

# Gate Burton Energy Park

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3, Appendix 1-C: Scoping Opinion Responses

June 2022

Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

## Quality information

**Prepared by**

---

TH

---

**Checked by**

---

RW

---

**Verified by**

---

HK

---

**Approved by**

---

WB

---

Prepared for:

Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited

© 2022 AECOM Limited. All Rights Reserved.

This document has been prepared by AECOM Limited (“AECOM”) for sole use of our client (the “Client”) in accordance with generally accepted consultancy principles, the budget for fees and the terms of reference agreed between AECOM and the Client. Any information provided by third parties and referred to herein has not been checked or verified by AECOM, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document. No third party may rely upon this document without the prior and express written agreement of AECOM.

## Table of Contents

1.	Matters Addressed in Scoping Opinion .....	1
1.1	Overview .....	1

## Tables

Table 1	Matters Addressed from Scoping Opinion in Chapters of PEI Report .....	1
---------	--	---

# 1. Matters Addressed in Scoping Opinion

## 1.1 Overview

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 3, Appendix 1-B**) and describes how the views of the Planning Inspectorate and other consultation bodies have been taken into account in the environmental studies and ongoing design of the Scheme.

**Table 1 Matters Addressed from Scoping Opinion in Chapters of PEI Report**

Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Anglian Water	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	<p>Anglian Water would welcome the instigation of discussions with Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd prior to the project layout and initial design fix. In particular it would be helpful to discuss the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Draft DCO Order including protective provisions specifically to ensure Anglian Water’s services are maintained during construction</li> <li>- Requirement for potable and raw water supplies</li> <li>- Requirement for wastewater services</li> <li>- Impact of development on Anglian Water’s assets and the need for mitigation</li> <li>- Pre-construction surveys</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. The Applicant has obtained drainage and water searches for the site and will consult Anglian Water during development of the masterplan, and drainage strategy. The Applicant has provided an Indicative Site Layout Plan (<b>PEI Report Volume 2, Figure 2-4</b>) which it would welcome comment. At this stage we do not anticipate any impact on the existing infrastructure during construction (i.e. Anglian Water’s services would be maintained), however this will be addressed in the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A Framework CEMP will accompany the DCO Application. The Applicant will continue to review available information relative to existing infrastructure at ES stage, and where practicable design out potential conflicts.</p>
Anglian Water	Flood Risk, Drainage and	<p>Expect the Environmental Statement to include reference to existing water supply and water recycling infrastructure managed by Anglian</p>	<p>At this stage it is not anticipated that existing Anglian Water potable water or foul water infrastructure will be impacted by the Scheme (i.e. Anglian Water services</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
	Surface Water Management	Water and the provision of replacement infrastructure and the requirements for new infrastructure.	<p>will be maintained). In developing the masterplan layout the Applicant will review available information to assess whether existing land parcel connections (if any) will be disconnected.</p> <p>With regards to new connections, the need for a foul water connection has not been decided, but Anglian Water would be consulted at the appropriate time. With regards to clean water, a tanked solution will likely be proposed. This will be confirmed within the ES.</p> <p>Anglian Water will continue to be consulted throughout the design process, as it evolves post-PEI Report.</p>
Anglian Water	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	Report refers to surface water drainage and that point makes no reference to the need for connection to the public sewer network. At Table 6-1 however, with regard to GHG emissions reference is made to 'Provision of clean water, and treatment of wastewater'. This is stated to be for both construction and operational stages.	<p>As outlined above, the need for connection to the public sewer network and provision of clean water is yet to be determined, and Anglian Water would be consulted with at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The CEMP will consider construction waste water and clean/potable water. A Framework CEMP will accompany the DCO Application.</p> <p>The Applicant will review sewer asset records to confirm existing drainage infrastructure in the vicinity of the site compounds would remain unaffected.</p>
Anglian Water	Water Quality	The applicant advises that information on water quality, supply and discharges will be sought from the Environment Agency	As discussed within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b> , a data request for information on existing water quality, supply and discharges within the affected WFD catchments has been made to the Environment Agency and will be used to enhance the water environment baseline and inform the assessment at ES Stage.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
			The surface water drainage strategy (which will accompany the DCO Application) will assess surface water discharge in line with LLFA and/or IDB requirements.
Anglian Water	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	Bullet point 1 refers to possible pollution of surface and groundwater during construction including from foul waste water. Bullet point 7 identifies 'potential impacts on local water supplies'. Operational impacts listed in paragraph 9.5.4 include water from offices and maintenance activities	Noted, a CEMP will consider impacts to foul waste water infrastructure and potential pollution generated during the construction phase. A Framework CEMP will accompany the DCO Application.  The surface water drainage strategy will describe how surface water runoff from the site will be managed using SuDS, and how the drainage design will provide treatment to mitigate surface water pollution to waterbodies during the Operational Phase (including from offices and maintenance activities).
Anglian Water	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	There will be no foul water discharge from the Scheme and no mains connected foul water drainage systems are deemed necessary. As such, impacts on foul sewer capacity is scoped out of further assessment'. This appears to be the only reference to the need for upgraded and additional sewerage infrastructure or water supply for construction or operation. Anglian Water recommends the Environmental Statement should include reference to identified impacts on water supply, the sewerage network and sewage treatment both during construction and operation. Further advice on water and wastewater capacity and options can be obtained by contacting Anglian Water's Pre-Development Team <a href="mailto:planningliasion@anglianwater.co.uk">planningliasion@anglianwater.co.uk</a>	As outlined above, the need for connection to the public sewer network and provision of clean water is yet to be determined. The Framework CEMP (which will accompany the DCO application) will highlight foul water requirements during construction and operational water requirements will be considered within the ES. Consultation will be undertaken with Anglian Water as the Scheme develops.
Anglian Water	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	There are rising mains and sewers on site which serve the local community. These are mainly located within the local roads near Knaith Park. This does create a potential pathway for pollution as well as potential impact on local communities if these wastewater services are interrupted. Given that sewer flood risk is identified, the	The Applicant will continue to review available information relative to existing infrastructure, and where possible design out potential conflicts through local adjustments to the masterplan. The Applicant will continue to consult with Anglian Water in this regard.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>construction stage or operational stage risks to the sewer network should not be scoped out.</p>	<p>Sewer flood risk is discussed further within the Flood Risk Assessment <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 9-B</b>. However, it is noted the current proposal does not include a new connection to the public sewers, and therefore there would be no increase in risk of flooding caused by the sewer network.</p>
<p>Anglian Water</p>	<p>Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management</p>	<p>With regard to the risk to water and wastewater infrastructure the applicant correctly at Table 15-2 identifies the risk to employees and local residents from the scheme affecting above and below ground utilities including water and sewage. The risk and mitigation the applicant proposes should therefore be set out in the appropriate chapter. The water and sewer assets should then be identified and protected through Protective Provisions in the draft Order. Anglian Water welcomes the intention (15.6.1) to consult with water utilities providers to inform the scheme and draw up appropriate protective provisions.</p>	<p>In developing the masterplan layout, The Applicant will review available information to assess whether mitigation and/or protection measures are required or whether these can be designed out through an adjustment to the design. The Applicant will adopt a collaborative approach in this regard to ensure relevant utility authorities are consulted. An assessment of the impacts of the scheme will be fully presented in the Water Environment ES chapter.</p>
<p>Anglian Water</p>	<p>Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management</p>	<p>Anglian Water welcomes that a Surface Water Drainage Strategy and that SUDS will be used to manage surface waste (9.6.11 and 9.7.8). Anglian Water would welcome clarification that the impacts on the local drainage/sewerage network (15.4.5) will be designed out of the scheme given that there will be no mains foul connection and only SUDS will be used for both construction and operational stages. This should also remove the questions posed by Point 10. At table 15-1 which suggests there may still be a need to connect surface water runoff to a sewerage network.</p>	<p>Noted, the surface water drainage strategy (which will accompany the DCO Application) will be developed in consultation with Anglian Water and will include SuDS where appropriate.</p>
<p>Canal &amp; River Trust</p>	<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p>	<p>Advise that the Grid Corridor Connection chapter of the EIA should seek to assess the impact of the grid corridor connections upon the outward appearance and setting of the River Trent, which would be crossed.  Paragraph 10.2.4 of the Scoping Report identifies that receptors within 500m of the grid corridor option boundary will be considered. This would include the River Trent. We request that, in the event that an above ground crossing of the Trent be proposed, viewpoints in the</p>	<p>Noted - Viewpoints have been considered from along the River Trent, as set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 10 – Landscape and Visual Amenity</b>. However, above ground river crossing is not proposed, as set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 – The Scheme</b>.</p>





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		assessment should include locations at the position of the crossing, so that the impact can be fully judged and assessed. We advise that the assessment should also explore the impact of any substations or ancillary equipment should they be sited in proximity to the river.	
Canal & River Trust	Landscape and Visual Amenity	To minimise the operational impacts of new crossings of the waterway network, the Trust considers that it is appropriate for new crossings to be sited underground, below the waterway, where feasible and practical. This is necessary to avoid any reduction in navigational head height for vessels, and to minimise any adverse visual impact caused by the presence of overhead pipelines above the waterway. The existing river corridor is characterised by a relatively flat, low landscape and the river is quite discrete in the wider setting. Above ground crossing points would have a significant visual impact in this context. Cables can be installed below the waterway via directional drilling or boring, which has been evidenced elsewhere on our network. In the event that an above-ground solution is proposed for the river crossing, we advise that full justification for this should be provided within the Alternative Options chapter of the EIA.	Above ground river crossing is not proposed. Instead, the cable would be directionally drilled under the River Trent as set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 – The Scheme</b> ).
Canal & River Trust	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Changes to the landform to accommodate the solar plant could impact upon long distance views from the River Trent, which could impact upon the outward character of the wider river corridor. We advise that the LVIA should include a general assessment of the impact of changes to the land form as seen from the waterway. We note that paragraph 10.6.9 of the Scoping Report identifies that the LVIA will take account of the Glint and Glare Assessment. We advise that this should include impacts viewed from the River Trent, as glint and glare impacts could occur over long distances and could impact boaters.	The LVIA will assess the impact of changes to the landform, including any change to views from the waterway. This will include cross reference to the Glint and Glare assessment that will be submitted as part of the ES.
Canal & River Trust	Water Quality	The Trust advises that consideration is required to ensure that the water quality of the River Trent is not harmed during the construction phase of development. The River Trent would lie within the Grid Corridor Option Corridor for the proposal, and lies within the study area covered in chapter 9 of the Scoping Report (and is specifically referred to in paragraph 9.4.21).	An assessment of the potential water quality impacts to all waterbodies including the River Trent has been undertaken within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b> . This includes impacts during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. Appropriate mitigation has been outlined and taken



