm in the centre of the park is included in the ES.	The habitat creation, biodiversity enhancement and landscaping, designed into the Proposed Development will result in an increase in the diversity of plants, birds and insects as well as other fauna, a significant improvement as compared to intensive arable agriculture. The design of the Proposed Development will link the habitat creation and increase in biodiversity into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape including the Witham Valley Country Park and the Local Nature Recovery Network. A search for statutorily and non-statutorily designated sites has been undertaken within relevant Study Areas and confirms that there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 5 km of the Site (as presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation). This PEI Report has also included a search for Local Wildlife Sites within the 2 km Study Area. Any sites contained within the Witham Valley Country Park, where within the relevant Study Areas of the Proposed Development, have been included within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation . A preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is included in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation .

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North Kesteven District Council	Figures	N/A	As we set out and highlight below under specific chapter headings, other than very high-level location plans contained in Figures 1.1 and 1.2 of the Scoping Report the Council has not (nor, we assume have any other interested parties) seen any preferred options/solutions, alternatives or design proposals of the type envisaged by advice note 7 and which are deemed essential to ensure a robust Scoping process.	The Proposed Development, including any currently considered options, is described in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Proposed Development . Indicative site layout is provided in PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 3-2 .
Environment Agency	Ground Conditions	N/A	This section states that a preliminary risk assessment will be prepared in line with our Land Contamination Risk Management guidance. Information from the Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) will be used to inform any pollution prevention measures that may be required during construction and operation, and these will be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). We are satisfied with the proposed way forward and assessment methodology. Although not mentioned in this chapter, the report does discuss the construction methods of parts of the scheme. Paragraph 3.2.13 states that, “The frames upon which the solar PV panels will be mounted will be pile driven or screw mounted into the ground to a typical depth of approximately 1.5m, subject to ground conditions.” Paragraph 3.2.22 discusses the cable installations which may be in trenches or via the use of horizontal directional drilling. Where the placement of the cables and piles takes place in land affected by contamination the management of the waste material will need to be carefully managed. Their use, and the prevention of mobilisation of contamination as a result, should be included in the CEMP.	A Phase 1 PRA Report has been prepared for the Proposed Development in line with the Environment Agency’s Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance; and is provided as PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 14-B. The Phase 1 PRA has been used to inform any pollution prevention measures that may be required during construction and operation. These measures are included in a Framework CEMP, which is included at PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 3-A: Framework CEMP and will be further refined within the ES. Where the placement of the cables and piles takes place in land affected by contamination the management of the waste material will be carefully managed. Their use, and the prevention of mobilisation of contamination as a result, is included in a Framework CEMP (PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 3-A: Framework CEMP) and will be further refined within the ES. A Framework Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and Framework CEMP covering these aspects will accompany the DCO application.
Historic England	Heritage	N/A	We note the structured approach set out in respect of the Historic Environment and the iterative plan for further investigations	Noted, and taken into account within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
Historic England	Heritage	N/A	We welcome a flexible – expertise based approach to setting matters not overly constrained by fixed radii. We refer you to the detailed advice of our County archaeological curator colleagues in particular as regards trial trenching.	Noted, and taken into account within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
Historic England	Heritage	N/A	As regards the banding of asset importance some flexibility to accommodate the high importance of some grade ii listed assets and the medium importance of some local list entries is recommended.	Noted, and taken into account within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
Historic England	Heritage	N/A	Without prejudice to other matters which may emerge we note in particular the setting of Somerton Castle and the corridor of the Roman road passing through the site as particular sensitivities	Noted, and taken into account within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
Historic England	Heritage	N/A	As general advice the earlier and more thorough site investigations that are made the greater the ability of energy projects to deploy their relatively high degree of elasticity in design such that impacts can be avoided, minimised or effectively mitigated.	Noted, and taken into account within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage .
Department for Transport Historic Railways Estate	Heritage, Design	N/A	I do not have any comments as far as Environmental Impact concerned but at detailed design stage, if Grid Connection corridor options comes across any of our disused railway structures, I would like to be contacted to assess the impact please. I have already provided you the location plan for the HRE structures in the area.	Noted, and the Applicant would carry out consultation accordingly.
Lincolnshire County Council	Heritage	N/A	The EIA scoping report sets out the proposed approach regarding Cultural Heritage. We are generally supportive of the programme presented and strongly recommend that the full extent of the proposed impact area including the grid connection corridor options should be included in the evaluation process. Understanding the impact to archaeological remains is dependent on sufficient evaluation being undertaken to inform the selection process and for ensuring the subsequent design and programme of mitigation work is devised with an understanding of the level of archaeological work which may be required before and during the construction phase. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will require desk-based research, non-intrusive surveys and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact. The results should be used to minimise the impact on the historic environment through informing the project design and an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation. The provision of sufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets is required	Noted, further details are provided in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 7-B: DBA and in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage , with further assessment carried out at ES stage.

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			by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8), and the National Planning Policy Framework	
Lincolnshire County Council	Heritage	N/A	Regarding Section 8.5 Potential Effects and Mitigation we note that while 8.5.2 states that 'there is potential for previously unrecorded archaeological assets to survive within the Site boundary' there is no mention of the grid connection corridor, and while some construction impacts are listed there is no mention of potential decommissioning impacts. The full potential impact zone will require geophysical survey as the results are required to identify site-specific archaeological potential and to inform a programme of archaeological trial trenching and subsequent mitigation. Section 8.6.13 states that 'a geophysical survey will be undertaken within areas of the Solar and Energy Storage Park that are suitable for survey and where land access can be obtained by way of landowner agreement. Additional geophysical survey will be undertaken along the Grid Connection Corridor once a single route option has been selected and access has been granted.'	Noted, further details are provided in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 7-B: DBA and in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage , with further assessment carried out at ES stage.
Lincolnshire County Council	Heritage	N/A	Strongly recommend that the full suite of standard evaluation techniques including geophysical survey and trenching be undertaken and that the results be used to inform the corridor selection process	Geophysical surveys are ongoing. Approach to trial trenching along the Cable Corridor will be discussed with the relevant consultees.
Lincolnshire County Council	Heritage	N/A	Please do be advised that where geophysical survey is not undertaken a higher percentage of evaluation trenching will be necessary to obtain sufficient baseline evidence to determine archaeological potential and inform the mitigation process to deal with the development's impact within the full impact zone.	Noted.
Lincolnshire County Council	Heritage	N/A	Trenching results are essential for effective risk management and to inform programme scheduling and budget management. Failing to do so could lead to unnecessary destruction of heritage assets, potential programme delays and excessive cost increases that could otherwise be avoided. A programme of trial trenching is required to inform a robust mitigation strategy which will need to be agreed by the time the ES is produced and submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.	Noted. Trial trenching will be carried out to inform the assessment and mitigation measures within the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Heritage	N/A	The ES will need to contain sufficient information on the archaeological potential and must include evidential information on the depth, extent and significance of the archaeological deposits which will be impacted by the development. The results will inform a fit for purpose mitigation strategy which will identify what measures are to be taken to minimise the impact of the proposal on archaeological remains.	Noted. The ES and mitigation measures will be informed by the results of geophysical and trial trenching surveys.
Environment Agency	Landscape	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.39 It is stated that existing natural features will be retained with the layout of the solar arrays, with the exception of small breaks and/or crossings required for new access tracks, security fencing and connection routes, and that new breaks will be kept to a minimum. We welcome this, but any loss of will need to be replaced and enhanced to mitigate the temporary derogation.	The layout of the Principal Site has been developed o fit within and retain as much of existing natural features as practicable. Additional planting is also proposed. Biodiversity net gain assessment will be included within the DCO application and will demonstrate the net gain as a result of the Proposed Development.
Natural England	Landscape	N/A	The Development site does not lie within or in close proximity to any nationally designated landscapes, however the EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character. Chapter 11 'Landscape and Visual Amenity' 6 outlines the intention to carry out an LVIA in line with 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition', 2013, which Natural England would endorse.	Assessment of impacts on the local landscape character is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
Natural England	Landscape	N/A	The assessment should include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area	The ES will include assessment of cumulative effects.
Natural England	Landscape	N/A	To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code. The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.	The Proposed Development has been designed to integrate within the local landscape, and includes planting proposals to mitigate visual impacts.
Natural England	Landscape	N/A	Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where	The Proposed Development has been designed to retain the existing PRoW and permissive paths, and will create additional permissive paths to enhance local connectivity.

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			appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Access to nature within the development site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species.	
Natural England	Landscape	N/A	Relevant aspects of the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy for Central Lincolnshire' should be incorporated where appropriate. We are pleased to note that the existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches, ponds and field margins will be retained within the layout of the solar arrays, with the exception of small breaks and/or crossings required for new access tracks, security fencing and connection routes and offsets/buffers from the solar arrays or security, as set out in Table 3-1, will be incorporated within the design, with the exception of where access tracks, security fencing and/or connection routes are required to cross an existing feature. We also note that the buffers/offsets are a minimum and for example may be increased to deliver further mitigation or enhancements and/or respond to root protection areas where required.	Existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches, ponds and field margins within the layout of the solar arrays, will be incorporated within the design, with the exception of where access tracks, security fencing and/or connection routes are required to cross an existing feature. Buffer zones have been specified at this stage as a minimum and may be increased to deliver further mitigation or enhancements and/or respond to root protection areas where required. In addition, the design of the Proposed Development will link the habitat creation and increase in biodiversity into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape including the Witham Valley Country Park and the Local Nature Recovery Network including relevant aspects of the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy for Central Lincolnshire'.
Navenby Parish Council	Landscape	N/A	Adding more and more large-scale solar farms to Lincolnshire will change the character of the county from agricultural to industrial, which would be unwelcome	Assessment of impacts on the landscape is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	Whilst 11.2.6 notes that the extent of the LVIA study area will be reviewed throughout the iterative design process, at this stage we disagree that a 2km boundary should be adopted. The recent Scoping Report for the Springwell NSIP solar farms in NKDC set an initial study area of 3km from the site boundary for all features of the Proposed Development, except the National Grid and Project Substation and National Grid connecting tower for which the study area would be extended to 5 km.	The justification of the extent of the LVIA Study Area is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	The local policy/guidance discussion at paragraph 11.3.10 onwards does not refer to the adopted 2007 NKDC Landscape Character Assessment, which should be referred to in the preparation of the LVIA. None of the proceeding sections addressing landform, settlement and land use refer to the sub-areas within the NKDC LCA and therefore it is assumed that the author is unaware of its existence.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity takes account of various relevant landscape character assessments including North Kesteven District Landscape Character Assessment (2007).
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	The 'Designations' sub-heading then refers to the now-replaced 2017 CLLP whereas the preceding 11.3.10 refers to policies in the adopted 2023 Plan. Paragraph 11.4.24 further errs in its reference to the '2016 Local Plan' and then points to the absence of a published description of the Lincoln Cliff AGLV and its key features as justifying why the 'LVIA does not propose to assess the AGLV as a landscape receptor'. We fundamentally disagree with this approach	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity provides an overview of relevant local policies. Lincoln Cliff Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) has been considered in the assessment.
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	Whilst the site location plan suggests that the only operational development to take place within the AGLV is in relation to cable connections, it appears likely that views from the elevated AGLV across the lowland Witham and Brant Vales LCA will allow visibility of the solar farm site to the west. Amongst other things Policy S62: 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value' of the CLLP – the 2023 version rather than the erroneously quoted 2016 Local Plan and now replaced 2017 version - requires that: 'development proposals within, or within the setting of, AGLV shall: e) conserve and enhance the qualities, character and distinctiveness of locally important landscapes; and f) protect, and where possible enhance, specific landscape, wildlife and historic features which contribute to local character and landscape quality; and g) maintain landscape quality and minimise adverse visual impacts through high quality building and landscape design'. Impacts on setting are therefore material and must be addressed in the LVIA. Paragraph 11.4.26 refers to Conservation Areas in the District. There are adopted appraisals for Navenby, Bassingham, Waddington, Harmston and Coleby and these should be referenced to establish where (if applicable) there are relationships between the surrounding landscape and the character and appearance of those Areas.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity provides assessment of various landscape receptors including along the Cable Corridor.

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North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	Paragraph 11.4.26 also refers to the Whisby Nature Park Green Wedge as not being a landscape designation. Whilst this is correct, Green Wedges are designated inter alia to preserve local and historic character and to conserve and enhance local wildlife and protection of links between wildlife sites to support wildlife corridors. Reference should therefore be made to the Central Lincolnshire Green Wedge and Settlement Breaks Review for background information. Whilst the Witham Valley Green Wedge is outside the red line site area it is within the study area, and therefore should also be considered alongside all other Green Wedges in the study area.	The design of the Proposed Development will link the habitat creation and increase in biodiversity into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape including the Witham Valley Country Park, Whisby Nature Park Green Wedge and the Local Nature Recovery Network including relevant aspects of the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy for Central Lincolnshire'.
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	In addition to the 2011 Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, the 2019 Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) baseline GI Map for Central Lincolnshire should also be reviewed, and landscape proposals developed with reference to the strategic green corridors, green access links and green infrastructure zones that are within the study area; alongside the Biodiversity Opportunity and GI Mapping and Local Nature Recovery Strategy referred to above.	In addition to the 2011 Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, the Applicant will review the 2019 Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) baseline Green Infrastructure Map for Central Lincolnshire and, where appropriate, this will inform the integration of the Proposed Development into strategic green corridors, green access links and green infrastructure zones that are within the study area; alongside the Biodiversity Opportunity and Green Infrastructure Mapping and Local Nature Recovery Strategy referred to above.
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	With reference to Table 11-1 'Landscape and visual receptors to be scoped in' the Council will wish to agree these once the solar park layouts and cable connection corridor/nature of cable connection is developed further. 'Visual receptors – people engaged in recreational activity' should include users of higher value routes including the Viking Way long distance footpath running through the Lincoln Cliff AGLV.	The Applicant has consulted with North Kesteven District Council regarding the visual receptors assessed within the PEI Report.
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	With reference to 11.8.10, we agree that at the present time a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment should be undertaken in line with the Technical Guidance Note 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment'; however depending on the final layout and proximity of solar panels, plant and equipment to settlements and individual properties this might be able to be reduced in overall geographical scope.	LVIA has been prepared with reference to Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment' (2019).
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	The Council is likely to procure detailed feedback through appointing an LVIA consultant and we would wish to agree viewpoint and photomontage locations in due course outside of the scoping process and in advance of the PEIR. Final viewpoint selection should consider views of taller and more conspicuous elements, such as battery storage or sub-stations once the layout is more developed, as well as considering potential key, or sensitive, viewpoints.	The Applicant has consulted with North Kesteven District Council regarding the visual receptors and photomontage location proposals.
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape	N/A	The relative prematurity of the submission and the large number of variables and options in terms of site layout mean that no illustrative viewpoints have been provided at scoping stage. Photomontages are likely to be required to illustrate the proposals at different phases namely the existing situation (baseline), Operational (year 1) and Residual with planting established (10 to 15 years), and the methodology. The methodology should also clearly lay out the process of assessing temporary and permanent elements of the scheme, and the LVIA should clearly identify those elements that would not be decommissioned at the end of the life of the development (for example; if a new permanent National Grid substation forms part of the DCO application), and assessed accordingly.	Photomontages will be prepared to support LVIA within the ES. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Proposed Development describes the approach to decommissioning. National Grid's substation near Navenby does not form part of the Proposed Development and is a cumulative development.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Landscape	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council requests that the scope of the LVIA be extended to cover views from the limestone ridge and the cliff villages, with full consideration of both normal visual impact and the enhanced impact created by glint and glare from the panels.	The justification of the extent of the LVIA Study Area is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity .
West Lindsey District Council	Landscape	N/A	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should follow the guidance of the Landscape Institute "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (2013), as proposed. An iterative approach, which guides the layout and scheme design should be followed.	LVIA has been prepared with reference to Guidelines for LVIA, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3). The design of the Proposed Development is an iterative process, and design evolution to date is described in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution . The layout will be reviewed following statutory consultation taking into account feedback received, as well as the results of any surveys that are ongoing (for example, archaeological surveys).

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Norton Disney Parish Clerk	Landscape,	N/A	2. If the scheme is approved, the whole rural area, which, for centuries has been predominantly based on agriculture and associated businesses, will be transformed into a 'sea' of solar panels almost as far as the eye can see, especially in view of the landscape. It will not only be visually appalling, but will have other knock-on consequences, below	The design of the Proposed Development includes mitigation planting to reduce visual impacts and enhance local biodiversity.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Landscape and Visual	N/A	The document refers to the visual impact of the solar farm to a distance of 1km around its perimeter. The A46 is the Southern Gateway to City of Lincoln and will be flanked by an industrial solar park. Also very little visual impact has been documented about the visual impact at a greater distance. The Cliff villages comprising Coleby, Boothby Graffoe, Navenby, Harmston, Wellingore and Waddington all look down over the solar farm and into the distance of 23.68 km (14.71 mi). Thurlby village will be “imprisoned” within the solar farm and the villages of Aubourn, Haddington, Bassingham, Carlton Le Moorland, Swinderby, Thorpe on the Hill, and Witham St Hughs will be bordered by the solar farm and visible wherever one looks. The impact of overhead power lines paralleling the existing lines from West Burton to Sutton Bridge intercepted by a substation at Navenby will have a profound visual impact on the outlying area. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see greater detail of how Fosse Green proposes to mitigate the obtrusively visible footprint of the solar farm. How are they going to mitigate the fact that a peaceful rural farming community and area is going to be turned into an industrial landscape.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity provides assessment of various landscape and visual receptors. It is noted that the grid connection cable will be fully buried; overhead lines are no longer considered.
Coleby Parish Council	Landscape and Visual	N/A	The extent of solar panels, battery storage and substation infrastructure proposed in particular is expansive and potentially very intrusive within the landscape setting. Its industrialised appearance and scale will be unjustifiably detrimental to the character and appearance of the area.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity provides assessment of various landscape and visual receptors. The Proposed Development includes mitigation planting to reduce visual impacts.
Lincolnshire County Council	Landscape and Visual	N/A	Landscape and Visual Assessment (Chapter 11) Would expect the production of a full landscape and visual assessment that considers cumulative and residential visual amenity effects. This would be in the form primarily of an LVIA reflects current best practice and guidance from, as a minimum, the following sources: 1. 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', (GLVIA3), April 2013 by the Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA); 2. 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment', Natural England (2014); 3. 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals', 17 September 2019 by the Landscape Institute (LI); 4. 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 1/20 Reviewing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) and Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs)', 10 January 2020 by the Landscape Institute (LI) ; 5. 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 04/20 Infrastructure', April 2020 by the Landscape Institute (LI); and 6. Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations, May 2021 by the Landscape Institute (LI).	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity provides assessment of various landscape and visual receptors, and includes the list of applicable guidelines. Assessment of cumulative effects will be provided in the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Landscape and visual	N/A	Landscape and Visual Assessment (Chapter 11) We would also expect that through the NSIP process, full engagement and consultation at the Pre-Application stage is carried out to ensure the following are discussed, developed and agreed at subsequent technical meetings: 1. LVIA Methodology; 2. ZTV parameters; 3. Study Area extents (distance); 4. Identification of receptors; 5. Viewpoint quantity and locations; 6. Accurate Visual Representations (AVRs): a. Quantity and location; b. Type and Level; 7. Mitigation Measures/Landscape Scheme/Site Layout; 8. Cumulative sites and approach; and 9. Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) requirements should be considered (based on the Landscape Institute TGN 2/19) if there are residential properties with receptors likely to experience significant effects to their visual amenity.	Lincolnshire County Council is invited to comment on the PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity as part of the statutory consultation. Comments received will be considered in preparation of the ES to be submitted with the DCO application.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Landscape and visual	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that, to allow consultees to fully appreciate the visual impact the solar farm will have on local walking routes, the Thorpe on the Hill Stepping out Leaflet is reproduced, replacing the current images with artist impressions of the views available should the development be completed.	At the ES stage photomontages will be produced for selected viewpoints which will illustrate how the Proposed Development will look in the local landscape taking into account the proposed mitigation measures.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Landscape and visual	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council request that the ES contains an assessment of the aesthetic impact on public footpaths and bridleways within the boundaries, should the development be completed, and recognises the need to protect these vital public amenities	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity includes the assessment of visual impacts on the users of PRoW.
Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council	Landscape and visual	N/A	Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council requests that the ES clarifies what the phrase 'have regard to' (11.3.11 of the scoping document) means in practice in relation to the ten protected views recorded in the	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity includes the assessment of visual impacts on a range of

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			Neighbourhood Plan. The Council further requests that artists impressions are included in the ES showing the likely impact on these views should the development be completed.	viewpoints including around Thore on the Hill. Photomontages will be prepared to support LVIA within the ES.
Coleby Parish Council	Landscape and visual, Glint and Glare	N/A	Landscape and Visual Impact: the proposed site covers a very large area, part sits on a fairly flat area of land which can be clearly viewed from the other part which is the limestone ridge, and the Cliff Villages that are sat along the top of it. This is not just a small viewing platform, the ridge stretches for miles and curves round to surround it further. The area encompasses the Council's designated Lincoln Cliff Landscape Character Area and Witham Country Park. There would be an out of character view from the ridge on the proposed project, and additional electricity pylons stretching from the solar panels up the limestone ridge will be clearly in view from the surrounding lower lying areas. There is mention in the scoping plan of problems with glare and glinting from the solar panels – with such a large area being able to view the site from many angles, addressing this problem satisfactorily could be very difficult if not impossible	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity considers a range of receptors including elevated viewpoints. The worst-case panel parameters have been used within the model during the Glint and Glare Assessment (PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 14-C).
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape, ALC, Socio-Economics	N/A	Appendix 2 - Landscape Land and Property response	ALC survey has been conducted and is provided in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 12-B . A Framework Soil Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application.
North Kesteven District Council	Landscape, cumulatives	N/A	Finally, cumulative LVIA considerations might need to include those schemes set out in paragraph 6.6.12 with particular emphasis on the Springwell solar park NSIP; (Springwell West in particular) – alongside the proposed cable connection options for Fosse Green. Any proposals coming forward pursuant to the battery storage scheme identified through 23/0584/EIASCRC are also likely to require scoping in to cumulative LVIA considerations.	Cumulative schemes including Springwell solar park NSIP have been considered.
Environment Agency	Landscape, Design	N/A	Table 3-1 It is stated that watercourses will have a 10 metre offset to the development. We welcome this but request that that the 10 metre set back is measured from the top of bank of the watercourses. Furthermore, the use of offset/buffers to provide embedded mitigation via hedgerow or wildflower planting is also welcomed, but riverside buffers should ideally also include tree planting to provide future shade for climate change adaptation and woody material for habitat provision. However, any tree planting along any main rivers must not restrict our access to carry out essential maintenance and/or improvement works, and is likely to be subject to flood risk activity permitting. As such, early engagement is advised.	Further to the Environment Agency welcoming 10 m buffer zones along watercourses in the Proposed Development and the use of buffer zones to provide embedded mitigation for hedgerow or wildflower planting, the Applicant notes that: • the 10 m buffer zone is measured from the top of bank of the watercourse; • buffer zones alongside watercourses should ideally include tree planting to provide future shade for climate change adaptation and woody material for habitat provision; and • any tree planting along any main rivers must not restrict our access to carry out essential maintenance and, or improvement works and is likely to be subject to flood risk activity permitting.
Environment Agency	Landscape, Design, Ecology	N/A	Paragraphs 3.2.50 and 3.2.52 The management of vegetation should include the management of ecologically valuable habitats to maintain and/or enhance their ecological value.	The Applicant will commit to vegetation management within the Proposed Development, details of which will be included in the Framework Landscape and Ecology Management Plan to be submitted with the DCO application.
Wellingore Parish Council	Landscape, Glint and glare	N/A	The report also fails to recognise that due to the topography of the land and the proximity of the unique Lincoln limestone escarpment to the east, that this site is highly visible and will have influence over a far greater area than prescriptively described. The proximity of the previously designated AONB is neither noted nor discussed. The visual aspects of the development should be scoped noting the visual intrusion from the neighbouring escarpment together with glint and glare of both static and oscillating panels.	Landscape and visual assessment (PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 10) considers a range of receptors and includes elevated viewpoints. Glint and Glare assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 14-C .
Environment Agency	Landscape, Water, Design	N/A	We are pleased to see that green infrastructure has been mentioned and the development will be trying to maintain what natural green corridors are already in place, however we advise that the same approach for is used for blue infrastructure.	The design of the Proposed Development will link the habitat creation and increase in biodiversity into the green and blue infrastructure in the wider landscape including the Witham Valley Country Park, Whisby Nature Park Green Wedge and the Local Nature Recovery Network including relevant aspects of the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy for Central Lincolnshire'.
North Kesteven District Council	Site layout	N/A	In this regard there is a complete absence of information on site layout including zoned/parcelled areas for potential solar generation areas, the BESS, substation and potentially a new NG substation.	Indicative site layout is provided in PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 3-2 .