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>Paragraph 9.5.3 identifies a range of risks to the water environment, which would apply to the Trent and interconnected watercourses and groundwater, during the construction and decommissioning phases of the development. We advise that these should be fully explored in the EIA, including an assessment of measures to reduce the risks (through siting works away from the Trent as suggested in paragraph 9.5.5 and through the adoption of robust construction and environmental management techniques).</p>	<p>account of by the assessment. This will be developed further at ES stage. Furthermore, a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Screening Assessment has been included in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 9-A</b>. This will be discussed further at ES stage.</p> <p>The surface water drainage strategy (which will be presented at ES stage) will follow policy, LLFA, IDB and local authority requirements to manage surface water runoff and so prevent surface water quality deterioration.</p> <p>A Framework CEMP will accompany the DCO Application and will cover construction phase risks and mitigate those risks identified. Further mitigation may be required and will be outlined in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b>.</p>
Canal & River Trust	Other Environmental Topics	<p>The banks of the River Trent consist of sloping land, which lie within the Grid Corridor Connection area. It is important to ensure that adverse loading onto these (from construction plant and equipment or from new structures associated with the crossing) does not occur that could result in a collapse of the bank into the river.</p> <p>Appendix B states that the risk of landslides will be considered as part of the geotechnical design, ensuring that the risk is designed out. We advise that full information upon the location of construction works and accesses in addition to the position of permanent structures associated with the crossing of the Trent (including cross sections to show the land form as necessary) may likely be required to demonstrate that this risk can be fully discounted at application stage.</p> <p>The Trust is aware of existing dredging disposal sites alongside the Trent, which may consist of heightened levels of contamination. These would need to be considered in the event of a crossing disturbing</p>	<p>Construction information is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme and Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution</b>.</p> <p>Risks will be managed via the Framework Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) which will accompany the DCO Application.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Canal & River Trust	Transport and Access	<p>these areas. The Trust can advise the applicant further on these locations if required.</p> <p>Should the proposals include the incorporation of a new cable crossing above the River Trent, then full consideration would be required to ensure that the cable is installed at an appropriate height so as to not hinder the passage or safety of river users. Account would need to be given towards the height of vessels that utilise or could utilise the waterway, as well as the height of other cable crossings that may be present upon the existing stretch of navigation.</p> <p>The installation of cables above the waterway may also require a closure of the navigation to boat traffic, which would result in temporary disruptions to the movement of navigable craft.</p> <p>We therefore request that the EIA includes account for the permanent and temporary impacts of works on the safety and passage of navigable craft on the Trent within the Transport and Access Chapter in the event that an above-ground cable crossing of the river is proposed.</p> <p>Consideration would also be required with regards to ensuring that any new crossings do not harm the provision of any existing moorings on the navigation.</p> <p>As advised above, to minimise the operational impacts of new crossings of the waterway network, including the need to safeguard an appropriate and safe navigational head height for vessels, we strongly advise that measures to install the cable below the waterway are considered prior to the adoption of an above-surface crossing.</p>	<p>The grid connection cable is proposed to be installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and therefore it is considered that river users will not be impacted by the installation or operation of the cable along the Grid Connection Route.</p>
Canal & River Trust	Site Walkovers	<p>Pre-works surveys or investigations on the Trust's land or on the river would require the Trust's consent via the Code of Practice. We advise that the applicant may wish to contact our Works Engineer via switchboard on 0303 040 4040 or at</p>	<p>This comment is noted.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk in order to seek consent to undertake works. New crossings of our land may also require the approval of the Trust in our position as landowner and navigation authority. Contact should be made by the applicant through the Trust’s utilities section at utilitiesenquiry@canalrivertrust.org.uk to ensure that any relevant consent (if necessary) is approved prior to the commencement of works.</p> <p>Work to construction crossings over or under our network would also likely need to comply with the Trust’s “Code of Practice for Works affecting the Canal &amp; River Trust”. The applicant is advised to contact the Canal &amp; River Trust’s Works Engineering Team via switchboard on 0303 040 4040 or at Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk for further advice.</p>	
Historic England	Cultural Heritage	<p>In the case of both the Scheduled Monument at Heynings Priory (1008685) in especially respect of the main arrays and Segelocum / Littleborough Roman Town (1003639) the extent of nationally important remains is likely to be greater than the area designated as a scheduled monument, designations being necessarily based upon information available at a specific point time.</p>	<p>Data has been collected from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records. A full heritage baseline will be presented as part of the application, and this is summarised in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b>. A desk-based assessment will consider data from available sources including historic environment data, aerial analysis, research, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation undertaken for the project. This will be included as an appendix to the ES. Full consideration will be given to heritage assets/buried deposits adjacent to the scheduled monuments and their relationships.</p>
Historic England	Cultural Heritage	<p>At the Roman settlement of Littleborough significant geophysical survey work has been carried out since designation and early and detailed consultations should be made directly with Nottinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record (not simply via Heritage Gateway). At Heyning Priory the religious establishment needs to be understood in the context of the accrual, consolidation and tenancing</p>	<p>Data has been collected from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records, and this is summarised in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b>. A full heritage baseline will be presented as part of the application. A desk-based assessment will</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		of land and interests through the pre-reformation period and the adaptation and reorientation of landholdings following the dissolution. It is crucial in understanding both sites in their landscape context that the dynamic nature of these places is understood and great attention is paid both to their relationship to pre-existing settlement and their afterlives in the early medieval and post-medieval periods respectively.	consider data from available sources including historic environment data, aerial analysis, research, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation undertaken for the project. This will be included as an appendix to the ES. Additional research into the Heyning Priory and its relationship to the wider landscape will be undertaken by the Applicant. This is summarised in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> .
Historic England	Cultural Heritage	The statutory record for Heynings Priory can be found at <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008685?section=official-listing">https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008685?section=official-listing</a> but further discussion of it as a nunnery and at times a joint house of men and women, can be found at <a href="https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=891738&amp;search=all&amp;criteria=heynings+priory&amp;resourceID=19191">https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=891738&amp;search=all&amp;criteria=heynings+priory&amp;resourceID=19191</a> . Nunneries are often less well documented and poorer than their male counterparts and as such require especial research diligence	The response is noted. Additional research into the Heyning Priory and its relationship to the wider landscape will be undertaken by the Applicant. This is summarised in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> .
Historic England	Cultural Heritage	Techniques of survey need to be appropriate to the archaeological potential of sites and in the context of the land on the left Trent bank opposite from Torksey consideration should be given to the results of recent work on the right bank by the University of York at Torksey with consideration to both wind-blown deposits and early medieval artefact scatters.	Noted. The details of appropriate evaluation will be discussed between The Applicant and the county archaeologists for Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council. Geophysical survey is currently underway.
Historic England	Cultural Heritage	Archaeological landscape setting matters are not restricted to fixed point visual intrusions and a robust and structured approach which encompasses archaeological landscape setting and kinetic experiences of movement (both by land and water) through the landscape are of great importance (see GPA 3 Setting of Heritage Assets <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/</a> ).	An assessment of the wider landscape and the kinetic experience of movement have not been assessed as part of the PEI Report, but they will be included as part of the cultural heritage assessment in the ES.
Historic England	Cultural Heritage	A fixed 1km buffer is not in its self a sufficiently robust approach hence we welcome the flexible approach going out to 5km noted at 7.2.2,	Noted. An assessment of the wider landscape will be included as part of the cultural heritage assessment as



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>allowance should be made for understanding the topographic and tenorial context of the proposed development site, visual relationships to more distant but important assets such as the Grade I listed church and associated scheduled monument at Stow will require consideration.</p>	<p>detailed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage.</b></p>
<p>Historic England</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>At Knaith the relationship of the Grade II Park Farm South Farmhouse and the significance of the undesignated Knaith Park need to be understood in their own right and as a complex of related features with the Priory. The Grade II* listed Gate Burton Hall (1359458) with associated Grade II listed Walled Garden, Church of St Helen, Old Rectory and Gate Burton Hall Cottages, the Temple folly 'Burton Chateau listed at GII* (106408) and undesignated former mill site to south form a second focus whose relationship with Knaith Park should be explored as highlighted at 7.4.5 and 7.4.6. The importance of landscape change and settlement desertion / emparkment is well observed and the role of both secular and religious landholders in that process should be understood. This will require detail archive cartographic and textual work alongside and integrated with an iterative programme of archaeological assessment (close consultation with both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment specialist will be of obvious importance. Cropmarks are noted at SK8374084090 on the NHRE and further review of aerial photo evidence combined with existing and new lidar and geophysical survey data is likely to give a basis for initial characterisation and trial trenching (in which regard we refer you the county archaeological advisors.</p>	<p>Additional research into the wider landscape will be undertaken by the Applicant, including Knaith Park and the Gate Burton Estate. Further detail will be included in the ES.</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>The Scheme</p>	<p>The scheme is considering a 500 MW PV plant. There is no quantification about the possible size of the Energy Storage System (ESS) required to 'provide peak generation and balancing services to electricity grid' (as depicted in section 2.1.25 - 2.1.29). Seeing that it is an important aspect of the scheme, surely an approximation on the EES size can be provided at this stage as well. Also, does the 500 MW include the ESS or is the solar field to be designed as a 500MW</p>	<p>This information is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme.</b></p>

Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		field, with the ESS adding additional capacity? The value of the solar field power in MW is a must-have.	
Lincolnshire County Council	The Scheme	Will the installation take energy from the grid and store it, releasing it back to the grid when required? That is to say, is it a grid storage resource as well as a grid-connected energy supplier? If so, is there any estimate of how much energy it will store in this way?	This information is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	The Scheme	Design life of the scheme is pegged for 'at least 60 years', possibly even more for operational life (2.5.1). This aspect needs some clarification as this seems to be well beyond the 40 years considered in such plants. Durability of components is a key issue. How long can the panels be expected to last (in years)? Have replacement panels been included in the plan? The same applies to the batteries, which have an even shorter lifetime.	The anticipated 60 year operational phase waste and recycling plan will be included within the Waste section of the ES (as outlined within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> ).
Lincolnshire County Council	The Scheme	East-West orientation states more panels are required. Why is the alignment chosen?	Selection of panel orientation depends on a number of factors including for example site location, site size, topography and shading. For the purposes of assessment, for each technical discipline the maximum or 'worst case' scenario is considered and assessed. Further information is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	The Scheme	The East-West orientation shown in Photo 1-4 implies no space between panels. How will panels be accessed for maintenance and safety checks and cleaning? What will be the ground cover under the panels and how will it be managed?	For both the East-West and the south facing panels arrangement, all panels can be accessed for the purposes of cleaning, maintenance and safety checks. Further information is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	The Scheme	Is there any intention to carry out a full LCA of the scheme?	The anticipated 60 year operational phase waste and recycling plan will be included within the Waste section of the ES (as outlined within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> ).
Lincolnshire County Council	Cumulative Effects	Consideration needs to be given to the other NSIP schemes in the area for solar farms (Cottam and West Burton). Whilst it is accepted	As discussed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions</b> , the long-list of





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		that these schemes are also at the pre-application stage and full details are not yet available, indicative plans have been produced and therefore the ES should include commentary on the cumulative impacts on the topics included in the ES from the other solar schemes in the area.	schemes to be assessed is for discussion and agreement with consultees and includes Cottam and West Burton solar projects. The ES will report the results of the assessment with particular consideration given to any significant cumulative effects that are identified, and the need for mitigation. These effects will be reported within individual topic chapters as relevant.
Lincolnshire County Council	Alternatives Considered	In this section consideration 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.	The impact of the temporary loss of agricultural land is assessed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use</b> . Information on alternatives is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> . Further information will be provided at ES stage.
Lincolnshire County Council	Alternatives Considered	For each proposed layout (South, E-W, tracking) what is the land use per MWh of energy generated?	Land use per MWh would be calculated as part of the final design and layout.
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change	The potential for a microclimate to be created by battery storage?	This is extremely unlikely, and far lower risk than from other projects such as power stations etc. A note to this effect is documented in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change	What is the energy consumption and associated carbon emissions of the battery HVAC system?	The embodied greenhouse gas emissions from provision of the BESS are incorporated into the GHG impact assessment in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change	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)?	The embodied greenhouse emissions from the provision of the solar PV panels are incorporated into the GHG impact assessment in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change	Power losses and associated carbon footprint of connecting cables to the grid need estimating.	The GHG impact assessment in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> includes estimates of the