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Lincolnshire County Council	Minerals and waste, Socio-Economics	N/A	When reviewing the submitted scoping report, it is noted that in Para 13.7 the impacts upon Minerals Safeguarding Areas have been scoped out. It appears that the consideration of safeguarding has been limited to potential effects upon sites allocated in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste local Plan: Site Locations document (2017), namely MS04-LT: Swinderby Airfield, Witham St Hughes and MS05 LT Norton Bottoms Quarry Stapleford. The report fails to take account of Policy M11 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document 2016. The proposed development is partially located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for both Sand and Gravel and Limestone and is therefore subject to Policy M11 (Safeguarding of Mineral Resources) of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies - adopted June 2016. The Core Strategy is available to download from the County Council's website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk. Within a MSA, except for the exemptions set out in Policy M11, applications for non-minerals development should be accompanied by a Minerals Assessment. A Minerals Assessment should provide an appropriate assessment of the mineral resource, its potential for use in the forthcoming development and an assessment of whether it is feasible and viable to extract the mineral resource ahead of development to prevent unnecessary sterilisation. Where prior extraction of some or all of the mineral can be undertaken, the assessment should also include an explanation of how this will be carried out as part of the overall scheme. The assessment should also assess the potential for proximal sterilisation of mineral resources in adjacent land. Where mineral resources would be sterilised by a proposal, Policy M11 sets out the tests that need to be met in order to enable planning permission to be granted. The potential sterilisation of mineral resources should therefore be 'scoped in' to the EIA and addressed through a minerals assessment as part of the ES. We would expect this to be proportionate to the proposals. For developments of this nature there are generally differing impacts from the solar fields and the grid connections. In the first instance there is the potential to sterilise the mineral resource (on site and proximally) as a consequence of the significant land take proposed by the solar panel development. The proposed grid connection corridors, however, may require other factors to be taken into account where the connection options pass through the Mineral Safeguarding Areas. Whilst the final footprint of the grid connection may be limited, by dissecting the MSA it could introduce a constraint to the potential for any future extraction of the sand and gravel / Limestone resources in the surrounding land. The minerals assessment as part of the ES should therefore include consideration of this matter and it should be given due consideration when determining the final route/method of the grid connection. More detail and justification is required to substantiate the assertion that the amount of waste to be generated during the operation phase is minimal. The longevity of projects such as this are 40 years yet this is proposed for an unlimited time and consequently it can reasonably be assumed that most of the infrastructure necessary for this project will need to be replaced at least once during the operational phase. Currently there are 11 other large solar projects in the County at various stage of the Development Consent Process creating a potential 5000MW of energy. All the infrastructure required for these projects, if approved, would be constructed during a similar timescale and is expected to be replaced at least once during the operational phase putting significant pressure on the County's waste facilities and consequently this topic should be scoped in to set out how this will be addressed. The Council therefore disagrees that the topic of waste is 'scoped out' and a standalone topic on waste should be included to consider the disposal methods of the solar infrastructure that becomes unviable during the operational phase which is particularly important when considered with the significant number of other solar projects that are emerging in the County both NSIPs and Town and Country Planning Act applications.	PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 12-C: Minerals Assessment Report takes account of Policy M11. Policy M11 seeks to protect the sand and gravel and limestone resource in Lincolnshire from permanent sterilisation by incompatible development, such as housing. As the Proposed Development is temporary and the land would be restored, it is considered that a Minerals Assessment is not required.
Wellingore Parish Council	Need/ alternatives	N/A	The report nowhere proves any need for the development. Rather, this appears a rather opportunist feast of development on the back of an unregulated planning system for which there is no design or measure of need leading to unforeseen consequences. It is, in fact telling, that this site requires access to the 400Kv distribution network via a new sub station to be specially constructed, suggesting that there is no proven local need for the power generated. Better by far to site generation close to existing HT connections such as adjacent to redundant power stations and on brownfield sites. Also, at small scale on all new roofs of houses and buildings supplementing existing domestic demand with production at point of usage.	The need for the Proposed Development will be set out in the Planning Statement which will set out an assessment of the Proposed Development against the policies contained in the relevant planning documents. Included in this will be National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) which states "Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure". This includes electricity generation from renewable sources, such as the Proposed Development.

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National Grid	No comment	N/A	I have reviewed the Scoping Report on behalf of National Gas Transmission and can confirm that there are no assets impacted by your proposals. Please continue to consult further should the red line boundary change.	This comment is noted and no further action is required.
Newark and Sherwood District Council	No comment	N/A	No comment	Noted and no further action.
North Northamptonshire Council	No comment	N/A	No comment	Noted and no further action.
Nottinghamshire County Council	No comment	N/A	No comment	Noted and no further action.
Peterborough City Council	No comment	N/A	No comment	Noted and no further action.
Severn Trent Plc	No comment	N/A	No comment	Noted and no further action.
South Holland District Council	No comment	N/A	No comment	Noted and no further action.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Noise and vibration	N/A	Within the proposed area of the Solar Farm are various Schools that may be in close proximity to the solar farm. The inverters and battery storage are likely to emit high frequency noise, within Human hearing range, where young children will be mostly affected. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see mitigation statements of how these high frequency sounds will be measured and reduced around the solar farm.	The ES will contain an assessment of operational noise from inverters and battery storage units in line with national policy and British standards guidance. The results of the assessment will drive the requirement for mitigation, which will be covered in the ES. Preliminary assessment of noise is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration.
Environment Agency	Noise and vibration	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.13 Consideration of vibration from construction e.g., for frame which may consist of driven piles, screw anchors, or the installation of concrete blocks.	Construction vibration effects will be covered in the ES. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration.
Environment Agency	Noise and vibration	N/A	Paragraph 12.8.3 The applicant must consider vibration from building works e.g., piling for network connection etc	Effects due to vibration generated from construction activities will be considered in the ES. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration.
North Kesteven District Council	Noise and vibration	N/A	With reference to paragraph 12.2.4 the Council would be pleased to agree background noise monitoring locations and therefore the schedule set out in Table 12-1: Sensitive Receptor Locations should not necessarily be considered 'fixed'. In this regard, development is underway at Phase 3 of the Witham St Hughes residential area and there may be a more appropriate noise monitoring location representative of that future development somewhere in the study area between locations R20, R23 and R44	Consultation on the study area, sensitive receptors and noise monitoring locations will be undertaken with North Kesteven District Council. Additional monitoring locations will be agreed where necessary. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration.
North Kesteven District Council	Noise and vibration	N/A	Noise monitoring locations towards the northern part of the study area might need to account for the future cumulative development of the North Hykeham Relief Road (NHRR); particularly around R27, R29, R41 and R45. Baseline noise sources referred to at 12.4.2 may also include operational noise from RAF Waddington as well as road traffic noise.	Consultation on the study area, sensitive receptors and noise monitoring locations will be undertaken with North Kesteven District Council. Additional sensitive receptors will be added to the assessment where identified. Any noise associated with RAF Waddington is included as a baseline noise source through noise monitoring. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration.
North Kesteven District Council	Noise and vibration	N/A	With reference to 12.6.8, operational noise assessment will need to account for potential permanent (as opposed to temporary/reversible) effects if the DCO incorporates provision of a new National Grid substation.	The operational noise assessment will include all operational noise sources including a National Grid substation, if required. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration.

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North Kesteven District Council	Noise and vibration	N/A	12.2.3 states that the study area for construction noise effects along the grid connection will include receptors within 300m, and that these receptors will be identified once one of the Grid Corridor Option has been selected and refined post-scoping. Given the proximity of the grid connection options to Springwell (West) solar park including, at this stage, the unknown regarding the grid connection location for both Springwell and Fosse Green, cumulative construction noise impacts (Fosse Green) may need to be considered alongside construction and operational noise stemming from Springwell West/associated grid infrastructure	Receptors along the Cable Corridor have been considered. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration .
Coleby Parish Council	Noise and vibration, lighting	N/A	Noise and Light Pollution: noise and light pollution will not only have a detrimental impact on fauna but also on nearby local communities and the effects of this will need evaluation and mitigation in any final project development proposals	The ES will contain an assessment of operational noise from inverters and battery storage units in line with national policy and British standards guidance. The results of the assessment will drive the requirement for mitigation, which will be covered in the ES. Preliminary assessment is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration .
North Kesteven District Council	Noise and vibration, proposed development construction	N/A	The Council's Environmental Health team are otherwise satisfied with the proposed methodologies for monitoring construction and operational noise including the recommendation that construction/decommissioning noise is dealt with via a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) – the scope and content of which must be agreed in discussion with the Council.	Consultation will be undertaken regarding noise mitigation measures that will be specified in the CEMP. Preliminary assessment of noise and vibration including mitigation measures is provided in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration . PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 3-A: Framework CEMP has been prepared for consultation.
North Kesteven District Council	Other topics	N/A	However, it is assumed that if PINS determine that specific topic areas in section 15 should be 'scoped in' then presumably they must also be subject to the same methodology requirements.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics includes various assessments which describe their respective assessment methodologies.
North Kesteven District Council	Other topics	N/A	In particular, there was some certainty about the likely location of substations and the BESS. However, there are no layout proposals for Fosse Green and the location of these features is therefore not known at this time. PINS should therefore carefully consider whether there is sufficient detail at this stage to scope this chapter out of the ES. We also note that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue have required preparation of a smoke plume assessment in relation to the BESS on other NSIP solar schemes in the District. This might be equally applicable to Fosse Green.	PEI Report Volume 2 Figure 3-2 provides the proposed layout of the Principal Site, including the location of the Onsite Substation and BESS. A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application.
North Kesteven District Council	Other: air quality	N/A	Paragraph 15.2.10 states that the anticipated number of vehicles that will be required during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been considered in the context of published guidance, and 15.2.11 then states that "as such, the predicted construction flows are well below the criteria and are not expected to adversely affect air quality. It is therefore proposed that construction traffic is scoped out". However, the 'Sources of Baseline Information, Scenarios and Consultation' section of Chapter 14 does not quantify potential flows therefore this conclusion does not appear founded at present.	It is not anticipated that significant increases vehicles movements will occur as a result of the Proposed Development. Traffic flows will be reviewed at the ES stage to confirm this approach.
Coleby Parish Council	Other: Glint and glare	N/A	Glint and Glare: photovoltaic panel arrays have the potential to give rise to adverse impacts through reflection of sunlight towards sensitive receptors. The gently undulating local topography and the limestone escarpment could give rise to adverse effects. There is potential for the development to impact upon the operation of surrounding MoD facilities and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation should be consulted.	PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 14-C: Glint and Glare Assessment assessed the potential impact on aviation and concluded that overall impacts on aviation assets are acceptable and not significant.
Lincolnshire County Council	Other: Glint and glare	N/A	Glint and glare should be scoped in and this should focus on visual impact, highway safety and aviation safety.	PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 14-C: Glint and Glare Assessment assessed impacts on various receptors including road, aviation, rail, residential and bridleway receptors.
North Kesteven District Council	Other: ground conditions	N/A	Finally paragraph 15.4.3 notes that the tier 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment will assess a number of matters including details of any available site investigation, risk assessment, remediation, and validation reports for land within the Site. For the area around Witham St Hughs/CEMEX quarries we recommend that this include a Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) assessment mindful of the proximity of the former RAF Swinderby.	A Phase 1 PRA Report has been prepared for the Proposed Development and is provided as PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 14-B . The Site lies within areas formerly occupied by the Swinderby Airfield, which is considered a wartime site of interest. The commissioning of a detailed Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Assessment is recommended prior to the commencement of any

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				intrusive works to assess and potentially zone the UXO hazard level at the Site
Environment Agency	Other: MA&D	N/A	Together with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Environment Agency is part of the COMAH Competent Authority (CCA). The applicant should be aware that the development site is within 250 metres of a COMAH site at Morton Hall, however in this instance we have no comments to make in relation to environmental issues.	The applicant has reviewed the COMAH 2015 Public Information hosted by the HSE and is unable to locate any information in relation to the identified COMAH site at Morton Hall.
Lincolnshire County Council	Other: MA&D	N/A	Accidents and disasters should be scoped in due to the potential for battery fires from developments of this nature. Therefore consider that there should be a specific chapter on this topic in the ES. In addition include details of crime prevention in respect of major accidents such as sabotage, criminal activity should be assessed as pre-planned damage to the scheme could leave it vulnerable to a major accident	A Framework Battery Fire Safety Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO application with the preparation of and implementation of a detailed version secured through DCO Requirement. The ES will assess the risk of battery fire/explosion. This is considered as embedded mitigation within the major accident and disasters assessment.
North Kesteven District Council	Other: MA&D	N/A	Paragraph 15.5.9 suggests that it is considered highly likely that as the design of the Proposed Development evolves in preparation of the DCO application, it will become clear that there is no real risk or serious possibility of major accidents or disasters, such that this matter will be scoped out. Whilst PINS agreed to scope out a standalone ES Chapter for major accidents and disasters in consideration of the Heckington Fen Solar Farm, this was on the basis that that the nature, scale, and location of that development was not considered to be vulnerable to or give rise to significant impacts in relation to the risk of accidents and major disasters.	This comment is noted.
Coleby Parish Council	Other: Microclimate, wind	N/A	Microclimate: large scale solar farms are potentially capable of reducing localised wind velocity and radiating heat, which is in turn absorbed atmospherically. The local area has recently been subject to some of the highest temperatures ever recorded by the Met Office. The scale of the proposed development is somewhat unprecedented and concerns are thus raised over the impact of the scheme upon the microclimate, namely: the potential impact upon neighbouring occupants; and the potential impact upon adjacent habitat land and arable farming operations due to heat stress. Free draining soils coupled with increasingly high summer temperatures and a warmer microclimate in the locality of the PV arrays is anticipated to result in difficulty in establishing screening landscaping measures due to high specimen failure rates.	The Proposed Development has been designed with significant buffers around residential receptors and incorporates existing and proposed hedgerows, trees and grassland. Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application and will discuss the long-term maintenance of planting including in the context of climate change.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Other: Telecommunication	N/A	As the site is approx. 7.42 km (4.61 mi) wide (East to West) and 6.22 km (3.87 mi) long (North to South) there is a likelihood of interference with Terrestrial TV services due to the large footprint of the site. TV reception from the North is via the Belmont transmitter located at grid ref: 53.33573290463092, - 0.17174527912535179 which is 36.38 km (22.61 mi) from the centre of the solar farm. To the south the transmitting station is at Waltham in Leicestershire, at grid ref: 52.80137303388154, - 0.8008068956311353, is 39.52 km (24.56 mi) from the centre of the solar farm. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see mitigation statements of how these high frequency TV signals will be measured in the surrounding villages and the City of Lincoln and what effect they will have due to the large footprint of the solar farm.	The Proposed Development consists of fixed low-lying infrastructure and is therefore unlikely to interfere with terrestrial TV services. No further mitigation is considered necessary.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Other: Telecommunication	N/A	Mobile communications around the Proposed Development are in places very weak due to the topology of the area. There is a Mobile Cellular radio Telecommunications tower located on the A46, grid ref: 53.16189955172792, -0.6591644912399385, providing services around the area of the Proposed Development. Due the earthing of the solar panel support frames there is a likelihood of interference with the line of sight communications to the east of the solar farm due to the large footprint of the solar farm. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see mitigation statements of how Mobile Cellular radio Telecommunications signals will be measured in the surrounding villages and what effect they will have due to the large footprint of the solar farm.	The Proposed Development consists of fixed low-lying infrastructure and is therefore unlikely to interfere with mobile communications. No further mitigation is considered necessary.
Environment Agency	Other: waste	N/A	We have specific concerns regarding the manufacture and design specification of the solar panels. Some types currently coming to the end of their working life are classified as hazardous waste, and are considerably more expensive, and difficult, to dispose of. This should be taken into consideration and we would recommend that the developer uses fully recyclable non-hazardous panels.	A Framework DEMP will accompany the DCO application and will set out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A DEMP based on the Framework DEMP will be prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities at

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Environment Agency	Other: waste	N/A	The developer must apply the waste hierarchy as a priority order of prevention, re-use, recycling before considering other recovery or disposal options. Government guidance on the waste hierarchy in England can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69403/pb13530-waste-hierarchy-guidance.pdf Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) are no longer a legal requirement, however, in terms of meeting the objectives of the waste hierarchy and your duty of care, they are a useful tool and considered to be best practice. In order to meet the applicant's objectives for the waste hierarchy and obligations under the duty of care, it is important that waste is properly classified. Some waste (e.g. wood and wood based products) may be either a hazardous or non-hazardous waste dependent upon whether or not they have had preservative treatments. Proper classification of the waste both ensures compliance and enables the correct onward handling and treatment to be applied. In the case of treated wood, it may require high temperature incineration in a directive compliant facility. More information on this can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste The circular economy is a concept designed to keep materials in use as long as possible, thus promoting resource efficient practice and deriving economic benefits. Adherence to the waste hierarchy and adoption of best practice in relation to site waste management planning will help you deliver against circular economy objectives. Observance of the waste hierarchy objectives and principles of the circular economy will depend upon the selection of the most sustainable option at every phase of a development project, from reduction through design and architecture, to the selection of the most efficient recovery process for the treatment and use of waste. Where a development involves any significant construction or related activities, we would recommend using a management and reporting system to minimise and track the fate of construction wastes, such as that set out in PAS402: 2013, or an appropriate equivalent assurance methodology. This should ensure that any waste contractors employed are suitably responsible in ensuring waste only goes to legitimate destinations.	that time of decommissioning, in advance of the commencement of decommissioning works. This will be secured through a DCO requirement.
Environment Agency	Other: waste	N/A	Contaminated soil that is, or must be disposed of, is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal is subject to waste management legislation, which includes: • Duty of Care Regulations 1991 • Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 • Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 • The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standards BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterisation of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan' and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays. If the total quantity of waste material to be produced at or taken off site is hazardous waste and is 500kg or greater in any 12 month period the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to our website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency for more information.	A Framework SWMP and Framework CEMP covering these aspects will accompany the DCO application.
Environment Agency	Other: waste	N/A	Excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be re-used on-site under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. This voluntary Code of Practice provides a framework for determining whether or not excavated material arising from site during remediation and/or land development works are waste. Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays. The Environment Agency recommends that developers should refer to our: • Position statement on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice and; • website at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency for further guidance If materials that are potentially waste are to be used on-site, the applicant will need to ensure they can comply with the exclusion from the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (article 2(1) (c)) for the use of, 'uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities, etc...' in order for the material not to be considered as waste. Meeting these criteria will mean waste permitting requirements do not apply. Where the applicant cannot meet the criteria, they will be required to obtain the appropriate waste permit or exemption from us A deposit of waste to land will either	If required, a Materials Management Plan (MMP) would be developed as part of the detailed CEMP post consent under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice by the appointed construction Contractor to support the reuse of excavated materials, minimise off-site disposal; and to demonstrate the necessary lines of evidence to support the proper reuse/offsite disposal of materials and ensure compliance with regulatory guidance. A Framework SWMP and Framework CEMP covering these aspects will accompany the DCO application.

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			be a disposal or a recovery activity. The legal test for recovery is set out in Article 3(15) of WFD as: • any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy. • We have produced guidance on the recovery test which can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-recovery-plans-and-permits#waste-recoveryactivities.	
Environment Agency	Other: waste	N/A	Any development using waste or other material for engineering works may require an Environmental Permit, unless it is exempt from the need for a permit. If a permit is required, it must be obtained prior to commencing the activity and the applicant should allow three months for the determination of a standard rules permit and four months for the determination of a bespoke permit. For further advice please visit GOV.UK (https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/waste).	A Framework SWMP and Framework CEMP covering these aspects will accompany the DCO application
North Kesteven District Council	Other: Waste, human health	N/A	We agree that effects to human health as a result of the proposed development can be scoped out as long as reference is made where applicable through the findings of other assessments undertaken as part of the EIA process.	Potential effects to human health are considered in the PEI Report technical chapters with a standalone assessment scoped out of the EIA.
North Kesteven District Council	Other: Human health	N/A	We agree that 'waste' can be scoped out as long as there is reference to within reports/assessments to the likely volume and disposal methods of replacement panels and components throughout the operational lifetime.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 14 Other Environmental Topics (Materials and Waste) section provides a qualitative assessment of waste impacts and cumulative impacts for the operational and decommissioning phases. Further assessment will be provided in the ES.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Policy	N/A	The local Neighbourhood plans for the affected villages surrounding the solar farm are not given a high priority and not well documented within the Fosse Green document. It does not mention the Localism Act 2011 that introduced statutory Neighbourhood Planning in England. It enables communities to draw up a Neighbourhood Development Plan for their area and is intended to give communities more of a say on the development of their local area (within certain limits and parameters). Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see greater detail of how Fosse Green propose to observe the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Adopted 2023.	A full assessment of relevant planning policy will be provided as part of the DCO application in the Planning Statement. This will include consideration of the energy National Policy Statements (NPS) (Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)), the National Planning policy Framework, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Minerals and Waste Plan Local Plan and made Neighbourhood Plans.
North Kesteven District Council	Policy	N/A	Our view is that this submission does not comply with the guidance set out in Advice Note Seven 'Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements'. Continuing, it advises that applicants "should avoid submitting requests with multiple and varied design and layout options" however that if this cannot be avoided and options remain under consideration (for example a number of route corridors associated with a proposed linear development) "applicants should be aware that this may affect the ability of the Planning Inspectorate and consultation bodies to provide detailed comments". Finally, paragraph 5.9 notes that "should a high level of uncertainty remain around key design elements of the Proposed Development this is likely to limit the Planning Inspectorate's ability to agree to scope out aspects/matters to enable the refinement of the ES".	The Applicant presented three options for the Cable Corridor at the Scoping Stage, however for Statutory Consultation, the design of the Proposed Development has been refined to show a single corridor based on the consideration of environmental and engineering constraints and the availability of land. There are still various options considered for the Proposed Development, namely the BESS layout (AC-coupled or DC-coupled) and the choice of PV panel arrangement (fixed south facing or single axis tracker), as explained in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Proposed Development. The assessment takes account of these options in line with the principles of 'Rochdale Envelope' whereby the assessment is made on a worst case parameter relevant to each technical topic. The Applicant has prepared the PEI Report in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven. The Applicant will continue to refine the design in response to environmental assessment and the feedback provided at the Statutory Consultation.
West Lindsey District Council	Policy	N/A	The Environmental Statement should consider National Planning Policy and Guidance as follows: >National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); > National Planning Practice Guidance (to include):	A full assessment of relevant planning policy will be provided as part of the DCO application in the Planning Statement. This will include consideration of the energy National Policy Statements (NPS) (Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), NPS for Renewable

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			- Climate Change - Historic Environment - Environmental Impact Assessment - Air Quality - Light Pollution - Healthy and Safe Communities - Natural Environment including a 10% Net Biodiversity Gain - Noise and Vibration - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements - Water Supply, Wastewater and Water Quality > National Design Guide 2019 > National Design Model Code 2021 > EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy > EN-3 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure > EN-5 Electricity Networks National Policy Statement	Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)), the National Planning policy Framework, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Minerals and Waste Plan Local Plan and made Neighbourhood Plans. Within the Environmental Statement, a Legislation and Policy context is appended to each relevant discipline chapter to make clear the policies that have been taken into account in the assessment undertaken.
West Lindsey District Council	Policy	N/A	It is understood that EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 statements are currently under review to revise energy National Policy Statements. Any new adopted statements to replace EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 must be considered.	With EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 being designated in January 2024, these will be considered throughout the application, notably in the Planning Statement which will set out an assessment of the Proposed Development against the policies contained in these documents.
Navenby Parish Council	Proposed development Construction	N/A	When a decision will be made on whether the solar farm would be connected to the grid via pylons or underground cabling	The Proposed Development will not use the overhead line grid connection and will proceed with the buried grid connection cable connecting to the proposed National Grid's Navenby Substation.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Proposed development	N/A	Battery safety is one element of this project that has the ability to cause severe fire and pollution should an incident of sustained overheating occur. The document indicates that the battery and inverters will be placed away from populated areas but does not go into detail on how fires will be controlled and who will be fighting to extinguish them. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see greater detail of how Fosse Green proposes to deal with any incident that causes fire and how they will mitigate this	A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO application.
Environment Agency	Proposed development	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.1 Fencing should not inhibit safe ingress and egress in a flood scenario e.g., for general public and operators on site.	PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment confirms that the only structures within the floodplain are solar PV panels. All compounds for site staff, Solar Station Compounds, Onsite Substation and BESS Compound have been located out of flood zones and it is envisaged access to solar PV panels within Flood Zone 2 and 3a would not be undertaken during flooding conditions. During a flood event, any affected infrastructure will not be accessed or manned until flood waters recede.
Environment Agency	Proposed development construction	N/A	Paragraph 6.4.5 The 2-year construction programme scenario may not be the worst-case timeline for all environmental parameters proposed to be assessed. The applicant should make this assertion on a case-by-case basis or consider all possible phasing scenarios.	Assessments presented within the PEI Report are based on a worst case scenario relevant to each topic which is explained within each technical chapter.
Environment Agency	Proposed development construction	N/A	Paragraph 10.6.13 The applicant assumes no above ground infrastructure for cables, but this is yet to be determined.	It is now confirmed that the grid connection cable will be fully buried.
Forestry Commission	Proposed development construction	N/A	It is also essential that fuels, chemicals, or waste materials such as topsoil, minerals or hard-core are not stored on ancient woodland soils or under the woodland canopy.	The Proposed Development has been designed with buffers from sensitive receptors including ancient woodland. Pollution prevention measures are covered within PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 3-C: Framework CEMP .