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
			embodied carbon from the installation of cable runs, but it was not possible to quantify with any accuracy the potential carbon impact from losses within the cable runs themselves. However, any losses from cables associated with the Scheme are likely to be very low, and not material in relation to the wider GHG assessment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change	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.	Emissions comparisons to other reference activities are considered in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> . However, The Applicant would normally avoid comparisons to fossil fuels, such as coal, as the UK has a policy to phase out coal in the next few years, therefore the comparison could overstate the potential benefits of the project. The Applicant will develop a plausible counterfactual scenario with a range of other sources as well as with the grid as a whole, and what that would that mean for emissions. That way, a payback period can be estimated, but this will be based on assumptions.
Lincolnshire County Council	Socio-Economic	Agricultural land classification should be scoped in and the mitigation measures for the loss of agricultural land included.	An agricultural land classification (ALC) survey has been completed for the Solar and Energy Storage Park. The Scheme has been designed to minimise the loss of agricultural land such as positioning the permanent infrastructure (the substation and the BESS) to avoid BMV land as far as possible.
Lincolnshire County Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Where it is proposed the panels are to be situated close to trees it should be identified which trees are to be removed and what is the impact of shading from the remaining trees. In addition, the impact of the scheme on these trees is fully assessed and suitable mitigation measures suggested.	The scope and nature of an arboricultural assessment is to be discussed and agreed with the relevant authorities. Liaison with relevant authorities commenced in May 2022. This would then be documented within the DCO Application.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Lincolnshire County Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	All viewpoints should be based on winter months though summer months can also be included.	The landscape and visual assessment (LVIA) is based on winter conditions for the construction, year 1 and decommissioning phases. The year 15 assessment is based on summer conditions. This approach demonstrates how the scheme would be perceived throughout the seasons.  The LVIA as part of this PEI Report includes photography captured during late winter/early spring as shown in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 10-F</b> . Summer photography will be captured during the 2022 season and reported in the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	It should also be considered if any viewpoint montages should be with all landscape features removed to demonstrate the very worst potential impact on the visual character of the area.	The locations of photomontages will be agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Photomontages will be provided for the ES. Where vegetation is proposed for removal, this will be identified on the photomontage as appropriate.
Lincolnshire County Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Specifics on 'Zone of Influence', radius of this and the methodology contained within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.	The rationale and method that has informed the Zone of Influence is set out in the LVIA methodology contained in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> and <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 10-B: LVIA Methodology</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Socio-Economic	From an economic growth perspective, the range of the topics in the scoping document appears reasonable, and we will be able to comment in further detail as the project progresses.	Noted. A socio-economic assessment is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Minerals and Waste Planning	The proposed development is partially located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for Sand and Gravel 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: <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a> . Within a MSA, except for the exemptions set out in Policy M11, applications for non-minerals development should	Further discussion on the need for a Minerals Safeguarding Assessment (MSA) was held between the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in May 2022. It was agreed that a MSA was not necessary as a standalone DCO Application document due to further information provided by the Applicant on the reduced and narrowed routing of the Grid Connection Route which passes



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>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. When reviewing the submitted scoping report, it is noted that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is identified as relevant local policy in para 1.2.10. The report also notes in para 15.4.3 that the ES will include details of land designated for Mineral Safeguarding in its brief section on 'other environmental topics', however, the proposed section in question, (on ground conditions), appears to be geared towards pollution and contamination and does not acknowledge the policy issue of the need to consider the potential sterilisation of safeguarded mineral resources.</p> <p>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. We acknowledge, for example, that the vast majority of the PV site itself does not lie within the MSA, and the potential sterilisation of mineral resources may therefore be very limited. The proposed grid connection corridors, however, require more detailed consideration. All of the connection options pass through the sand and gravel MSA situated between the A156 and River Trent. 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 resources in the surrounding land. The minerals assessment as part of the ES should therefore include</p>	<p>through a MSA for sand and gravel. Further information and consideration of mineral safeguarding will be provided in the Planning Statement which will accompany the DCO Application.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		consideration of this matter and it should be given due consideration when determining the final route/method of the grid connection.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	As Lead Local Flood Authority we would expect a full flood assessment and/or surface water drainage strategy to be included in the Environment Statement.	Noted, a surface water drainage strategy will be developed and outlined within the DCO Application, and this will involve consultation between The Applicant and the EA to determine requirements for the Flood Risk Assessment. An initial Flood Risk Assessment is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 9-B</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	The Environmental Impact Assessment scoping report for Gate Burton Energy Park sets out the proposed approach regarding Cultural Heritage. We are generally supportive of the programme presented, however, we do feel the full extent of the proposed impact area including the connector route corridors should be included in the evaluation process. Archaeological impacts and subsequent mitigation have the potential for significant impacts so sufficient evaluation is essential in informing the selection process and in ensuring the subsequent design and work programme is devised with an understanding of the level of archaeological work which may be required before and during the construction phase.	Noted. Data has been collected from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records. A full heritage baseline will be presented as part of the ES. A desk-based assessment will consider data from available sources including historic environment data, aerial analysis, research, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation undertaken for the project. This will be included as an appendix to the ES. Consultation will be undertaken to agree evaluation and potential mitigation with the county archaeologists for Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council and if required Historic England. Geophysical survey is currently underway, and this is in line with the requirements of the councils.
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	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 by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning	Noted. The desk-based assessment and results of evaluation will be included as an appendix to the ES.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8), and the National Planning Policy Framework.	
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	While we are pleased that further archaeological evaluation will be undertaken as part of the assessment process (7.6.15) no further details have been provided, we will need more specific information going forward.	Noted. Consultation is ongoing. Geophysical survey is currently underway, and this has been undertaken in consultation with the county councils. Evaluation will be reported as part of the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	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.	Geophysical survey is currently underway, and this has been undertaken in consultation with the county councils. Evaluation will be reported as part of the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	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 Environmental Statement is produced and submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.	Noted: consultation is ongoing. Following completion of the geophysical survey, a programme of evaluation trenching will be developed in consultation with the councils.
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	Regarding desk-based sources (7.6.10) full LiDAR coverage is required, and Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data must also be consulted for the study area.	Noted. This information will be included in the desk-based assessment which will be included as an appendix to the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	Historic Environment	The EIA 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 or adequately record the impact of the proposal on archaeological remains. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 states "The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner...the direct and indirect	Noted: Data has been collected from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records. A full heritage baseline will be presented as part of the ES. A desk-based assessment will consider data from available sources including historic environment data, aerial analysis, research, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation undertaken for the project. This will be included as an appendix to the ES. Consultation will be undertaken to agree evaluation and potential mitigation with the county archaeologists for Nottinghamshire



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		significant impacts of the proposed development on...material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape." (Regulation 5 (2d))	County Council and Lincolnshire County Council and if required Historic England. Geophysical survey is currently underway on-site.
Lincolnshire County Council	Other Environmental Topics	Include details of crime prevention and in respect of major accidents to include sabotage criminal activity is assessed as pre-planned damage to the scheme could leave it vulnerable to a major accident;	Details on security measures for the Solar and Energy Storage Park are provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> . Consideration of incidents associated with major accidents are discussed within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> .
Lincolnshire County Council	Other Environmental Topics	Agree that glint and glare that should be included and this should focus on visual impact, highway safety and aviation safety.	Glint and glare is considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> . A full assessment of glint and glare will be provided at ES stage upon finalisation of the Scheme design.
Natural England	Ecology	Natural England advises that the potential impact of the proposal upon features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and are available on their website. EclA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidance inS.179-182on how to take account of biodiversity interests in planning decisions and the framework that should be provided to assist developers.	These comments are noted. Impacts of the Scheme have been addressed on known ecological receptors in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> and will be fully evaluated and reported in the ES.
Natural England	Ecology	The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites. European sites (e.g. designated Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017(as amended).In addition paragraph 181of the National Planning Policy	The potential for impacts on designated sites is considered further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report, submitted as <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 8-E: Habitats Regulations Assessment</b> .



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>Framework requires that potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar sites, and any site identified as being necessary to compensate for adverse impacts on classified, potential or possible SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites be treated in the same way as classified sites. Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) an appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which is (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and (b) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified or be uncertain, the competent authority (in this case the planning inspectorate) may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.</p>	
Natural England	Ecology	<p>The development site is in proximity to the following designated nature conservation sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Lea Marshes SSSI , Ashton’s Meadow SSSI</li> <li>•Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at <a href="http://www.magic.gov">www.magic.gov</a> . The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within these sites and should identify such mitigation measures as may be required in order to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.</li> <li>•European site conservation objectives are available on our internet site <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> assesses the impacts of the Scheme on designated sites.</p>
Natural England	Ecology	<p>The EIA will need to consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or a local forum established for the purposes of identifying and selecting local sites. They are of county importance for wildlife or geodiversity. The Environmental Statement should therefore include an assessment of the likely impacts on the wildlife and</p>	<p><b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> assesses the impacts of the Scheme on locally designated sites. Engagement will be undertaken with the Local Wildlife Trusts.</p>





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>geodiversity interests of such sites. The assessment should include proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures. Contact the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or local sites body in this area for further information.</p>	
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>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, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations, groups and individuals; and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment. The conservation of species protected by law is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System. The area likely to be affected by the proposal 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. In order to provide this information there may be a requirement for a survey at a particular time of year. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and where necessary, licensed, consultants. Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species which includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation</p>	<p>A desk study has been undertaken as part of the assessment of the Scheme on protected species and surveys have, or will be, undertaken for relevant protected species or habitats, by a suitably qualified ecologist and within the appropriate survey seasons for habitats, species or species group. Adherence to appropriate guidance will be followed.</p>
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as ‘Habitats and Species of Principal Importance’ within the England Biodiversity List, published under the requirements of S41of the Natural Environment and Rural</p>	<p>A desk study has been undertaken as part of the assessment of the Scheme on protected species and surveys have, or will be, undertaken for relevant protected species or habitats and within the appropriate</p>