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Environment Agency	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	Paragraphs 3.2.50, 3.2.53 and 6.4.9 As the operational life of the Proposed Development has not been specified the Applicant should assume 75-years in line with PPG for non-residential development.	The Design life in operation of the Proposed Development is 60 years, the assessment is based on a 60 year design life.
Natural England	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	The ES should include details of the decommissioning and after use of the site, with details relating to proposed methods of restoration of land to agricultural use – which should be of an equal grade to the pre-development ALC grading.	A Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be submitted as part of the DCO application.
Natural England	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	Paragraph 12.5.4 states that embedded mitigation measures relevant to the decommissioning phase will be described within an Outline Decommissioning Management Plan (DEMP) to set out the basis for protecting habitats and species during decommissioning, and provide the framework for ensuring soil resources are protected.	The Applicant confirms that embedded mitigation measures relevant to the decommissioning phase will be described within the Framework Decommissioning Management Plan (DEMP) to set out the basis for protecting habitats and species during decommissioning and provide the framework for ensuring soil resources are protected. This will include a framework to enable the most valuable habitats to be retained where possible.
Natural England	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	There is additional uncertainty regarding decommissioning due to the potential establishment of important habitats during the operational phase. The ES should include a framework to enable the most valuable habitats to be retained where possible.	The Applicant confirms that embedded mitigation measures relevant to the decommissioning phase will be described within the Framework Decommissioning Management Plan (DEMP) to set out the basis for protecting habitats and species during decommissioning and provide the framework for ensuring soil resources are protected. This will include a framework to enable the most valuable habitats to be retained where possible.
Natural England	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	The loss of created habitats in order to revert to agriculture after 40 years of operation could have a negative impact on biodiversity, habitats and species which have established in the operational period. We acknowledge the difficulty in pre-planning for a scenario 40 years into the future, but consider that the ES should include provision for new surveys and assessment to inform any additional mitigation/compensatory measures to be implemented prior to any reinstatement works occurring. We would also encourage the retention of areas of particular biodiversity value, i.e. widened field boundaries/buffer areas, and/or compensatory habitat being provided off-site	The Applicant confirms that embedded mitigation measures relevant to the decommissioning phase will be described within the Framework Decommissioning Management Plan (DEMP) to set out the basis for protecting habitats and species during decommissioning and provide the framework for ensuring soil resources are protected. This will include a framework to enable the most valuable habitats to be retained where possible. Note: in addition to the auditing/monitoring of protected species during the operational phase, there will be a requirement as part of BNG to report on progress towards the final BNG target, thereby informing the DEMP.
Navenby Parish Council	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	Linked to this point, what is the disposal plan for life-expired batteries and solar panels, as we understand that there is limited scope to recycle them	Batteries and solar PV panels are recyclable. This is covered within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 14 Section 14.5: Materials and Waste .
Navenby Parish Council	Proposed development decommissioning	N/A	When the project is eventually decommissioned, what safeguards will be in place to ensure the land will be returned to agricultural use.	The Applicant confirms that embedded mitigation measures relevant to the decommissioning phase will be described within the Framework Decommissioning Management Plan (DEMP) to set out the basis for protecting habitats and species during decommissioning and provide the framework for ensuring soil resources are protected. This will include a framework to enable the most valuable habitats to be retained where possible. Note: in addition to the auditing/monitoring of protected species during the operational phase, there will be a requirement as part of BNG to report on progress towards the final BNG target, thereby informing the DEMP.
Environment Agency	Proposed development operation	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.54 We note Policy S14 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Adopted April 2023, which states that: “Permitted proposals will be subject to a condition that will require the submission of an End of Life Removal Scheme within one year of the facility becoming non-operational, and the implementation of such a scheme within one year of the scheme being approved. Such a scheme should demonstrate how any biodiversity net gain that has arisen on the site will be protected or enhanced further, and how the materials to be removed would, to a practical degree, be re-used or recycled.”	The Applicant confirms that embedded mitigation measures relevant to the decommissioning phase will be described within the Framework Decommissioning Management Plan (DEMP) to set out the basis for protecting habitats and species during decommissioning and provide the framework for ensuring soil resources are protected. This will include a framework to enable the

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				most valuable habitats to be retained where possible. Note: in addition to the auditing/monitoring of protected species during the operational phase, there will be a requirement as part of BNG to report on progress towards the final BNG target, thereby informing the DEMP.
Navenby Parish Council	Proposed development operation	N/A	Given the 40-year life of this project and the rate at which technology advances, how quickly will the initial installation of solar panels become obsolete and need to be replaced or upgraded	While it is acknowledged that the renewable technology advances at a fast pace, once installed the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure will remain technologically and commercially viable for the design life of these components. It is however acknowledged in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development that during the 60-year operational live of the Proposed Development components will need to be replaced, and this is considered within the assessments. Any replacement will likely be done in phases and not as a wholesale replacement at one time.
Lincolnshire County Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Socioeconomic (Chapter 13) From an economic growth perspective, the range of the topics in the scoping document appears reasonable, and will be able to comment in further detail as the project progresses.	The point is noted, no further action has been taken.
Coleby Parish Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Cleaning and Maintenance Processes: cleaning and maintenance processes will be necessary to ensure that the solar panels maintain maximum effectiveness and efficiency in producing electricity – this could either be a manual or mechanised process – if the former will provide substitute job opportunities making up for loss of employment in local agriculture.	An assessment of the operational employment which includes activities such as cleaning and maintenance is included in Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use . The PEI Report provides an indicative description of the size and responsibilities of the operational workforce within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development .
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	There is no indication of what the proposed level of investment in the site is; i.e. the value to the national and local economy of the financial investment into the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.	The socio-economics and land use assessment includes an assessment of the local and regional construction and operational employment associated with the Proposed Development. An assessment relating to the Gross Value Added resulting from the construction of the Proposed Development has also been undertaken and the preliminary findings presented in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use - Section 12.7 .
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	In terms of the construction phase there is nothing in the chapter that indicates how many people will be employed during the construction phase. Evidence from other schemes is that this is where most employment, albeit, temporary will be created. However, no numbers are mentioned, or how phasing of the development may impact upon construction opportunities.	The PEI Report includes an assessment of the employment associated with the construction of the Proposed Development. The assessment incorporates a detailed and well-established methodology which considers additionality effects, resulting in presentation of expected employment numbers at the local Study Area level and elsewhere
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Linked to this, there is no indication of whether this will create local employment opportunities, whether for locally based sub-contractors, or for direct construction employment. No reference to apprenticeship opportunities, or indeed how local construction firms might be able to benefit from this development. This is a significant omission.	The assessment of construction employment incorporates leakage, the proportion of workers who will be from outside the study area, defined as a 60-minute drive area within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land User . Based on this, an estimate of the local employment impacts is assessed in Section 12.7 of the Chapter. Moreover, induced and indirect effects are assessed which include an indication of the supply chain linkages and local 'knock-on' employment effects. This PEI Report provides an indicative description of the size of the construction workforce within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development .

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North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Linked to this, because there is no indication of the level of construction workforce that will be required to construct the solar farm, there is no information of where the construction workforce will come from (i.e. local contractors or specialist teams or a combination), for how long they will be on site, depending upon their construction role, and where they will be housed, assuming they are brought in as external contracts. The ES should therefore identify how local businesses may benefit from maintenance contracts related to the project, along with opportunities for specialist contractors to be hosted by local accommodation providers during the construction phase. The ES should also address the potential for employment opportunities via apprenticeships. Economic benefits to the town of North Hykeham in particular should also be quantified if possible, associated with the possible hosting of construction workforce during the construction phase.	The assessment of construction employment incorporates leakage, the proportion of workers who will be from outside the study area, defined as a 60-minute drive area within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use. Based on this, an estimate of the local employment impacts is assessed in Section 12.7 of the chapter. Moreover, induced and indirect effects are assessed which include an indication of the supply chain linkages and local 'knock-on' employment effects. This PEI Report provides an indicative description of the size of the construction workforce within PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development. Furthermore, based on the comments received via the Scoping Opinion, the assessment present within this PEI Report includes an assessment of the influx of construction workers on the local accommodation sector, taking into account the likely impact additional construction workers will have on occupancy of accommodation businesses, in accordance with the levels of local/elsewhere employment assessed.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Equally, once the site is operational, employment and contractor opportunities are not really covered in any detail; for example what types of maintenance contracts may be available to local businesses, how the applicant will engage with the local business community and what the impact on existing agricultural employment is as a consequence of a significant amount of arable land being taken out of production? The ES should therefore specify the type of local opportunities the construction process will offer, both in terms of direct job opportunities during the construction phase, and longer term in terms of permanent full time operatives to monitor and maintain the solar farm.	An assessment of operational employment is included in Section 12.7 of Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use . Details on skills and procurement, including training and apprenticeship offerings will be available at the ES stage and will be summarised in the ES.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Impacts on the local tourism and visitor economy offer are not quantified or noted. The proposals are in come proximity to a number of settlements, in particular Thorpe on the Hill, Haddington, Witham St Hughs and Bassingham. As well as North Hykeham, we would expect that there should be some analysis of what the potential economic impact on these villages might be. In terms of local tourism, the development may provide opportunity to enhance both resident and visitor engagement. Given the nature and scale of the proposal, is there not an opportunity to have a visitor centre or at the very least some form of publicly accessible interpretation facilities that extols the benefits of renewable energy?	An assessment of visitor attractions has been included in the PEI Report. The influx of the construction workforce will likely positively impact the nearby settlements to the Proposed Development. In Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use, impacts on local gross value added (GVA) is assessed. Furthermore, the assessment of construction employment takes into consideration multiplier effects, defined as further economic activity associated with the additional local income, supplier purchase and longer-term development effects.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	Potential socio-economic impacts should be based on the interactions between the expected project activities and the people and communities, including to consider whether any tourism accommodation providers in the area that will be adversely affected by the solar farm. As above the ES should also consider whether any livelihoods will be lost as a consequence of the development and for instance whether agricultural workers may be offered re-training and re-skilling to work on the solar farm. The ES should estimate the number of farms that will be affected by these proposals and what the potential loss of agricultural employment will be.	An ALC Survey has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economic and Land Use reflects the findings of the ALC survey within the socio-economics and land use assessment. A cumulative effects assessment is also undertaken with regards to all scoped-in effects. As stated, information being provided on current land use from landowners on the Site remains an assumption within the assessment. In the absence of this information, good practice guidance and professional judgement will be used. The assessment of potential temporary or permanent loss of agricultural land is conducted in light of relevant local policy relating to agricultural land. The viability of land holdings is beyond the scope of the socio-economics and land use assessment. The Applicant has heads of terms for lease options with the landowners for the Principal Site and negotiations are ongoing with landowners along the Cable Corridor. The landowners will be able to continue to farm land within

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				the Cable Corridor after installation, and the landowners for the Principal Site have made a voluntary decision to lease the land for the Proposed Development, with the income expected to assist the overall management of their land holdings.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	In summary therefore, with reference to direct, indirect, temporary and permanent employment jobs created through construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning, this information should be presented along with identification of; > opportunities for using local businesses on various aspects of the construction phase; > how the applicant would go about supporting local business procurement; > financial estimates of economic benefits of the construction phase to the local economy including hotel spend etc; > opportunities to encourage apprenticeships; and > financial estimates and local opportunities associated with ongoing maintenance over the 40-year operational period.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use presents the preliminary findings of: - An assessment of construction employment considers the indirect and induced employment effects, taking into account induced and indirect additionality effects resulting from supply chain linkages; and - The financial impact of the construction phase in terms of local employment, and GVA is included within the Socio-Economic and Land Use assessment. It has been noted above that details on the skills management plan and procurement plan, as well as training and apprenticeship offerings will be available at ES stage.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	In terms of potential economic benefits, the Council notes that an established way of calculating the extra value generated by local spend on contractors and services would be by using LM3 multipliers which the applicant might wish to consider depending on the certainty of construction contracts etc at this stage. The multiplier can be found at https://www.lm3online.com/ .	This point is noted and has been considered in the Socio-Economics and Land-Use assessment. Further details are provided in Section 12.4 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use .
Wellingore Parish Council	Socio-Economics	N/A	The value of residential property both surrounded and visually impacted by the development must be considered. This was scoped out of the Springwell application which is wrong and unjust – the many occupants deserve a fair consideration of the effects of this proposed development on property values as well as quality of living as well as local and visual amenities. It is hard to countenance a reduction of residential value of many properties in the vicinity being of less than 10%. It is easy to countenance a reduction in value of a significant property surrounded by this development in the order of 30%. This will be of significant concern to residents and the local economy. The apparent disregard of this single issue and the apparent lack of consultation to date and as noted for the Springwell site leads to a reminder to the applicant to seek to ensure compliance with the Gunning Principles of effective consultation. Residential property should be scoped in and considered in some considerable detail	Impact on property value is not a material planning consideration and is not taken into account in the decision making process for development consent order applications under the Planning Act 2008. Where an adverse impact is identified through the environmental impact assessment process, mitigation measures will be provided and secured under the terms of the DCO. For instance, if a landscape and visual effect is identified, screening, and/or suitable buffers may be proposed to minimise any adverse impacts.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics and agriculture	N/A	There is also limited reference in the proposed scope to any socio-economic benefit enduring from continued agricultural use of part or all of the site. Sheep grazing is briefly noted however there may also be alternative forms of cropping among panelled areas. The applicant should therefore quantify whether and how there are socio-economic benefits stemming from a change from predominantly arable agricultural use of the site predevelopment to a solar and possibly pastoral use post-development.	Commentary is provided in Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use relating to agricultural land uses compatible with the Proposed Development in operation, and following its decommissioning, including whether the proposals has the potential to degrade or help recover soils.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics and land use	N/A	Whilst there are some cross-overs in the Scoping Report, the Council would recommend that Socio-Economic impacts and Land Use impacts are spilt into different freestanding chapters consistent with the other three NSIP scaled solar farms in North Kesteven District. Turning to land use first, alongside the below comments we would also refer you to the comments of the Council's Land and Property consultant, Landscape, attached as Appendix 2. Paragraph 13.6.3 states that an ALC soil survey will be undertaken for the land parcels within the Site boundary, 'as deemed necessary'.	PEI Report covers socio-economics and land use in one chapter (chapter 12) in sufficient detail.
North Kesteven District Council	Socio-Economics, DCO management	N/A	We suggest that the applicant should also identify a mechanism by which any changes in agricultural activity (and ergo any associated socio-economic effect) can be secured through the DCO process.	The Applicant will consider this comment when drafting the DCO.
Wellingore Parish Council	Need	N/A	The nature of the investment is huge being in excess of 0.35 billion pounds making it disproportionate to the local economy. The size of the development should be considered in context of the large number of similar developments overwhelming the area. This is due to the available capacity on the 400Kv transmission network and not for any justifiable local need – indeed there is widespread environmental, rural and amenity damage being proposed for no valid or other determined reason.	Details of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development are discussed within the technical chapters of the PEI Report (chapters 6 to 15). The need for the Proposed Development will be set out in the Planning Statement which will set out an assessment of the Proposed Development against the policies contained in the



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				relevant planning documents. Included in this will be National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) which states “Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure”. This includes electricity generation from renewable sources, such as the Proposed Development.
Coleby Parish Council	Traffic and transport	N/A	Highways and Byways: in one section of the scoping report, there is mention of the rural roads across the proposed site and the relevant cliff villages area being ‘relatively quiet’. These roads are not relatively quiet, they are rural roads – a web of links between communities and farms, used by residents, farm traffic, delivery vehicles, and at times, others. When these narrow roads are closed even for short periods of time due to necessary road works, the knock-on effect is massive in the surrounding areas, loading those roads with extra traffic. A small increase has a more profound effect on rural roads. Also, the Scoping Report has a long list of Heritage Assets in the proposed development area, and also Public Rights of Way – but seems silent on addressing these issues.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport sets out the proposed approach in Section 13.6 which will be fully detailed within the ES related to the proposed construction traffic management during the construction phase. Appropriate routing of vehicles and HGVs will be adopted to minimise the impact on more sensitive and rural roads – approach will be discussed and agreed with the Local Highway Authorities (LHAs). At this stage it is assumed that construction traffic will adopt the most appropriate routes to and from the Site from the A46.
North Kesteven District Council	Traffic and transport	N/A	Paragraph 14.3.6 notes that it is likely that components would be transported from one of the local (unnamed) ports and that as part of the PEIR Stage, an initial access feasibility assessment will be undertaken to determine the potential access route(s) for delivering these components to the Solar and Energy Storage Park via the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and local roads. If Felixstowe is likely to be used then the ES should include cumulative impacts of component delivery along with the Heckington, Springwell and Beacon Fen solar NSIPs which are also likely to use the A17 and A15.	The potential access route(s) for the delivery of components will be reviewed as part of the Framework CTMP to be submitted as part of the DCO application. The ES will also include a cumulative assessment of other schemes in the area. Points for consideration for the construction traffic management include: 1) Road closures will be avoided where possible, and if required, limited to short durations to minimise any impacts. 2) Traffic surveys will be carried out to determine baseline traffic levels across the local highway network, including any rural roads which will be used during the construction phase, to allow any potential impacts to be assessed. 3) The assessment will include a review of proportional increases in traffic levels on the surrounding highway network to determine potential impacts. 4) potential impacts on PRow, such as potential crossing points or temporary diversion will be considered and assessed, with any mitigation identified within the Framework CTMP and/or Framework PRow Management Plan.
North Kesteven District Council	Traffic and transport	N/A	Paragraphs 14.3.8 and 14.3.9 refer to the three potential corridors being explored for the grid connection, namely northern, central and southern. The Scoping Report confirms connection into a new National Grid substation in the ‘Navenby area’ but which it outside the scope of the proposed DCO. Cumulative transport considerations should therefore include (primarily construction) impacts of the preferred cable connection route along with the new National Grid substation and Springwell solar farm; specifically the ‘Springwell West’ zone.	The Proposed Development now includes one Cable Corridor. The ES will include a cumulative assessment of other schemes in the area. The list of cumulative schemes for review will be agreed with the Local Highway Authorities (LHAs).
North Kesteven District Council	Traffic and transport	N/A	Cumulative construction effects should include any unimplemented areas of Phase 3 of the Witham St Hughs development along with the North Hykeham Relief Road. The applicant should also agree the scope with National Highways, to possibly include the A46 Newark Bypass improvement scheme.	Details of the approach to a cumulative assessment are included in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport Section 13.10. The Environmental Statement will include a cumulative assessment of other schemes in the area. The list of cumulative schemes for review will be agreed with the Local Highway Authorities (LHAs) and with National Highways to discuss any proposed or ongoing Proposed Developments within the vicinity of the Site.
North Kesteven District Council	Traffic and transport	N/A	Paragraph 14.3.14 onwards lists PRow located within the Site boundary of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Of these, the Viking Way long distance trail is likely to have heightened sensitivity and would be crossed by all three cable connection options. It should be acknowledged as such as distinct from other PRowS in the ES.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport Section 13.5 considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on any key walking/cycling routes, as well as Public Rights of Way (PRow). Any mitigation (where required) will be identified within the Framework CTMP and/or Framework PRow Management Plan.

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Lincolnshire County Council	Transport	N/A	Transport and Traffic (Chapter 14) A Transport Statement, Outline CTMP and Travel Plan will be produced. Standard methodology is proposed for these documents, the operation and de-commissioning phases are to be scoped out (since the impacts will be less than construction). This is an acceptable approach for operation but not for de-commissioning which is the reverse of the construction phase and so impacts could be significant.	As identified within the Scoping Report, the decommissioning effects of the Proposed Development are expected to be of a similar (or lesser) magnitude to the construction effects. On this basis, the construction period is expected to have the greatest change on the surrounding transport network. Therefore, rather than scoping out an assessment of the decommissioning phase, the likely impacts of the Proposed Development during the decommissioning phase (as well as any mitigation) have been based on the assessment of the construction phase. Any mitigation to be implemented during the construction and decommissioning phases would then be secured through the DCO, such as through the Framework CTMP, Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan and Framework Decommissioning Strategy/ Environmental Management Plan.
West Lindsey District Council	Transport	N/A	It would be welcomed if the Environment Report provided detail on any use and impact on the highway network in West Lindsey.	The Proposed Development is not expected to have an impact on the highway network in West Lindsey, the Site is located approximately 9.5km south of the district boundary and unlikely to result in a significant impact on the highway network in West Lindsey. The trips associated with the construction phase and the preliminary assessment are set in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport section 13.7.
Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire	Transport, Socio-Economics	N/A	Within the proposed area of the Solar Farm are various Public Footpaths, Public Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byway open to all traffic (BOAT). Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council Lincolnshire would like to see a full List, Type and Location Plan of all the Public rights of way as discussed above and what mitigation will be provide to retain access to these routes.	This is noted, and the ES will consider the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Any mitigation (where required) will be identified within the Framework CTMP and/or Framework PRoW Management Plan.
Natural England	Transport, Socio-Economics	N/A	From Paragraphs 11.4.18 – 21 we note that there is an extensive network of routes across the study area, with a notable concentration extending from Thorpe on the Hill. There is also a concentration of paths connecting settlements through the centre of the study area. The report states that there is relatively sparse public access across the easternmost part of study area and across land east of the River Brent. The Viking Way, a long-distance trail, follows the Southern Lincolnshire Ridge in the south eastern extent of the study area. And a National Cycle Route 64 follows on the northern edge of the study area. There may be opportunities to enhance these provisions.	This is noted, and the ES will consider the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on any key walking/cycling routes, as well as Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Any mitigation (where required) will be identified within the Framework CTMP and/or Framework PRoW Management Plan.
Natural England	Transport, Socio-Economics	N/A	The ES should consider potential impacts on public rights of way in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph100. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.	This is noted and the ES will consider the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Any mitigation (where required) will be identified within the Framework CTMP and/or Framework PRoW Management Plan.
Natural England	Transport, Socio-Economics	N/A	Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Access to nature within the development site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species	This is noted, and the ES will consider the potential impacts of the Proposed Development arising from the proposed provision of permissive paths in improving access. Any mitigation (where required) will be identified within the Framework CTMP and/or Framework PRoW Management Plan.
Natural England	Landscape	N/A	Relevant aspects of the ‘Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire’ appear to have been considered (Paragraph 11.4.31 and Ref 70) and should be incorporated where appropriate. Natural England welcomes that the landscape assessment will pay particular reference to strategic green corridors, green access links and green infrastructure zones that are within the study area. We note at Paragraph 3.2.39 that the existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches, ponds and field margins will be retained within the layout of the solar arrays, with the exception of small breaks and/or crossings required for new access tracks, security fencing and connection routes will be retained. Any breaks or crossing will be designed to use existing agricultural gateways/tracks between the fields and the width of any new breaks will be kept to a minimum.	The layout of the Principal Site and the planting proposals seek to retain the existing trees, hedgerows, watercourses and ponds through the application of buffers, with additional planting of trees and hedgerow gapping up proposed.

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Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.3.8 Given Policy S21 (Flood Risk and Water Resources) of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the presence of flood storage areas and flood zones 2 and 3 within the development site, the proposal should incorporate enhancements to watercourses and drainage infrastructure within the development footprint to improve natural processes, ecology, geomorphology, ecosystem services, flood storage and water quality.	The Applicant confirms that with respect to Policy S21 (Flood Risk and Water Resources) of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the presence of flood storage areas and flood zones 2 and 3 within the development site, the proposal will incorporate restoration and enhancements to watercourses and drainage infrastructure within the development footprint to improve natural processes, ecology, geomorphology, ecosystem services, flood storage and water quality (Paragraph 10.3.8). SuDS will be incorporated within the Proposed Development to ensure no increase in flood risk and betterment where possible, with any appropriate SuDS linked to amenity and biodiversity value where appropriate. PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-D: Preliminary Surface Water Drainage Strategy seeks to mimic existing regimes and water quality with no adverse impact within the Proposed Development area or elsewhere. The restoration of watercourses, some of which will provide environmental improvements and contribute to the delivery of BNG, will help deliver Water Framework Directive (WFD) improvements and will also reduce the risk of flooding. This will be described further at the ES stage, once the Proposed Development design has been developed. In addition, the cessation of pesticide and fertiliser inputs and of irrigation, will have a significant benefit to the ecology and water quality of watercourses downstream of the Proposed Development.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	The proposal has the potential to impact statutory main rivers. The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit to be obtained for any activities which will take place: • on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal) • on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal) • on or within 16 metres of a sea defence • involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert • in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activitiesenvironmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506. We advise that the applicant consults with us at the earliest opportunity where the proposal Where a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) is required, it is unlikely that our consent will be granted for works that do not allow access for maintenance or repair purpose or that have an unacceptable impact on flood risk or the natural environment. The permanent retention of a continuous unobstructed area is an essential requirement for emergency access to the river for repairs to the bank and for future maintenance and/or improvement works. Where development or works are proposed that would require a FRAP, it is recommended that detailed pre-application planning advice is obtained from us any concerns can be resolved up front. There is no mention at this stage regarding whether the applicant will seek to disapply The Environmental Permitting Regulations in regard to flood risk activities. Whilst disapplication is common practice in DCO proceedings, we still require to be formally notified of this intention. If disapplication is formally notified to us, we still require discussions with the applicant around the proposals and will secure our interests by way of approval of plans through Protected Provisions. There is no guarantee that we will agree to disapply EPR.	Noted. The consents and permits that are considered to be required in relation to the Water Environment have been included within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment . It will be confirmed in the DCO application where the Applicant seeks to disapply these through the DCO process and the use of Protective Provisions.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	If dewatering is required, it may require an environmental permit if it doesn't meet the exemption in The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 Section 5: Small scale dewatering in the course of building or engineering works. Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water: RPS 261 – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) If they don't meet the exemption and require a full abstraction licence they should be aware that some aquifer units may be closed for new consumptive abstractions in this area. More information can be found here: Abstraction licensing strategies (CAMS process) – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Please note that the typical timescale to process a licence application is 9-12 months. The applicant may wish to consider whether a scheme-wide dewatering application rather than individual	Noted. The consents and permits that are considered to be required in relation to the Water Environment have been included within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .