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a general duty on all public authorities, including local planning authorities, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Further information on this duty is available here <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity</a>. Government Circular 06/2005 states that Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats, 'are capable of being a material consideration...in the making of planning decisions'. Natural England therefore advises that survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for Habitats and Species of Principal Importance should be included in the ES. Consideration should also be given to those species and habitats included in the relevant Local BAP. Natural England advises that a habitat survey (equivalent to Phase 2) is carried out on the site, in order to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present. The Environmental Statement should include details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys);</li> <li>•Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal;</li> <li>•The habitats and species present;</li> <li>•The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat);</li> <li>•The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species;</li> <li>•Full details of any mitigation or compensation that might be required.</li> </ul> <p>The development should seek if possible to avoid adverse impact on sensitive areas for wildlife within the site, and if possible provide opportunities for overall wildlife gain. The record centre for the relevant Authorities should be able to provide the relevant information on the location and type of priority habitat for the area under consideration.</p>	<p>survey seasons for habitats, species or species group. <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> assesses the impacts of the Scheme on ecology receptors.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Natural England	Ecology	<p>Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character and local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species. We recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society and a local landscape characterisation document).</p>	<p>Information on local sites was sought from relevant records centres in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire as part of the desk study.</p>
Natural England	Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>Natural England would wish to see details of local landscape character areas mapped at a scale appropriate to the development site as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area. The EIA should include assessments of visual effects on the surrounding area and landscape together with any physical effects of the development, such as changes in topography.</p> <p>The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character, as detailed proposals are developed.</p> <p>Natural England supports the publication Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management in 2013 (3rd edition). The methodology set out is almost universally used for landscape and visual impact assessment.</p> <p>In order to foster high quality development that respects, maintains, or enhances, local landscape character and distinctiveness, Natural England encourages all new development to consider the character and distinctiveness of the area, with the siting and design of the proposed development reflecting local design characteristics and, wherever possible, using local materials. The Environmental Impact Assessment process should detail the measures to be taken to ensure</p>	<p>Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) have been defined as part of the LVIA. Key characteristics of the LLCAs are provided in the Landscape Baseline (<b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 10-D</b>) and the extent of each LLCA is shown on <b>PEI Report Volume 2: Figure 10-7</b>.</p> <p>Landscape and visual effects are assessed in the <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 10-C: Landscape Assessment and Appendix 10-D: Visual Assessment</b>. Significant effects are summarised in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> which includes a preliminary cumulative assessment of the Island Green Power Cottam and West Burton Solar Schemes. The full cumulative assessment will be provided within the ES.</p> <p>The Landscape Assessment is based on Landscape Character Areas. A review of published Landscape Character Assessments and LLCAs is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 10-C: Landscape Baseline</b>.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.</p> <p>The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. In this context Natural England advises that the cumulative impact assessment should include other proposals currently at Scoping stage. Due to the overlapping timescale of their progress through the planning system, cumulative impact of the proposed development with those proposals currently at Scoping stage would be likely to be a material consideration at the time of determination of the planning application.</p> <p>The assessment should refer to the relevant National Character Areas which can be found on our website. Links for Landscape Character Assessment at a local level are also available on the same page.</p>	<p>The LVIA methodology has been prepared in line with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition.</p> <p>The design considerations that have informed the Proposed Development, including the siting and design of key features, are described in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b>, and <b>Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b>. An indicative layout plan is also provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 2: Figure 2-4</b>.</p> <p>The Landscape Baseline makes reference to Natural England's National Character Areas in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 10-C: Landscape Baseline</b>, including the Statement of Environmental Opportunities.</p>
Natural England	Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>You should consider whether there is land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific or historic interest. An up-to-date list may be obtained at <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm">www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm</a>.</p>	<p>The Applicant will consider whether land in the area affected by the development that qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes.</p>
Natural England	Access & Recreation	<p>Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help encourage people to access the countryside for quiet enjoyment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways are to be encouraged. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.</p>	<p>This is noted and will be considered in the design where practicable and appropriate. An indicative site layout plan is presented in <b>PEI Report Volume 2: Figure 2-4</b>.</p>
Natural England	Access & Recreation	<p>The EIA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the</p>	<p>Impacts on public rights of way (PRoW) are considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 12: Socio-</b></p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>development. Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts. We also recommend reference to the relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.</p>	<p><b>Economics and Land Use.</b> Appropriate mitigation measures will be included within the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan to reduce impacts to PRoW. There are no PRoW that are referenced within the Lincolnshire Countryside Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007-2012) or Nottinghamshire Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2026 that are within or adjacent to the DCO site.</p>
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Soil Conservation</p>	<p>Impacts from the development should be considered in light of the Government's policy for the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land as set out in paragraph 174 of the NPPF. We also recommend that soils should be considered in the context of the sustainable use of land and the ecosystem services they provide as a natural resource, as also highlighted in paragraph 174 of the NPPF. Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably. The applicant should consider the following issues as part of the Environmental Statement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The degree to which soils are going to be disturbed/harmed as part of this development and whether 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is involved. This may require a detailed survey if one is not already available. For further information on the availability of existing agricultural land classification (ALC) information see <a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">www.magic.gov.uk</a>. Natural England Technical Information Note 049 - Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land also contains useful background information.</li> <li>2. If required, an agricultural land classification and soil survey of the land should be undertaken. This 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.</li> </ol>	<p>An agricultural land classification (ALC) survey has been completed for the Solar and Energy Storage Park. The results are presented in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use</b>. The Scheme has been designed to minimise the loss of agricultural land such as positioning the permanent infrastructure (the substation and the BESS) to avoid BMV land as far as possible.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>3. The Environmental Statement should provide details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be minimised. Further guidance is contained in the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites.</p> <p>As identified in the NPPF new sites or extensions to new sites for peat extraction should not be granted permission by the planning inspectorate or proposed in development</p>	
Natural England	Air quality	<p>Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue; for example over 97% of sensitive habitat area in England is predicted to exceed the critical loads for ecosystem protection from atmospheric nitrogen deposition (England Biodiversity Strategy, Defra 2011).A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (<a href="http://www.apis.ac.uk">www.apis.ac.uk</a>).Further information on air pollution modelling and assessment can be found on the Environment Agency website.</p>	<p>An air quality assessment is presented in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics.</b></p>
Natural England	Climate Change	<p>The England Biodiversity Strategy published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development’s effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment ‘by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures’ (NPPF Para 174),which should be demonstrated through the ES.</p>	<p>This is considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation.</b></p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Natural England	Cumulative Effects	<p>A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.</p> <p>The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment, (subject to available information):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a.existing completed projects;</li> <li>b.approved but uncompleted projects;</li> <li>c.ongoing activities;</li> <li>d.plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and</li> <li>e.plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.</li> </ul>	<p>As discussed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions</b>, the long-list of schemes to be assessed is for discussion and agreement with consultees. The ES will report the results of the assessment with particular consideration given to any significant cumulative effects that are identified, and the need for mitigation. These effects will be reported within individual topic chapters of the ES as relevant.</p>
Natural England	Ecology	<p>The S41 list includes six priority woodland habitats, which will often be ancient woodland, with all ancient semi-natural woodland in the South East falling into one or more of the six types. Information about ancient woodland can be found in Natural England’s standing advice <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland_tcm6-32633.pdf">http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/standing-advice-ancient-woodland_tcm6-32633.pdf</a>. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable resource of great importance for its wildlife, its history and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Local authorities have a vital role in ensuring its conservation, in particular through the planning system. The ES should have regard to the requirements under the NPPF (Para. 180)</p>	<p>Comment noted. All woodland will be retained and appropriate buffers will be placed around woodland areas to protect such habitats.</p>
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Consultation	<p>Support plans for renewable energy generation but consider this site and the scale of the proposals being unacceptable. The Solar Farm Projects in the area are huge and intrusive.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The need for the Scheme will be demonstrated via a Planning Statement and Needs Case which will accompany the ES and DCO Application.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	It is in effect a major industrial development and is not in keeping with the village with its surroundings in terms of scale or character. The loss of the agricultural land and food production, the loss of footpaths and byways during construction and the impact on wildlife and archaeology. Local roads are unsuitable for construction traffic on this scale	Noted. A full assessment of environmental impacts of the Scheme is being undertaken as part of the EIA and reported in this PEI Report and subsequent ES. This includes impacts on wildlife, agricultural land, archaeology, transport, footpaths and byways.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	It would dramatically change our local rural scene for the worse. The attractive link between the village and the countryside would be destroyed by the installation of solar panels & associated equipment	A full assessment of environmental impacts of the Scheme is being undertaken as part of the EIA and reported in this PEI Report and subsequent ES. The need for the Scheme will be demonstrated via a Planning Statement and Needs Case which will accompany the ES and DCO Application.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	The ground underneath the solar panels will not be able to absorb water and hence there will be additional run off. Where will this water go? There are already issues with flooding in the area.	A surface water drainage strategy is being prepared and this will be submitted with the DCO application. Runoff will be captured at source and excess flows managed as part of the strategy. The Applicant notes, while the impervious solar panel surface will temporarily concentrate runoff, it will discharge to the existing grassed surface and be returned to runoff with minimal change from existing conditions. A Flood Risk Assessment is included in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 9-B</b> , which provides a preliminary assessment of flood risk.
Planning Inspectorate	Construction Site Specification	The ES should provide details regarding the location and proposed duration of construction compounds required and assess impacts from the construction, operation and decommissioning of these features where significant effects are likely to occur.	Noted. The ES will define the location and proposed duration of construction compounds. Significant effects to be assessed as necessary within the technical chapters of the DCO application. Further information on construction is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> .





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Planning Inspectorate	Construction Site Specification	The ES should provide details regarding the location of the off-site electrical compound and control building and assess any impacts from the construction, operation and decommissioning of this feature where significant effects are likely to occur.	Following development of the design since the Scoping Report was published, it is confirmed that there is no requirement for an off-site electrical compound and control building. All of the infrastructure for which approval is sought is described within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Construction Site Specification	The ES should describe...the maximum parameters of the Proposed Development including the maximum footprint of development, the maximum size and heights of development components and the maximum capacities for output and storage.	Noted. The Applicant describes the relevant maximum parameters within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> which are used in the technical assessments provided in this PEI Report.
Planning Inspectorate	Foundations	The ES should describe...the likely foundation design for the solar panels and their construction method e.g. if piling will be required.	Noted. Further information on construction works is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Electrical Cables	The ES should describe...the locations and voltages of overhead and underground cables.	Noted. Overhead cabling is no longer proposed for the Scheme.
Planning Inspectorate	Watercourse Crossings	The method of watercourse crossings is currently unknown, including whether they will be above or below ground. The ES should justify the methods chosen for watercourse crossings, taking into account potential impacts from the method chosen and assess any significant effects where they are likely to occur.	The grid connection cable is proposed to be installed underground via HDD for watercourse crossings. Further information on the construction of the Scheme is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> . The potential impacts of watercourse crossings are assessed within the relevant topic chapters of the <b>PEI Report Volume 1</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Electrical Cables	The installation of cables either above or below ground will have different impacts and effects. When the cabling options have been confirmed, the ES should justify the cabling method and assess potential impacts to receptors where significant effects are likely to occur across all applicable aspect Chapters. Where relevant this should include consideration of impacts on waterways traffic due to overhead cabling e.g. on the River Trent.	Noted. Overhead cabling over the River Trent is no longer proposed. Further information on the components of the Scheme is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> .





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Planning Inspectorate	Site Access	A new access is proposed on the northern side of Cottam Road located in the vicinity of the existing power station access. The ES should consider the potential to use a shared access with the existing access at the power station. The Applicant's attention is drawn to Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) response on this matter.	All access points are considered in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 13: Transport and Access</b> and <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 13-A: Transport Assessment</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Reporting	The Inspectorate advises the use of a table to identify any changes in the parameters/options of the Proposed Development presented in the Scoping Report to that presented in the ES. It is also advised to provide a table demonstrating how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed in the ES and/or associated documents.	Noted. Matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been responded to in this document, i.e. <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 1-C</b> and in the technical chapters where appropriate ( <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapters 6-15</b> ). This will be further reviewed and updated in the ES and other DCO application documents (e.g. the Consultation Report).
Planning Inspectorate	Transboundary Effects	The Applicant is of the view that due to the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development, significant effects on the environment in any European Economic Area (EEA) state are unlikely to occur. The Inspectorate agrees that it is unlikely for significant transboundary effects on the environment of any EEA state based on the information provided in Table A1, Appendix A of the Scoping Report.	Comment noted.
Planning Inspectorate	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water	Table 6-2 states that no significant in-combination effects on surface water or groundwater levels are expected as a result of precipitation change and therefore it is scoped out. No drainage or flood risk modelling is presented to support this assertion. Solar panels have potential to alter runoff rates and patterns. In the absence of more detailed information regarding drainage design and controls, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.	A surface water drainage strategy is being prepared and this will accompany the DCO application. The strategy will assess options for surface water discharge, and will demonstrate nil detriment to any receiving waterbody.  Furthermore, a Flood Risk Assessment demonstrates the impact on surface water flood risk as a result of the Scheme, as detailed in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 9-B</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Local Climate Impacts	[Regarding temperature change in-combination impacts] Although limited information is provided to scope out this matter, considering the nature of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is content to scope out in-combination impacts on receptors from temperature increases.	Comment noted.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Planning Inspectorate	Climate Change	[Regarding sea level rise in-combination and climate resilience impacts] The Inspectorate is content to scope these matters out on the basis that the Proposed Development is not located in an area that is susceptible to sea level rise.	Comment noted - however, sea level rise has now been scoped into the climate resilience review on the basis that the River Trent is tidal in the area of the Scheme. This is detailed within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Local Climate Impacts	[Wind in-combination impacts] Considering the nature of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is content to scope out in-combination impacts from wind as the Proposed Development is not likely to alter wind patterns.	Comment noted.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	The Scoping Report does not explain where the criteria set out in Tables 7-1 and 7-2 have derived from. Any guidance used in the ES assessments should be appropriately referenced within each aspect Chapter.	This will be detailed in the Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES. The IEMA guidance on the Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment have been followed.
Planning Inspectorate	Construction Site Specification	Currently, the locations of offsite construction areas are unknown, meaning that the baseline is currently incomplete. The ES should identify any potential receptors and impact pathways from these offsite elements and undertake an assessment where significant effects are likely to occur.	Following design development since the Scoping Report was published, it is confirmed that there is no requirement for an off-site electrical compound and control building. All construction areas will be contained within the DCO boundary. Further information on the construction of the Scheme is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> . The ES will assess all construction areas proposed.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	Where access is not available to land to undertake appropriate surveys to inform the baseline, it is stated that professional judgement will be used to determine the baseline from available research and data to assess archaeological potential. This worst-case assessment approach should be agreed with the County Archaeologist where possible	Noted: Consultation is currently ongoing with the Country Archaeologist.
Planning Inspectorate	Cultural Heritage	The Proposed Development has potential to alter drainage patterns and this could indirectly affect below ground heritage assets. The ES should provide commentary on the likelihood of indirect impacts on	Noted. Discussions will be held between the heritage and drainage specialists when considering the impacts on cultural heritage. This will be reported in the ES.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		heritage assets to arise and outline any necessary mitigation measures to address significant effects where they are likely to occur.	
Planning Inspectorate	Arboriculture	Veteran trees are not referenced in the Scoping Report. The ES should identify any veteran trees outside of the ancient woodland copses and assess any significant effects on these receptors where they are likely to occur.	The scope and nature of an arboricultural assessment is to be discussed and agreed with the relevant authorities. Discussions on this topic commenced in May 2022. This would then be documented within the DCO Application
Planning Inspectorate	Ecology	A desk study has identified that there are five invasive species located on/within 2km of the site including Japanese knotweed ( <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> ) which is easily spread through dispersion of its rhizome fragments, stems and crown. An overarching methodology to applying mitigation is set out in paragraphs 8.6.5 to 8.6.7 where biodiversity net gain is mentioned, but biosecurity measures are only referenced in the context of new planting. For clarity, the ES should detail how biosecurity measures will avoid or mitigate the spread/impact of invasive species within the study area.	Biosecurity measures to be included in terms of managing invasive species. Further information is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Biodiversity	Scoping Report section 2.5 states that decommissioning will be considered in the relevant Chapters of the ES however, Scoping Report paragraph 8.6.4 only states that impacts on biodiversity features during decommissioning will be similar to those during construction and not whether/how this will be assessed. In light of the proposed biodiversity enhancements within the site, the ES should explain how the decommissioning assessment takes into account the increased biodiversity value of the site.	Decommissioning is assessed within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water	The Proposed Development will not discharge foul water and will not be connected to a mains foul drainage system during operation therefore no impacts are anticipated. The Inspectorate is content to scope this impact out on this basis.	Noted.
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	The baseline identifies sparse patches of peat deposits in the study area where solar panels are to be located. Considering the potential need for piled foundations as stated in paragraph 9.5.4 there is potential to disturb peat deposits that are carbon sinks and natural	Noted. Peat would be avoided where possible for the Grid Connection Route. There is no peat present within the Solar and Energy Storage Park. This is considered



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>barriers against flooding. The ES should demonstrate how effects on peat deposits have been avoided and where this is not possible, the ES should assess impacts from peat disturbance where significant effects are likely to occur.</p>	<p>within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b>.</p>
<p>Planning Inspectorate</p>	<p>Water Environment</p>	<p>Breakout of drilling fluids is included as a potential impact from the Proposed Development. Should drilling fluid be used in construction, a breakout plan should be produced, submitted and secured in the application.</p>	<p>Should drilling fluid be used in construction of watercourse crossings, this will be de-risked through a commitment within the ES to provide suitable mitigation to avoid any potential impacts caused by breakout of drilling fluids on water quality (surface water or groundwater). This was discussed and agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in March 2022. This is expected to include the requirement for a site specific break out risk assessment following further investigation of specific ground conditions at the crossing locations, and appropriate mitigation developed in line with best construction practice. There is also a need to manage drilling muds and wastewater so that this would not be spilt into the channel when working close to the banks of a watercourse. This will be secured within the ES.</p>
<p>Planning Inspectorate</p>	<p>Water Environment</p>	<p>The ES should describe the existing quality of waters affected by the Proposed Development. Scoping Report paragraph 9.6.6. states that no water quality monitoring is proposed beyond a site walkover survey due to the nature of the development.</p> <p>Given that there are a number of water bodies within the site boundary, the topography of the site slopes towards a Water Framework Directive waterbody (the River Trent) and construction impacts may alter water quality (as highlighted in paragraph 8.6.1), surface water quality surveys should be undertaken to inform the baseline and reported in the ES.</p>	<p>The nature of water bodies within the site are generally minor. Water quality of the more significant watercourses along the boundary and just beyond the DCO Site will be determined with reference to background water quality data from routine Environment Agency monitoring. Importance of water bodies will be determined from a holistic review of water body features and does not rely on water quality due to the principle that no controlled water may be polluted. Water quality impacts will be based on a risk assessment that does not require input of raw background water quality data. Water quality monitoring is also only effective when there is a clear purpose for it, and may require monitoring over a long period of time to ensure reliable</p>

Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
			and robust results. This will be discussed with the Environment Agency and further information and an assessment of water quality is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Water Environment	Scoping Report paragraph 9.6.9 states that a screening and scoping Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment will be provided with the preliminary environmental information report (PEIR) and if, following this, further assessment is required, this will be provided with the ES. The screening and scoping WFD assessment should also be provided with the ES. Where there are any alterations to the Proposed Development between submission of the PEIR and ES that influence the WFD assessment, the assessments should be updated accordingly.	Noted. A WFD Screening Assessment has been included in <b>PEI Report Volume 3: Appendix 9-A</b> . This will be reviewed and developed further at ES stage to include a scoping assessment for those waterbodies screened in, and if necessary, more detailed assessment pending final scheme design for the DCO application.
Planning Inspectorate	Reporting	[Regarding local, regional and national effects] Whilst these terms are defined in relation to effects in Scoping Report paragraph 9.6.22, there is no explanation as to how this will influence the conclusions regarding significance. The ES should explain this.	Noted. Further information is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Surveys	Where surveys are not undertaken due to access limitations, this should be justified in the ES and the desk based approach agreed with relevant consultees where possible.	Noted.
Planning Inspectorate	Contamination Risk	The Canal and Rivers Trust have identified that there are existing dredging disposal sites along the River Trent which present a potential contamination risk should they be disturbed. The ES should identify if and where these sites could be impacted by the Proposed Development and assess any significant effects from the disturbance of these sites where they are likely to occur.	Construction information is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme and Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> . The Framework CEMP will provide an overarching and strategic framework for the management of environmental effects, including contamination risk and the implementation of measures prior to, and during, the enabling work and construction phase of the Proposed Development.
Planning Inspectorate	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Scoping report paragraph 10.7.9 states that an assessment of construction lighting is scoped out as it will be temporary in nature.	Information on lighting during construction and operation is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 The Scheme</b> . Further detail on lighting requirements



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>Limited information is presented regarding the lighting proposed (during construction or operation) or the receptors that could be affected by lighting. The ES should clearly explain the construction and operational lighting strategy and any measures necessary to avoid or mitigate lighting effects. This should address issues of directionality and the effect of intermittent lighting on receptors.</p>	<p>during construction and operation. and lighting impacts on receptors will be considered in the DCO Application.</p>
<p>Planning Inspectorate</p>	<p>Operational Vibration</p>	<p>Scoping Report paragraph 11.5.7 and Table 17-1 do not align. 11.5.7 proposes to scope out operational impacts only and Table 17-2 proposes to scope out vibration during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases on the basis that no major vibration sources are introduced as part of the Proposed Development. Considering Scoping Report paragraph 2.3.3 identifies potential sources of vibration during construction which also may include piling (paragraph 9.5.3), and the distance of piling activity from receptors has not currently been identified. The Inspectorate considers that vibration effects from piling should be assessed where significant effects are likely.</p> <p>Paragraph 11.5.7 states that during operation, there would be no sources of vibration impact. Based on the characteristics of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate agrees that operational vibration effects may be scoped out from further assessment.</p>	<p>There is potential for construction activity induced vibration to cause disturbance to occupants of nearby properties. Consequently, construction vibration from construction activities (including piling) is considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration</b>. Operational vibration has been scoped out of the noise and vibration assessment as agreed.</p>
<p>Planning Inspectorate</p>	<p>Operational Noise</p>	<p>The Scoping Report states that cables are not anticipated to produce any noise during operation and traffic movements are low (7 operational arrivals and 7 departures daily at the site from light vehicles for maintenance and deliveries). The Inspectorate agrees that based on the predicted number of vehicles, significant noise effects are unlikely and may be scoped out from further assessment.</p> <p>However, cable infrastructure is anticipated to be in the range of 132 – 400kV. At higher voltages, there is limited potential for noise emissions from conductors on overhead lines under certain meteorological conditions. The ES should consider the potential for significant noise</p>	<p>As set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 – The Scheme</b>, above ground cabling for the Grid Connection Route is not proposed. Consequently, as there are no overhead lines, an assessment of noise generated from cable infrastructure has been scoped out of the noise and vibration assessment.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		effects, where cable routes are in close proximity to residential receptors.	
Planning Inspectorate	Reporting	The ES should explain the methodology and any guidance used to inform the assessment of receptor sensitivity and the selection of receptors identified for further assessment.	Standard EIA methodology is defined in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology</b> . Where this is deviated from in the technical assessments, each technical chapter documents the approach to the methodology used along with the receptor sensitivity and receptors identified for each assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	Operational Noise	Operational mitigation measures, including the noise limits to be achieved at the boundary of the site or the boundary of any operational plant installation (where relevant) should be agreed with the local Environmental Health Officer (EHO), where possible.	Noise mitigation and noise limits for operational plant have been consulted on with EHOs. As the local authorities had not yet appointed a noise consultant, a review of noise mitigation and noise limits for operational plant will be undertaken through the statutory consultation process.
Planning Inspectorate	Operational Noise	The Scoping Report explains that BS5228:2009+A1:2014 will be used to assess construction noise and vibration effects and that BS4142:2014 will be used to assess operational noise but then references the significance criteria in Scoping Report Chapter 5 for assessment. It is unclear why the standard BS5228 methods such as the 'ABC' method or '5dB' change method have not been adopted or the significance criteria provided in BS4142. The Inspectorate considers that the ABC method and significance criteria in BS4142 should be adopted unless otherwise justified and agreed with the local EHO, where possible.	<p>The ABC method in BS 5228-1 is used as a basis to assess construction noise effects. The methodology applied for assessing construction noise effects has been used in a number of other DCO applications and is considered current industry best practice.</p> <p>The assessment of operational noise as presented in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration</b> has been undertaken with reference to BS 4142 guidance.</p> <p>The assessment methodology has been presented to West Lindsey District Council EHOs; however, they had not yet appointed a noise consultant. Consequently, statutory consultation will provide the platform to consult on assessment methodologies.</p>
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-economic	Scoping Report paragraph 12.6.17 proposes to scope out the construction, decommissioning and operational impacts of the grid	Noted. <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use</b> provides further details.





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		connection corridor on socio-economic receptors and land use if Public Rights of Way (PRoW) closures are avoided. The Inspectorate does not consider that this mitigates potential impacts to land use and therefore does not agree to scope out impacts to land use, such as agricultural use, should PRoW closures be avoided. However, the Inspectorate is content to scope out impacts to socioeconomic receptors should the grid connection corridor avoid PRoW closures.	
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-economic	New census data is set to be published in spring 2022. This should be used to inform baseline data and the ES assessment.	Noted, the assessment as presented in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use</b> uses the latest available data. It is understood that first results will be released in late May 2022, with the remainder of results to follow over the course of 2022 and into 2023.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-economic	Scoping Report paragraph 12.6.4 states that the assessment will follow 'standard EIA guidance'. It is unclear what guidance is referred to in this context. The ES should set out and clearly reference the methodological approach adopted.	Noted, clearer methodology is provided in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-economic	Scoping Report paragraph 12.6.13 states that "an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) soil survey will be undertaken for the land parcels within the Site boundary, as deemed necessary." The Inspectorate considers that baseline survey information should be provided for all land parcels within the site boundary and where possible, the ES should demonstrate how effects on best and most versatile land have been avoided.	An ALC survey will be completed for all areas within the Solar and Energy Storage Park and documented within the DCO Application.
Planning Inspectorate	Socio-economic	Scoping report paragraph 12.6.14 states that there is potential for continued use of the land beneath the solar panels during operation such as grazing. Any potential impacts from the use of the land beneath the solar panels should be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur.	Noted, this will be considered further within the ES.