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			applications would be beneficial. We suggest talking to our National Permitting Service (NPS) early in the project planning.	
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Where it is not possible to connect foul drainage to the main sewer, under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 any discharge of sewage or trade effluent made to either surface water or groundwater will need to be registered as an exempt discharge activity or hold a permit issued by the Environment Agency, addition to planning permission. This applies to any discharge to inland freshwaters, coastal waters or relevant territorial waters. The applicant may also need to consider discharge of groundwater, especially if it is contaminated. If the developer identifies the need to discharge to surface water during construction, then a permit may also be required. More information can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwaterenvironmental-permits A permit does not mean they can deteriorate the watercourse and may not be granted. Only clean, uncontaminated water should be discharged to surface water or groundwater and any permits need to be planned for well in advance of construction. Discharging run-off to watercourses has the potential to transport pollutants such as herbicides/ pesticides/ nitrates/ phosphates and silt and should be a last resort with mitigation in place to reduce the impact. Additional guidance in relation to discharging and permits is available at the following links: • https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwaterenvironmental-permits • https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-advice-before-you-apply-for-an-environmentalpermit The use of drilling muds for the directional drilling may require a groundwater activity permit unless the 'de minimis' exemption applies. Early discussion about this is also recommended.	Noted. The consents and permits that are considered to be required in relation to the Water Environment will be included within the PEI Report (Chapter 9).
Environment Agency	Water, Noise and vibration	N/A	The Applicant should consider the effects of vibration on flood defences (as the receptor) utilising relevant guidance e.g., British Standards mentioned in 12.8.3. This should consider plant, works, increase in nearby traffic for all stages of the development (construction, operation, and decommissioning).	Effects due to vibration generated from construction and decommissioning activities have been considered in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration . Operational vibration has been scoped out as agreed with PINS.
Environment Agency	Water, Noise and vibration	N/A	Paragraph 12.7.1 and Table 12-6 Construction traffic vibration should be scoped in if in close proximity to flood defences. Similarly for operation of the proposed development.	There will be no significant construction traffic in proximity to flood defences. The Proposed Development has been set back from the River Witham and the River Brant, and these rivers will be crossed via HDD, therefore no vibration impact on flood defences is anticipated. Effects on human disturbance due to construction and operational traffic vibration are scoped out of the ES as agreed with PINS. The level of vibration required for human disturbance is low in comparison to the level of vibration required for earth movement. As such, an assessment of impacts on flood defences is scoped out.
Canal & Rivers Trust	Water	N/A	Having reviewed the location of the project and the relationship of the Proposed Development and its associated infrastructure with our network, we do not believe that the proposals as shown would cross land owned or operated by the Trust or impact our interests. Our closest waterways are the River Trent approximately 6.5km to the west and the Fosdyke Canal approximately 8 kilometres northeast of the site boundary. Should the scheme be amended to potentially affect these waterways we would welcome further consultation on the proposals, so that we can advise about any potential impact for our interests.	The Applicant confirms that the proposals as shown do not cross land owned or operated by the Canal and Rivers Trust or otherwise impact the Trust's interests. The Trust's closest waterways are the River Trent approximately 6.5 km to the west and the Fosdyke Canal approximately 8 km north-east of the site boundary. Should the Proposed Development be amended to potentially affect these waterways, the Applicant would undertake further consultation on the proposals with the Trust.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	The flood extents with consideration of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development should be assessed in relation to fluvial and/or tidal flood sources. Tidal sources are currently scoped out, however in the absence of an assessment of tidal flood modelling including climate change impacts it cannot be certain that the site is not affected. If any development is to be located within Flood Zone 3, then an assessment of the floodplain loss should be made and floodplain compensation provided. This should include the cumulative volume of the stanchions in which solar panels are mounted upon. Any critical electrical equipment/essential infrastructure should be set above the predicted flood levels, e.g. the 0.1% annual probability flood level where achievable.	Noted. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .

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Environment Agency	Water	N/A	If buildings will be required, finished floor levels should be raised as high as practicable above ground levels and ensure that any occupants are kept safe in a flood event.	Noted and agreed.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Witham Washlands Flood Storage Area is not considered in detail but is shown on Figure 10-3 as Flood Storage Area). However, we welcome the reference (10.6.14) to the Lincoln Flood Alleviation Scheme (aka the Witham Washland flood storage area) and that the development should be setback from this area. Development should be avoided in this area and it should not compromise its function. With regards to the boundary crossing of the Witham Washland Flood Storage Area, early engagement is paramount as there are specific legal agreements in place regarding the operation, arrangements, agriculture and land ownership within the Witham Washlands. We are unclear at this point whether the cable will go under the Washlands or solar arrays are proposed within the Washlands. We therefore request further clarity on this. The applicant is therefore advised to engage with ourselves and the landowners in this regard. The applicant should contact our local Customers and Engagement Team (L.Nenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) for more information.	Noted, coordination will be undertaken with the EA to discuss. No solar arrays are proposed within any functional flood storage schemes.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Within the operation section at 10.5.7 it refers to potential permanent physical impacts to watercourse if crossings are required for access and impacts on the rate and volumes of runoff entering the watercourses. We would need more information regards these statements and the likely impact this may have on both watercourses.	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment provides an assessment of all potential impacts to watercourses, including hydromorphological or physical impacts where new structures are proposed for access.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	The proposed cable routes crossing the main rivers however may be suitable to satisfy the exemption known as Flood Risk Activity 3: Service crossing below the bed of a main river not involving an open cut technique. This exemption can be located on the gov.uk website: Exempt flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). We would encourage the applicant to follow the set criteria of this exemption to carry out any service crossings of the Main Rivers. If the applicant feels they cannot satisfy the criteria set out in FRA3 a flood risk bespoke permit will be required.	Noted. The consents and permits that are considered to be required in relation to the Water Environment are outlined within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	The applicant has not identified the flood defences (type, position, condition, geometry, etc) within their site. We need to understand how these could be affected and whether they protect the proposal for 75 years (required by NPPF).	PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment provides an assessment of all potential impacts to flood defences, where appropriate, in line with NPPF requirements. A 10m buffer to all watercourses is incorporated into the design. EA modelling provided has taken into account flood defences (Witham Washlands FSA and surrounding watercourses) and has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . The Design life in operation of the Proposed Development is 60 years, the assessment is based on a 60 year design life.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	The applicant is advised to contact us to request our flood risk data to inform their FRA. However if the applicant intends to undertake any of their own hydraulic modelling (e.g. to take into account correct climate change allowances) we should be contacted at the earliest opportunity to discuss any modelling requirements and to avoid any issues which may present a risk to the project.	Agreed. Liaison with the EA has been undertaken for modelling and if it is required. Currently agreed to use the 2015 hydraulic model outputs in lieu of pending updates to the Upper Witham model ins 2024/5. Including climate change.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraphs 3.2.15-21 An understanding of how the proposed structures (64 inverters, 64 transformers, 64 switchgears, and three substations may affect the topography and whether this will adversely affect the current Flood Zones, shown in Figure 2-1b or future Flood Zones within the (assumed) design-life 75 years.	This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment with permanent built infrastructure located outside of Flood Zone 3 as far as reasonably practicable. The Design life in operation of the Proposed Development is 60 years, the assessment is based on a 60 year design life.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Table 10-1 • It is unclear how the applicant has derived the pre-development flood risk designation of “High”. The applicant should clarify whether this is the likelihood of flooding that is being considered and what the threshold for “High” would be in terms of a quantitative analysis. It is not clear if the vulnerability of receptors has been considered in this analysis. • Is the designation of “High” is representative of the whole site given that some areas are within Flood Zone 1? • What is the evidence that site outside tidal flood	The Proposed Development is classed as Essential Infrastructure under Annex 3 of the NPPF and has been assessed as such for a worst case approach. The majority of the Proposed Development is at low risk; however, due to interaction with several areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 a high risk has been used for the assessment. Any

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			extent including climate change impacts? • Are there any residential receptors within the redline boundary and is Less Vulnerable an appropriate designation?	change to the designation will be agreed with the EA should they agree it can be classified as low risk pre-development.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.5.3 Proposal should not increase flood risk	Noted. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment with no increase in flood risk to the Proposed Development or elsewhere.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.5.7 Proposed permanent hydrological changes may need to be modelled.	Noted. It is not envisaged there will be any hydrological changes.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.6.15 We may find the proposal unacceptable if proposed within an area at risk of flooding and this will necessitate hydrological modelling. Flood storage compensation should be local, level-for-level, volume-for-volume, and lead to a net-gain in storage volume.	Noted. Liaison with the EA has been undertaken for modelling and if it is required. Currently agreed to use the 2015 hydraulic model outputs in lieu of pending updates to the Upper Witham model ins 2024/5, including climate change.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraphs 10.6.17 and 10.8.3 The impact assessment should also consider the effect of flood risk on the proposal and any subsequent consequences during construction, operation, and decommissioning e.g., power outage during operation from flood event.	Noted, PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment considers flood risk through all stages of the Proposed Development. The impact of flood risk in EIA terms is also presented in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.6.21 Assessment of flood risk should be quantitative (where possible).	Noted and agreed. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.8.4 10 metres would more appropriately be measured from the most landward extent of the flood defence or bank. The buffer zone also helps to ensure that development is sustainable and that the flood defences are not adversely affected by the proposed works.	Noted and agreed.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.8.6 We welcome engagement about the proposed modelling required	Noted and agreed.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.8.7 Where the Applicant is required to assess assets (e.g., flood defences), this may necessitate the clearance of vegetation. We may require a survey of flood defences within the environs	Noted. Liaison with the EA has been undertaken for modelling and if it is required. Currently agreed to use the 2015 hydraulic model outputs in lieu of pending updates to the Upper Witham model ins 2024/5, including climate change.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.8.9 We may need to understand how the Applicant may be proposing to change levels and how this could affect flood risk.	Currently it is not proposed to alter existing site levels. SuDS may require lowering and or localised bunding, which will be reviewed to ensure no increase in flood risk will occur within the Site or elsewhere.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 10.8.10 Any activity which could have an adverse impact on flood risk should be included	Noted and agreed. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	There is an area of land owned by the Environment Agency in relation to the Witham Washlands Flood Storage Area within the scoping area. It is unclear at this stage whether this land will be affected by the proposals, but we would welcome on-going discussions with the applicant about this.	Noted and agreed. Consultation with the EA is being undertaken throughout development of the DCO application.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	This chapter relates to the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the water environment, including groundwater. This includes the groundwater in the Secondary and Principal aquifers beneath the site, as well as the groundwater source protection zone 3 in the east of the site.	Noted and agreed. Impacts on groundwater levels and flow and groundwater quality are considered in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	The report mentions that a drainage strategy will be compiled for the scheme. The strategy should include measures to prevent pollution. This is particularly important in the areas of the site that are underlain by a Principal aquifer and within the SPZ. The strategy should ensure that any proposed used of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) is in line with the available guidance on GOV.UK: Sustainable drainage systems:	Noted and agreed. PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-D: Preliminary Surface Water Drainage Strategy considers water quality impacts in line with current guidance. The potential impact of