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Planning Inspectorate	Transport and Access	It is anticipated that there will be 7 operational arrivals and 7 departures daily at the site from light vehicles for maintenance and deliveries. A transport assessment is proposed to be submitted with the application and will include further details on operational traffic. Paragraph 2.4.1 states that there would be 10-20 visits per week from 4 wheel-drive or medium sized van vehicles. On the basis of the low anticipated operational traffic volumes, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out from further assessment. The ES project description should confirm the likely operational traffic flows.	Comment noted. Anticipated operational traffic flows are described in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Transport and Access	Scoping Report Table 17-1 states that <i>“There are no nearby road features which suggest that the transfer of materials poses a risk beyond that which would be expected on the general highway network.”</i> Limited explanation is provided in Chapter 13 of the Scoping Report to support this conclusion. The Inspectorate has considered the characteristics of the Proposed Development and considers that this matter may be scoped out from further assessment, however the ES should explain the measures employed to ensure safe vehicular transport of components such as panels and batteries to and from the site.	Comment noted. A Transport Assessment and Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared as part of the DCO Application and will submitted with the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Transport and Access	[Regarding traffic impacts during decommissioning] This is proposed to be scoped out due to uncertainties in relation to future traffic flows. The Inspectorate accepts that a full assessment of traffic impacts may not be possible at the current time, however, the ES should provide commentary on the likely transport impacts of the decommissioning process in light of comments in section 3.10 of this Opinion regarding component refurbishment, where possible.	Decommissioning will involve removal of components at the end of scheme life not refurbishment of them. Refurbishment of components will be part of the operational phase and the level of vehicle trips associated with component replacement (e.g. batteries and panels) is expected to be well below the level of vehicle trips generated during the peak construction phase. Further details will be set out within the Transport Chapter of the ES.
Planning Inspectorate	Transport and Access	Traffic count surveys are only proposed to be undertaken where ‘considered necessary’ to inform baseline conditions. The ES should be informed by robust baseline data and provide evidence of	Comment noted. Traffic surveys have been carried out in support of the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access</b> based on the study area for the Solar and Energy Storage Park and as agreed with Lincolnshire County Council. The traffic surveys were



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		agreement with the Local Highway Authority regarding the need for traffic surveys, where possible.	completed in March and April 2022 and included four junctions and 14 links across the study area to form the basis for the assessment of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. If required further surveys will be carried out in due course (to be agreed with the local highway authorities), once further details relating to the Grid Connection Route are known.
Planning Inspectorate	Transport and Access	Building on information contained in Figure 13-1 of the Scoping Report, the ES should clearly identify the full extent of the ARN and construction traffic routing to inform the assessment of traffic impacts. National Highways should be consulted where effects on the Strategic Road Network are identified.	Comment noted. This has been taken into account in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access</b> and will be considered within the ES. The study area for the Solar and Energy Storage Park has been agreed with LCC and includes parts of the highway network which may potentially be affected by the Scheme. A HGV routing plan has also been prepared to identify the key routes which would be used, where HGVs will be expected to travel via the A156 in order to avoid local towns and villages where possible. The Scheme is located more than 10 miles away from the Strategic Road Network (including the A46 to the south, the A1 to the west and the M180 to the north) and is not therefore expected to have a material impact on the Strategic Highway Network.
Planning Inspectorate	Transport and Access	Limited reference is provided in the Scoping Report to the railway line that bisects the site. Paragraph 6.4.2 states that the Proposed Development is not anticipated to impact the operation of the railway but does not provide any supporting explanation. In light of its proximity to the railway line, the ES should explain whether the Proposed Development has considered opportunities to import materials by rail, to avoid impacts on the road network. The ES should also explain any measures required to ensure operational railway safety where significant effects are likely to occur and should describe and secure any associated embedded/additional mitigation. Measures to avoid impacts on operational rail assets such as bridges and level	There is no rail infrastructure (stations/ sidings) in close proximity to the Solar and Energy Storage Park to suggest that there would be the potential to bring materials by rail. Measures to ensure operational railway safety such as avoiding level crossings or low bridges will be considered and described in the Transport Chapter of the ES. A Glint & Glare Assessment will also be carried out in support of the ES which will identify mitigation to ensure operational railway safety if required.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		crossings should be set out in the ES, in particular for Clay Lane which has restricted height and width.	
Planning Inspectorate	Health and wellbeing	<p>Scoping Report Chapter 14 addresses Human health with nothing reported to be scoped out however, Table 17-2 identifies Human Health as a topic to be 'scoped out' on the basis it is assessed in other relevant Chapters. This is not consistent with the description in Scoping Report Chapter 14.</p> <p>For clarity, the Inspectorate considers that the ES should include an assessment of Human Health based on the approach set out in in Chapter 14 of the Scoping Report.</p>	Noted, Table 17-2 was incorrect and Health and Wellbeing is to be assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES, and is considered in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Planning policy context and guidance	The Inspectorate considers that the ES should refer to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, The Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and The Nottinghamshire Spatial Planning and Health Framework as highlighted by NCC in their consultation response.	Comments noted. The planning policy referred to in the comment is considered in the Human Health and Wellbeing Legislation and Policy Appendix of the <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 14-A</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Air Quality	Minimal traffic movements are anticipated during operation: it is anticipated that there will be 7 operational arrivals and 7 departures daily at the site from light vehicles for maintenance and deliveries. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out. The ES project description should confirm that there are no emissions from operational plant that require further assessment.	Noted. The ES will confirm no emissions from operational plant that requires further assessment. An air quality assessment is included within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> .
Planning Inspectorate	Air Quality	Whilst Scoping Report Table 17-2 does not scope out the need for construction vehicle air quality assessment, Scoping Report paragraph 15.2.10 states that the anticipated number of vehicle movements during construction and decommissioning will be below the threshold of that required for assessment in line with guidance. Paragraph 2.3.5 of the Scoping Report suggests that a peak of 60 HGVs per day is the likely worst-case over the predicted construction period. On the basis that the predicted HGV movements do not exceed the 200 HGV per day threshold, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out from further assessment. The ES must provide up to date information on	Noted. The ES will provide the latest construction information, including HGV movements. <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport</b> provides further information on vehicle movements.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		the anticipated construction programme and the predicted number of HGV movements to confirm that the thresholds are not exceeded.	
Planning Inspectorate	Glint and glare	The Inspectorate is content that glint and glare do not need to be assessed as a standalone Chapter, however both matters should be addressed in the ES LVIA Chapter and supported by detailed calculations as appropriate.	The Applicant has proposed glint and glare to be covered in 'Other Environmental Topics' chapter ( <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15</b> ) and therefore not part of the LVIA ( <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> ). However, the LVIA will cross refer to the glint and glare assessment as necessary.
Planning Inspectorate	Glint and glare	The glint and glare assessment stated to underpin the LVIA Chapter does not include boats as receptors. The glint and glare assessment should assess impacts to boats and where significant effects on these receptors are likely, this should be assessed and reported in the ES.	The scope of the glint and glare assessment does not include boats as receptors, as it considered that there are no likely significant effects on these receptors as the River Trent is approximately 680m from the Solar and Energy Storage Park (at its closest point) and is screened by existing vegetation.
Planning Inspectorate	Other environmental topics	A preliminary risk assessment is proposed and the impact of maintenance activities is proposed to be scoped out. The Inspectorate agrees that maintenance activities may be scoped out from further assessment, although the ES should explain what such activities comprise and any measures to manage effects. For the avoidance of doubt, until the results and recommendations of the PRA are known, there is insufficient evidence to support scoping out an assessment of ground conditions. The assessment of impacts on ground conditions should consider the potential for sterilisation of mineral resources.	<b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 15-C Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment</b> , and summarised in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> provides the findings of the ground conditions undertaken at PEI Report stage.
Planning Inspectorate	Other environmental topics	A standalone Chapter for major accidents and disasters is not proposed on the basis that potential accidents and disasters will be assessed in other Chapters where relevant. The Inspectorate has considered the characteristics of the Proposed Development and agrees with this approach. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Health and Safety Executive's comments relating to potential hazards and receptors to be addressed within the ES. The Inspectorate considers that the risk of battery fire/explosion should be addressed in	A battery fire safety plan is to be prepared as a standalone DCO document to accompany the DCO Application.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		the ES, including any measures designed to minimise impacts on the environment in the event such an occurrence.	
Planning Inspectorate	Other environmental topics	[Regarding Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities] Scoping Report paragraph 15.6.2 suggests that existing infrastructure will be identified through consultation and a desk based study and will inform the design and protective provisions to avoid impacts to receptors. The ES should explain the findings of the desk based study and any required mitigation measures but is otherwise content to scope this matter out.	<b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics.</b>
Planning Inspectorate	Waste	Large scale earthworks are not anticipated and construction waste streams are proposed to be addressed in a site waste management plan as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Decommissioning is anticipated to be 60 years into the future and addressed through an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP). The Scoping Report suggests that with these measures in place, significant effects are unlikely. Solar developments are typically considered to be 30-40 year developments with panel degradation cited as a limiting factor on project lifespan. On that basis, the Inspectorate considers that it is likely that all panels would have to be replaced at least once during the operational life of the project. This means that there is a potential need for substantial removal of panel waste prior to the end of the stated operational period that should be addressed within the ES and/ or ODEMP. The ES should include an assessment of the likely impact of component replacement (e.g. batteries and panels) and outline what measures, if any, are in place to ensure that these components are able to be diverted from the waste chain. The ES should assess the likely significant effects from waste at decommissioning to the extent possible at this time.	Noted. As detailed within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> , an operational phase waste assessment will be prepared for the ES to quantify the amount and frequency of waste generated by the Scheme and necessary mitigation measures.
Planning Inspectorate	Electrical cables	Scoping Report Table 17-2 proposes to scope out impacts from EMF but provides no reasoning.  Cables are proposed to be between 132-400kV. In line with relevant	Noted. EMF has been considered within the <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing.</b>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>guidance (DECC Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines, A Voluntary Code of Practice 2012), cables above 132kV have potential to cause electro-magnetic field effects. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should demonstrate the design measures taken to avoid the potential for EMF effects on receptors.</p>	
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>The applicant has prepared an Environmental Impact Scoping Report with the aim of identifying the requirements for an Environmental Statement which will necessarily accompany the DCO application. Chapter 7 concerns cultural heritage and the following advice focuses on the cable routes located in Nottinghamshire. The Scoping Report suggests that the connection cable routing may not fall within the DCO application, depending on the methodology employed, however I suggest that the approach to cultural heritage should follow the same level of investigation and provide the same baseline evidence to support whichever application process is followed.</p>	<p>Noted. The Cable Connection Route forms part of the DCO application and has been assessed as such within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage.</b></p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Three wide, interlinked corridors are proposed, one of which will form the final route. All three traverse a landscape of rich archaeological potential containing known designated and non-designated assets spanning all periods. Of particular note are numerous assets associated with prehistoric and Roman date located along the known Roman road (Margary 28a) running between Lincoln and Doncaster and the Roman settlement at Littleborough (Segelocvm) on the west bank of the River Trent crossing (a scheduled monument).</p> <p>There is also a very high potential for as yet unknown heritage assets dating to all periods.</p> <p>The current route corridors have been positioned to try to avoid, as far as possible, the majority of known designated and undesignated assets recorded on the Nottinghamshire HER, however there will still be impact to known assets particularly on the western proposed route which crosses areas of intensive pre-historic and Roman settlement and agricultural activity.</p>	<p>Noted. Data has been collected from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records. A full heritage baseline will be presented as part of the DCO application. A desk-based assessment will consider data from available sources including historic environment data, aerial analysis, research, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation undertaken for the project. This will be included as an appendix to the ES. Consultation will be undertaken to agree evaluation and potential mitigation with the county archaeologists for Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council and if required Historic England. Geophysical survey of the corridors is currently underway.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Cultural Heritage	<p>To assess the likely impact of the development and significance of all archaeological remains and heritage assets, Chapter 7 of the scoping report proposes presenting desk-based sources, undertaking a walkover survey, followed by field investigation comprising geophysical survey and further intrusive evaluation.</p> <p>It will be particularly important to provide sufficient information on the character, significance, date and extent of all archaeological remains that will be impacted by the proposed development. This includes known and as yet unknown assets and will be required to inform the appropriate level of mitigation work necessary on the chosen cable route. The nature and scope of the mitigation work will need to be agreed prior to submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>The scope of information presented in the cultural heritage chapter will therefore be sufficient if the stated desk-based, geophysical and intrusive evaluation data is presented in the ES and an appropriate mitigation strategy has been agreed for submission with the DCO application.</p>	The assessment will include the results of geophysical survey and trial trenching, to be appended to the ES, with all archaeological sites identified from the fieldwork included within the impact assessment of the ES.
Bassetlaw District Council	Project Schedule	The applicant should ensure that sufficient time is given to collect and process the required data so that their projected timetable for the DCO process can be adequately met. This includes factoring in land access and managing the work around crops, harvest and general agricultural activities.	Noted. This is being undertaken currently.
Bassetlaw District Council	Extraction/ventilation	The development is unlikely to have need for extraction/ ventilation. I therefore have no comments or recommendations with regards to extraction/ ventilation for this development.	Comment noted.
Bassetlaw District Council	Noise	The development is unlikely to affect the environment with regards to noise. I therefore have no comments or recommendations with regards to noise. Any problems arising can be dealt with under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act.	Comment noted.