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			non-statutory technical standards – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). ‘The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection’ sets out where SuDS drainage is acceptable in relation to controlled waters. The applicant should be particularly mindful of policy G9 in relation to deep bore soakaways.	the proposed drainage is also assessed within PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Environment Agency	Water environment	N/A	We are satisfied with the proposed scoped of the EIA and pleased to see the developers will be following mitigation measures and good practice during construction, operation and for any decommission phase. All efforts must be undertaken to not deteriorate the water quality or hydrology of any water bodies during construction or operation	Noted. Potential for impacts on the water environment are assessed in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment , and the potential for deterioration or prevention of future improvement of WFD water bodies assessed within PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-B: WFD Screening assessment .
Environment Agency	Water environment	N/A	Government guidance contained within the national planning practice guidance (water supply, wastewater and water quality – considerations for planning applications, paragraph 020) sets out a hierarchy of drainage options that must be considered in the following order: 1. Connection to the public sewer 2. Package sewage treatment plant (adopted in due course by the sewerage company or owned and operated under a new appointment or variation) 3. Septic Tank	Noted.
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.51 mentions that there would be 4 permanent staff members on site withup to 20 people on site at any one time. Our preferred option of those mentioned in paragraph 10.8.12 would be to connect foul drainage to the public main sewer, which would require co-ordination and discussions with Anglian Water. The other options may require an environmental permit (please refer to advice further below). Whichever approach the developer undertakes, this should be explained in full in a foul drainage document. A foul drainage plan should be produced to accommodate any foul flows.	The latest proposals with regard to foul drainage are provided within the PEI Report and assessed in terms of their impact to the Water Environment in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Environment Agency	Water	N/A	There are a number of additional permits or consents that the applicant may require under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR), or other legislation, to regulate matters such as flood risk, discharge of effluent / wastewater, water abstraction, watercourse impoundment and waste management. This is discussed below.	Noted. The consents and permits that are considered to be required in relation to the Water Environment are outlined in Chapter 9 Water Environment of the PEI Report.
Lincolnshire County Council	Water	N/A	Water Environment (Chapter 10) A FRA and Drainage Strategy is proposed to be submitted within the ES and nothing has been scoped out. This is acceptable and expected approach.	Noted.
North Kesteven District Council	Water	N/A	1.3.10 - depending on the preferred location of the grid connection corridor the Coleby Neighbourhood Plan might be a relevant document. Paragraph 3.2.11 notes that at the lower edge, modules would be approximately 0.8m from the ground and approximately up to 3.5m at the higher edge but with final elevations of the modules will be influenced by various design factors such as local topography and flood risk. Comments from the EA should be sought however the applicant is advised that the proposals at Heckington Fen were required to undertaken flood modelling including a breach scenario with resultant zoned areas of differing panel heights.	Heckington Fen is in a significantly different location to Fosse Green with a potential breach and tidal impact. The EA has not mentioned in their scoping opinion to include breach modelling for Fosse Green and nor is it considered to be required. The EA mapping shows the Proposed Development is not risk of reservoir flood risk and therefore a breach is unlikely of the Witham FSA with the risk shown downstream of the FSA. However, PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment addresses all forms of flood risk.
North Kesteven District Council	Water	N/A	With reference to paragraph 10.3.9 and 10.4.2 the (AECOM) NKDC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/Strategic%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report.pdf) should also be referred to in the consideration of local water resources/flood risk guidance.	Noted, all relevant SFRA and other planning documents have been reviewed.
North Kesteven District Council	Water	N/A	With reference to the grid connection corridor options at 10.5.5, the applicant is reminded that an Anglian Water pipeline is currently under construction in the area through Harmston/Coleby/Navenby Heath. Underground cable connection options need to factor in the location and depth of the pipeline and early discussions with Anglian Water are recommended.	Noted. Anglian Water will be consulted through further development of the DCO application.
North Kesteven District Council	Water	N/A	With reference to paragraph 10.6.13 and 10.6.16, the Scoping Report notes that above ground infrastructure and solar PV panels in the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be located away from areas at risk of fluvial flooding where possible and that development of ‘essential infrastructure’ in flood zone 1 is acceptable.	Noted

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North Kesteven District Council	Water	N/A	However, in the absence of any indicative layout plans and with reference to the site location plan, parts of the site are within both flood zones 2 and 3 (confirmed by Figure 10-3). Whilst there is in principle a compatibility between essential infrastructure and development in those flood zones, this still presumes that the flood risk sequential test has first been applied and passed. Chapter 10 does not acknowledge the need to apply the flood risk sequential test if any development is proposed in flood zones 2 and 3.	The FRA considers the sequential test and informs the development layout. See PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
North Kesteven District Council	Water	N/A	The sequential test search area should align with the search area for 'alternatives' (see above). At present the 'alternatives' search area is potentially very extensive (District/County/Regional) reflective of there presumably being NG substation connections elsewhere. The grid connection strategy has yet to be confirmed for Fosse Green. We would therefore suggest that the scoping opinion cannot/should not specify anything other than an extensive flood risk sequential test alternatives/site selection zone at this stage. Consistent with advice offered initially for other NSIP solar schemes in North Kesteven District, as a minimum this should be set at county level reflective of grid substation connection possibilities elsewhere.	The sequential test will be provided as part of the DCO application. In terms of the layout of the Proposed Development, this will be informed by the outcome of a Flood Risk Assessment to be completed for the DCO application.
Witham First District Internal Drainage Board	Water	N/A	While the supplied Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report states minimum offset distances for any proposed construction relative to varying landscape and ecological features in section 3.2.40 / Table 3.1 (Pg 23), it is worth noting that current Byelaws relating to IDB water courses state a minimum clear distance of 9m should be maintained 'from the top of the watercourse bank' (rather than the watercourse centreline).	Noted, and this has been taken into account during development of the design in order to ensure an adequate buffer between potential construction and operational activity and watercourses across the site (including the grid connection route). This is reported in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Witham First District Internal Drainage Board	Water	N/A	Within the Board's district for ordinary watercourses under the terms of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including infilling or a diversion. It is recommended that an access of appropriate width is left adjacent to all watercourse to allow for mechanical maintenance.	Noted. A buffer of 10 m has been included around all watercourses. Refer to PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .
Witham First District Internal Drainage Board	Water	N/A	Within Lincolnshire under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. Within the catchment draining to the Board's area (extended area) of Upper Witham and Witham First District Internal drainage Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board	Noted. The consents and permits that are considered to be required in relation to the Water Environment are included in Chapter 9 of the PEI Report.
Environment Agency	Water, Alternatives	N/A	We would advise that the Battery Energy Storage Systems are located in areas of the site with the lowest risk of flooding, where possible (i.e. Flood Zone 1).	Noted, the FRA informs BESS locations in line with the sequential test.
Environment Agency	Water, Alternatives	N/A	Paragraphs 3.2.2 and 3.2.44 Temporary construction compounds should be positioned outside of the Witham Washland flood storage area, setback from flood defences and positioned outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3. We will require more information about the temporary roadways and their proximity to flood defences	Noted, and this has been taken into account during development of the design.
Environment Agency	Water, Battery safety	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.37 To ensure flood resilience it would be advisable to raise the 192 batteries which comprise the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) above flood levels with the inclusion of freeboard.	Noted. If required, appropriate flood level mitigation has been included in PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . Freeboard level assumed as 300mm, changes to this to be agreed with EA.
Environment Agency	Water, Cumulatives	N/A	Paragraph 10.6.14 We welcome reference to the Lincoln Flood Alleviation Scheme (aka the Witham Washland flood storage area) development should be setback from this area.	Noted, and this has been taken into account during development of the design.
Environment Agency	Water, Flood risk	N/A	We note in Chapter 10: Water Environment the relevant main rivers have been identified, and it is confirmed that the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will form part of the technical appendix to the ES Report. All sources of flood risk have been identified in Chapter 10, however our focus is on fluvial and/or tidal flood risk. It is recommended that a sequential approach is taken to the proposed site layout, ensuring all development is located within Flood Zone 1, where possible. Should development be required within Flood Zones 2 or 3, then it should be demonstrated that the infrastructure will remain operational during a design flood plus appropriate climate change allowance, without increasing risk elsewhere.	Noted, PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment addresses flood risk and outlines appropriate assessment and mitigation where required.

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Environment Agency	Water, Landscape	N/A	Landscaping may change flood flow routes. We require more information about the changes in land level and how this may affect flood risk.	PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-D: Preliminary Surface Water Drainage Strategy and Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment consider any changes in land level. However it is noted that the Proposed Development will not require significant land level alterations.
Environment Agency	Water, Noise and vibration	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.22 Vibration from horizontal directional drilling in close proximity to the flood defences should be considered.	Noted, and this is considered in the PEI Report. Assessment of HDD is included in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment with appropriate cross reference made to the assessments of ground conditions, noise and vibration.
Environment Agency	Water, Noise and vibration	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.26 Underground trenches/cables should be setback from the flood defences. Vibrations in close proximity to the flood defences from micro-tunnelling, boring, or horizontal directional drilling should be considered	Noted, and this is considered in the PEI Report. Assessment of cable installation is included in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment with appropriate cross reference made to the assessments of ground conditions, noise and vibration.
Environment Agency	Water, Noise and vibration, Transport	N/A	If access routes are in close proximity to flood defences, we will need more information to consider whether the proposal is acceptable. We may require that the Applicant carry out a pre- and post-works assessment of the flood defences necessitating remediation of defects. There may need to be an assessment of vibration in relation to the increase in traffic (from circa 50 HGV per day or plant).Table 15-1 • Flood: Safe for its lifetime will require a demonstration for 75 years from the date that construction is completed. Note that the development should not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Flood Defence Failure: We may require an assessment the flood defence condition.	Noted, and this is considered in the PEI Report. Assessment of access tracks is included in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment with appropriate cross reference made to the assessments of ground conditions, noise and vibration where necessary. Ensuring safe operation in times of flood has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . The design life in operation of the Proposed Development is 60 years, the assessment is based on a 60 year design life. Flood Defence Failure will be discussed with the EA as appropriate.
Environment Agency	Water, Proposed Development	N/A	The FRA should also consider flood risk impacts of decommissioning and the subsequent state of the floodplain. We note that the applicant intends to produce an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), that should be informed by the flood risk assessment. We will require sight of the DEMP to enable us to consider the flood risk impacts and how the floodplain will be returned to its natural state thereafter, and we note it will take approximately 6-12 months to decommission the site and return the area back to its previous state. Early engagement on this issue would be advisable.	Noted, reference is made in the FRA (PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C) to decommissioning and the Framework DEMP.
Environment Agency	Water, Proposed Development construction	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.44 There should be no net loss of flood storage volume from the landscaping or construction of new access roads/tracks. The developer should consider alternatives to culverts as they may pose a flood risk (e.g., blockages, difficult to inspect, limited flow rate. The developer may need to utilise the 'Culvert, screen and outfall manual' (C786F).	Noted. Details of structures to be used across the site will be included in the ES, and their impact on the water environment assessed therein. Review of floodplain compensation, if appropriate, has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 9-C Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
Environment Agency	Water, Proposed Development construction	N/A	Section 10.5.6 discussed the use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) for the crossing of watercourses. This work could involve the use of drilling muds and their use may require risk assessment to ensure they do not pose a risk to controlled waters. The potential to use HDD techniques should therefore be included in the EIA. This is particularly important if it will be used in the Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 3.	Noted. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment includes assessment of the effects of the release of drilling fluids during HDD beneath watercourses, taking account of appropriate mitigation that will account for this (such as site-specific risk assessment and frac-out risk assessments).
Environment Agency	Water, Proposed Development construction	N/A	If horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is used for the installation of cables this work could involve the use of drilling muds and their use may require risk assessment to ensure they do not pose a risk to controlled waters. The potential to use HDD techniques should therefore be included in the CEMP if it is likely to be an option. This is particularly important if it will be used in the SPZ 3.	Noted. PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment includes assessment of the effects of the release of drilling fluids during HDD beneath watercourses, taking account of appropriate mitigation that will account for this (such as site-specific risk assessment and frac-out risk assessments).
Environment Agency	Water, Design	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.40 and Table 3-1 We need clarity on where the minimum proximity will be measured from in the context of waterbodies or watercourses e.g., most landward extent of the flood defence. We would	Noted, and all measured distances and measuring points (e.g. most landward extent of flood defence) are outlined in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment .



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			require more information about the exceptional cases i.e., access tracks, security fencing and/or connection routes.	
Environment Agency	Water, Design	N/A	Paragraphs 10.5.5 and 10.5.6 We would require more information about the proposed open-cut excavation across watercourses. We require an understanding of how the HDD will be achieved without adversely affecting flood defences e.g., a consideration of proximity and vibration. The Applicant may need to assess the rate of erosion at the proposed sections of crossing.	Noted, and this is considered in the PEI Report. Assessment of watercourse crossings is included in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment . Consultation with the EA is ongoing to confirm that proposals are satisfactory.
Environment Agency	Water, Transport	N/A	Paragraph 3.2.35 We will require clarity on the proposed access routes to be utilised, where there will be modifications or the addition of new access routes (e.g., six-metre-wide route for Heavy Goods Vehicles, 3.5-metre-wide route). It would be helpful to understand how this may affect the topography and flood storage volume.	Noted. No ground raising is proposed in areas at risk of fluvial flooding. This has been taken into account in PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 9: Water Environment and Volume 3 Appendix 9-C Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . Further detail will be provided at the ES stage as necessary.
NGET	N/A	N/A	General guidance note copied	Noted.