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Light	The development is unlikely to be affected by light in the area and is also unlikely to affect the environment with regards to lighting. I therefore have no comments or recommendations with regards to lighting for this development. Any problems arising can be dealt with under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act.	Comment noted, please see response to PINS comment regarding lighting above.
Bassetlaw District Council	Access and Recreation	The area Rights of Way Officer should be consulted. The Grid Connection Corridor (GCC) has the potential to affect several public rights of way in Nottinghamshire.	No significant effects on PRoW users are anticipated following the assessment of the Solar and Energy Storage Park within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport</b> . A full assessment of PRoW which includes the Grid Connection Route will be carried out as part of the ES once further details relating to the Grid Connection Route are known. The Rights of Way Officer will be consulted as necessary when the full assessment is conducted, including in relation to any potential impacts and mitigation.
Bassetlaw District Council	Transport and Access	The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report confirms that the Application will be supported by a Transport Assessment (TA). As the site is in Lincolnshire, the expected traffic impact on the Nottinghamshire highway network would appear to be confined to traffic associated with the GCC. Local roads in Nottinghamshire are otherwise protected from construction traffic by the intervening River Trent. The nearest Nottinghamshire road crossing is the A57 Dunham Bridge to the south which is likely to be suitable for construction traffic. Nottinghamshire County Council as local highway authority for the Nottinghamshire road network would therefore wish to see the traffic impact of construction traffic associated with the GCC to be covered in a discrete chapter within the TA to prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance. Environmental impacts, to be dealt with in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic (1993), should form a separate section within the chapter to avoid confusion.	Details relating to the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Route will be covered in separate sub-sections of the Transport Assessment (TA) where appropriate. However, as per the approach put forward at scoping, the TA will include a combined assessment of the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Route (within a single chapter), to identify the additional 'cumulative' trips on the surrounding highway network as a result of the overall Scheme. The areas of the highway network within Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire will be clearly labelled within the assessment tables for ease of reference, supported by a summary which considers both parts of the network. It is not proposed to split the assessment work out into separate chapters as this would result in a partially complete assessment within each chapter, rather than a full and robust assessment of the overall Scheme.





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Transport and Access	It is noted that the Construction Traffic Management Plan will include a chapter on construction worker travel patterns and measures to encourage travel by alternative modes to single occupancy vehicle. This should include the construction of the GCC. During operation, the impact of the development on the Nottinghamshire highway network is likely to be negligible. A full Travel Plan is not considered necessary.	Comment noted.
Bassetlaw District Council	Transport and Access	The Scoping Report suggests that the route of the GCC is expected to cross Littleborough Road, Thornhill Lane, Northfield Road, Coates Road, Broad Lane, Headstead Bank and Town Street. However, there is no plan of the proposed corridor at this stage or an indication of vehicle numbers specifically associated with the construction of the GCC. It is also suggested that a new access is expected to be constructed in the vicinity of the existing power station access to provide construction vehicle access to the GCC works in that area. These will require covering in detail within the TA to ensure that the effected roads are capable of accommodating construction traffic, and that essential access can be maintained during the works. It should also be clarified as to why it is necessary to construct a new access when the power station access could presumably serve the same purpose.	Following design development since the publication of the Scoping Report, the Grid Connection Corridor is now confirmed and is shown in the <b>PEIR Chapter 2 The Scheme</b> . The selection of the corridor is set out within <b>PEIR Chapter 3 Alternatives</b> and was based on an environmental and social comparison of the corridor options along with feedback from the February 2022 non statutory consultation. Whilst access to the substation could utilise the power station access/ junction there is also need for a cable route construction access junction which would need to be on the northern side of Cottam Road. An initial indication of construction vehicle numbers relating to the Grid Connection Route is provided within the PEI Report. Further details will be provided within the ES and TA.
Bassetlaw District Council	Planning and Consultation	In terms of consultation this needs further detail in respect of how this will be undertaken. The District Council is supportive of the broad principles I respect of consultation; however it is key that public consultation is meaningful and wide reaching. It would be useful to understand what is meant by 'local community', it will be important that a number of methods are used to engage people both in Bassetlaw and West Lindsey. The District is happy to assist the developer in this regard. Consultation with the Parish Councils will also need to be a key aspect of the proposal; however this will be more important once the exact routes and detail in respect of the cabling is known so the relevant parishes can be consulted.	The Applicant is carrying out statutory pre-application consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations. The Applicant is confident that its approach to consultation ensures that the exercise is meaningful. The Applicant will report on its consultation activities, including how it has had regard to consultation feedback, in the Consultation Report which will accompany the DCO application.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Electrical Cables	...there are parts of the scoping report whereby the cabling has been separated from the main solar infrastructure; this is not considered to be acceptable. The proposed development should be assessed comprehensively and its impact assessed comprehensively. The impact should not be scoped out because it relates to one element of the scheme. The cabling is a crucial part of the scheme and should be assessed in as much detail as the main solar farm; the topics scoped in and out of the scoping opinion should be the same for both elements of the scheme.	For clarity, the same level of consideration is given to description and assessment of the Grid Connection Route as to the Solar and Energy Storage Park, as set out in the PEI Report. This PEI Report and the ES that will accompany the DCO Application will assess and present the effects of the whole of the Scheme, including all construction and operational activities, for which approval is sought.
Bassetlaw District Council	Cumulative Effects	The issue of cumulative impact will need to be carefully considered as there are other NSIP projects in this locality for similar developments along with planning applications for the same. Whilst renewable energy is supported the ES must ensure that these cumulative impacts are assessed within both Bassetlaw and West Lindsey. The approach in this regard is supported and will be key to the ES.	Noted. The cumulative assessment of the ES will consider other NSIPs within the Zone of Influence.
Bassetlaw District Council	Reporting	Each topic chapter should assess mitigation, this should be detailed and include a schedule of deliverable environmental commitments along with monitoring and control mechanisms. The order for mitigations should be avoid, minimise or reduce impact and remedy or compensate.  The ES should contain an appendix which sets out the evidence base documents that are to be used to inform the baseline would be welcomed. The evidence should be up to date and in accordance with the Regulations the District would be happy to assist in providing evidence where possible.	Each topic chapter of the PEI Report considers mitigation. Further detail on mitigation will be provided at ES stage, upon finalisation of the Scheme design.
Bassetlaw District Council	Reporting	It should be noted that the report takes an inconsistent approach to referencing the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan. Some sections reference it and relevant policies and others don't e.g. climate change does (6.3.2), but cultural heritage and others don't. The emerging local plan should be referenced for all sections given the timescales envisaged for this proposal.	The emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan is considered in the planning policy section of each technical chapter of the ES. An appendix will include evidence base documents to inform the baseline.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		The scoping report should reference the Environment Act as opposed to the Environment Bill and it is considered that reference should be made to the Government's Zero Carbon Strategy.	
Bassetlaw District Council	Reporting	1.2.10: The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review), adopted 11 November 2021, is absent from the list of relevant development plan documents	We acknowledge that the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan was missed from the list and agree it and its policies form part of the development plan.
Bassetlaw District Council	Reporting	2.1.48 Biodiversity and Landscaping: References to directly-relevant neighbourhood plans are missing, specifically Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) Policies 2a and 2b, and Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10.	The referenced policies are of relevance and the general thrust of those policies mirrors those within other policies within the development plan i.e. seeking to protect the important landscape characteristics of the local area. Policy 2b is slightly different in that its focus is on enhancing biodiversity. These policies have now and will continue to be considered as the proposals move towards application. It is our opinion that the proposals do not and will not conflict with these neighbourhood plan policies.
Bassetlaw District Council	Climate / Biodiversity Monitoring	The methodology for climate and biodiversity related assessments are sound. The outlined method uses best practice cradle to grave style LCA boundaries and data collection that will give the most accurate comparisons for the EIA.	Comment noted.
Bassetlaw District Council	Reporting	For the avoidance of doubt, relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies, as integral parts of the Development Plan, should be stated explicitly. Their current mention in paragraph 6.3.3 implies that they have not been afforded due consideration. These are as follows: • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding)	Please see our response above. We agree that made Neighbourhood Plan Policies form integral parts of the development plan and whilst not referenced the content of neighbourhood plan policies is consistent with other policies within the development plan on matters such as landscape and flooding.
Bassetlaw District Council	Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage 7.3 Planning Policy Context and Guidance As per the comments for Section 6 of the report, the following Neighbourhood Plan policies / supporting studies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 6 (Heritage Assets in Rampton and Woodbeck) • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Character	Noted.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>Assessment • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 6 (Protecting the historical environment) • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Design Code • Treswell &amp; Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 2 (Design Principles) • Treswell &amp; Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment</p>	
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>The majority of the development proposed to take place would be within Lincolnshire rather than Bassetlaw. However, the development proposed outside of Bassetlaw may impact on the setting of a range of heritage assets within. This would depend upon the scale, design and materials of the proposed additions and their proximity to the River Trent. Without full details of proposals, Conservation cannot give an informed view as to the impact the development would have on the setting of heritage assets within Bassetlaw. However, in general terms, the low-lying nature of the land means that any taller structures are likely to have some impact on setting. The degree of this impact would depend on the scale and nature of the structures. That impact would also have to be weighed against the public benefits of the scheme, which Conservation acknowledges are considerable.</p>	<p>Noted. The cultural heritage assessment of the ES will consider the impact of parts of the Scheme on assets irrespective of their location, including assets located within Bassetlaw District that may be affected by changes to their setting.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>The submitted plans indicate a range of options for a series of grid connection corridor options within Bassetlaw. It is indicated that both underground and overhead grid connection corridor options are being considered. It is stated that 'if the cable is underground, this is likely to be installed using an open trench method requiring a 30m to 40m working width, with trench widths approximately 2m wide and up to 2m deep. Where other specific techniques are required such as micro-tunnelling, boring, or horizontal directional drilling (HDD) this will be investigated'. Both underground and overhead grid connection corridor options would likely have some level of impact upon the significance and setting of a range of heritage assets, depending on location, scale, design and materials. Some of the many heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development include several listed buildings, several scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials, several non-designated heritage assets, an unregistered park &amp;</p>	<p>Noted: Impacts on all potentially affected assets, whether physically or by changes to their setting, are considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> and further refined in the ES. The Lincolnshire County Archaeologist and Historic England have been consulted.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>garden and several other heritage assets. Without full details, Conservation cannot give an informed view as to the exact implications for heritage assets in the area affected. However, in general, there are two main concerns: · Excavations are likely to be harmful to sites of archaeological significance. In particular, the route taken close to or through the Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Ancient Monument needs to be carefully considered, so as to avoid or minimise any harm to that important asset. Our Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council, and the Ancient Monument inspectors at Historic England, should be consulted in this.</p>	
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>New overhead lines and associated pylons would have some impact on the setting of a range of heritage assets in the area, especially having in mind the low-lying and flat topography of this part of the District. In both the above cases, the impact on all heritage assets affected needs to be clearly identified; The mitigation strategies should be clearly explained; Discounted alternative and less harmful routes need to be shown; and the public benefits of the project need to be clearly set out, including any benefits to local residents and businesses. Conservation has identified the range of heritage assets in the area, and has indicated the likely concerns based on the information submitted. However, without full details of exact proposals, it is not possible to give a more informed view than that given in the attached response.</p>	<p>Noted. This is considered in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b>. This will be further developed at ES stage when further information is available on the routing of the Grid Connection Route.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: · Rampton &amp; Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 (The protection of the Parish landscape). · Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) Policies 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) and 2b (Enhancing biodiversity)</p>	<p>Comment noted, these policies have been reviewed during the PEI Report for their relevance to biodiversity and documented within <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-A</b>.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>Regarding Section 8 with Biodiversity Section 8.3.14 Other guidance - A key guidance document 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' is missing from the list. This is the most recent Defra approved strategy for biodiversity in the UK.</p>	<p>Comment noted, Biodiversity 2020 has been reviewed and added to the guidance list, as set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 8-A</b>.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Ecology	<p>-Section 8.6.3 &amp; 8.6.7 Potential Mitigation and Enhancement</p> <p>Here lists measures from BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) related to development, but lacks inclusion from the 'Biodiversity 2020' above for meaningful policy to enhance local biodiversity. The core 4 principles must be included in their enhancement criteria: Better, Bigger, More, Joined.</p> <p>This is particularly important for the proposed site as the Burton wood located at the centre of their proposed site could be a key biological hub for the surrounding sites discussed; Stag Wood, Knaith Park and Thurlby wood to the north; and Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings to the west/south west. Therefore, the development should be considered an opportunity to promote wildlife corridors between these locations as a central enhancement aim to local biodiversity</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is generally satisfied with the approach taken.</p> <p>Lighting, even during construction phase, has the potential to impact on ecology and given the fact that there are still unknowns in respect of the location and design of this proposal it is considered that lighting should remain in the EIA and its effect on ecology should form part of this chapter.</p> <p>It is welcomed that nothing is proposed to be scoped out of this chapter</p>	<p>Noted. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement are being explored and where possible identification of wildlife corridors. This will be presented as part of the DCO Application.</p> <p>The Scheme will incorporate the mitigation hierarchy for protected habitats and species and will retain and avoid areas of woodland within the Site boundary. Furthermore, hedgerows will be retained and avoided as much as is practicable and new planting will seek to bolster existing defunct hedgerows and create new hedgerows, where possible, with the aim of creating wildlife corridors.</p> <p>A lighting strategy will be developed to accompany the DCO Application, but any lighting used during construction or operation will be task-specific and will avoid unnecessary light-spill onto adjacent habitats. The impacts of lighting will be considered throughout the ES chapter, where relevant.</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	Water	<p>The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding)</p> <p>Please see responses from Trent Valley Drainage Board.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Local Lead Flood Authority has confirmed that it is</p>	<p>Noted.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>satisfied with the approach that has been taken at this stage It is welcomed that nothing is proposed to be scoped out of this chapter</p>	
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p>	<p>10.3: Planning Policy Context and Guidance</p> <p>As above, the following Neighbourhood Plan policies / supporting studies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Rampton &amp; Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment • Rampton &amp; Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 10 (The Protection of the Parish Landscape) • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Design Code • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) • Treswell &amp; Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment • Treswell &amp; Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 2 (Design principles)</p> <p>This is one of the key considerations for the District. However again it is not yet known the form of the proposed cabling and therefore it is difficult to assess the methodology for scoping purposes.</p> <p>Once the details are known early discussions are recommended with both District's to set out how the landscape and visual assessment chapter will be developed and the proposed viewpoints should be agreed with the local authorities prior to commencement of the ES.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan policies listed have been reviewed in <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 10-A: Legislation and Planning Policy</b>.</p> <p>The Character Assessments listed have been reviewed in the landscape baseline (<b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 10-A</b>).</p> <p>Discussions with both Districts, including agreement on the viewpoints, will continue through preparation of the ES as the design develops.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p>Noise</p>	<p>Given the fact that the details of the design and location of the proposed cabling is not yet know it is considered that ground vibration or noise should not be scoped out of the ES. Advice from the Environmental Health Officer states: 'The noise sensitive receptors have been identified within West Lindsey District, but not for those receptors in the Bassetlaw District who may be within the cable corridors. I recognise that the location of the cable corridors have not yet been determined, but would request that the Environmental Impact Assessment identify the corridors, details whether the cabling will be above ground or below ground and identify the noise sensitive</p>	<p>This is considered and reported in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration</b>.</p>





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		receptors so that the likely impact of any noise can be adequately assessed.'	
Bassetlaw District Council	Socio-economic	In terms of the proposed cabling area social economic receptors are proposed to be scoped into the ES which is welcomed. However the report goes onto say that these will be scoped out if the routes do not affect public right of ways. This is not considered to be acceptable. In any event the amount of cabling required for this proposed will impact on socio economic and land use of the area and should be scoped in regardless of whether it affects PROW or not (also see comments below from the public rights of way officer).	Noted. Further information is presented in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land use</b> .
Nottinghamshire County Council	Transport and Access	<p>The Rights of Way Team welcome the provisions set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the protection and enhancement of the network of Public Rights of Way within the proposed development site. This response focuses on the area affected by the Grid Connection Corridor Options and the associated buffer zone as the proposed solar facility is situated in Lincolnshire and does not impact directly on the PROW of Nottinghamshire. For the same reason, I have not considered the Glint and Glare connotations with regards the PROW network.</p> <p>The EIA Scoping Report references approximately 11km of PROW in Nottinghamshire to be potentially impacted by the Grid Connection Corridor Options. The Report outlines two proposals for cable connections between the solar site and the site of Cottam Power Station. In the case of an array of overhead power lines the visual impact to the PROW network should take into account at least a further 1km buffer zone. This would increase the PROW affected to a potential 40-50Km of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. For this reason we would request trenching the cables as the preferred methodology for the protection of the green infrastructure network within the wider landscape. The report states (12.6.17) that the impacts are limited to the construction and decommissioning phases, with nil during the operation phase.</p>	<p>As set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 – The Scheme</b>, above ground cabling for the Grid Connection Route is not proposed, as such this limits the visual impact of the Scheme.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that some temporary PRoW closures/ diversions may be required during the construction phase to accommodate the delivery of the Grid Connection Route. The ES and CTMP will include details of the mitigation which will be employed to retain access to the PRoW network during these works. Discussions will be held with NCC/ Rights of Way Team as necessary to ensure that suitable measures are implemented.</p>





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>However, an overhead power cable network would have permanent visual impacts to the PROW and we request that full consideration during all phases is afforded during the assessment of the impact of the Scheme on the baseline socioeconomic conditions. It is noted that temporary closures will be necessary during the construction phase and it is requested that these closures, wherever practicable, are employed sensitively to optimise the connectivity of the wider PROW network. The Rights of Way team would welcome discussions regarding the enhancement and improvements to the Public Rights of Way network. These comments have been provided by Via East Midlands Limited on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, in its capacity as Highway Authority, through Via's continuing role of providing operational services on behalf of the County Council.</p>	
Bassetlaw District Council	Health and wellbeing	<p>Human Health is given its own topic in the main body of the scoping report; however in table 17-2 this is put into the Environmental Topics Chapter and is proposed to be scoped out. This is not agreed and the District consider that human health and wellbeing should be scoped into the ES as it needs to be assessed holistically with other impacts such as air quality, noise and vibration etc.</p>	<p>Noted, Table 17-2 was incorrect and Health and Wellbeing is included as <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing</b>.</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	Other Environmental Topics	<p>Air quality  Glint and glare  Ground conditions  Major accidents/disasters  Telecommunications, television reception, utilities  Waste</p> <p>The approach taken to these elements of the ES are considered to be acceptable.</p>	<p>Noted. The approach has been adopted in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b>.</p>
Bolsover District Council	Reporting	<p>I am writing to inform you that Bolsover District Council has no comments to make in respect of this submission.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Doncaster MBC	Reporting	<p>The council has no comments to make and considers that the issues in relation to transportation and air quality will be included as part of</p>	<p>Noted.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		the ES sufficient for officers to form a judgement on potential impacts on Doncaster MBC.	
Environment Agency	Water Environment	Water environment (Chapter 9) We have reviewed Chapter 9 in respect of the approach to flood risk and are satisfied that the scoping report has accurately identified the flood risk. A flood risk assessment (FRA) will be submitted to support the DCO and should consider runoff from the site and ensure this is managed to greenfield runoff rate. We also support the proposal to undertake a Screening and Scoping Assessment to ensure Water Framework Directive (WFD) objective compliance.	Noted. This is considered and reported in <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 9-B: Flood Risk Assessment.</b>
Environment Agency	Other environmental topics	Other environmental topics (Chapter 15) Ground conditions (15.4) We have reviewed Chapter 15 in respect of the approach to groundwater and contaminated land and are satisfied that a Preliminary Risk Assessment will be submitted to support the DCO and identify any issues.	Noted.
Environment Agency	Waste	Waste (15.7) We have reviewed Chapter 15 in respect of waste and are satisfied that no significant impacts are expected from waste and that it can be scoped out of the EIA.	Noted.
Forestry Commission	Ecology	We are particularly concerned about any impact on Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and will expect to see careful consideration of any impact and any weightings which might be applied to any scoping assessments  Several areas of woodland can be found within the site boundary and the document in Chapter 8, 8.8.1 the assumption that all woodland will be retained, this is very positive.	All woodland areas will be retained and undeveloped buffers will be included within the Scheme. Furthermore, measures to prevent indirect impacts occurring will also be included in the ES.
Forestry Commission	Ecology	Burton Wood an Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is marked on the map figure 1.3a Environmental Constraints.  1. Park Plantation 2. Jubilee Plantation 3. Park Wood	The Scheme will retain and avoid (using undeveloped buffers) areas of woodland within the Site boundary. Furthermore, hedgerows will be retained and avoided as much as is practicable and new planting will seek to bolster existing defunct hedgerows and create new



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>4. Broom Hills</p> <p>These four woods all appear to be isolated with the site boundary going round this area which would isolate it within the landscape this area also seems to have been discounted as being relevant yet the site surrounds it, the impacts on these woodlands also need to be included, the plantation woodland will need management and access for machinery depending on age and depending on the proximity to the boundary may need plans for managing root protection. As some of this woodland appears to be replanted woodland on an ancient woodland site it has to be treated as ancient woodland.</p>	<p>hedgerows, where possible, with the aim of creating wildlife corridors.</p>
Forestry Commission	Ecology	<p>Long Nursery (10Ha) and Quilters( 1.5ha) measurements approximate, are not marked as woodland on the constraints map but sit within the site. Given the assumption mentioned in Chapter 8 we assume these will be kept. The non marked woodland should be marked as a constraint as it is a habitat which will be required to be considered if the intention is to deliver biodiversity net gain. Retention as already mentioned is applauded however it also it needs to be acknowledged that woodlands have to be managed and that this will require access for machinery at times and allowances need to be made for this.</p>	<p>No woodland will be lost as part of the Scheme.</p>
Forestry Commission	Ecology	<p>Any loss of woodland should it become necessary, the ASNW is irreplaceable, would require a compensatory plan to be in place and the requisite space to deliver extra woodland would have to be factored in.</p>	<p>No woodland will be lost as part of the Scheme.</p>
Forestry Commission	Ecology	<p>Chapter 8, 8.3.12 States the various NPPF paragraphs but doesn't go on to outline that 180 covers ASNW and how the assessments of potential impacts will be done for Burton Wood. This ASNW appears as an island at the moment we would hope that it could be linked up to other woodland present on site or extended to improve its resilience, as a minimum it requires a significant buffer and a plan to avoid compaction of roots. Whatever is considered, an assessment of the impacts of any works near to this does need to be considered using</p>	<p>The Scheme will retain and avoid (using undeveloped buffers) areas of woodland within the Site boundary. Furthermore, hedgerows will be retained and avoided as much as is practicable and new planting will seek to bolster existing defunct hedgerows and create new hedgerows, where possible, with the aim of creating wildlife corridors.</p>

Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		the Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland – plus supporting Assessment Guide and Case Decisions.	
Forestry Commission	Ecology	The document suggests that there will be field boundary enhancement and we would welcome the planting of more trees, both as screens to nearby settlements and to deliver biodiversity net gain. Section 8.6.7 Potential Mitigation and enhancement, we suggest that it is necessary to be quite clear on the trees and woodland on the site in order to ascertain a baseline for net gain.	Noted, this is currently under consideration and will be presented in the DCO application and accompanying ES.
Forestry Commission	Ecology	Included within any assessment should be an indication of any woodlands under an existing woodland grant scheme and / or a felling licence agreement to Page 3 ensure these agreements will not be negatively impacted and public money wasted. The Forestry Commission can provide that information if required.	Comment noted.
Forestry Commission	Ecology	Following assessment, the environmental statement will need to set out requirements for any compensatory woodland, any protection measures such as root protection zones and buffering requirements.	All woodland areas will be retained and undeveloped buffers will be included within the Scheme. Furthermore, measures to prevent indirect impacts occurring will also be included in the ES.
Forestry Commission	Reporting	We will be interested to see the Framework Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan when available.	Noted. This will be published as part of the DCO Application.
Health and Safety Executive	Health and wellbeing	HSC would be required to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances at or above the controlled quantities set out in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.	Noted.
NHS Lincolnshire CCG	Reporting	We do not have any comments at this time and will continue to monitor this as the plans develop.	Noted.
Mansfield District Council	Ecology	Given the intervening separation distance between the potential site and the district, I can confirm that Mansfield District Council has no comments to make on this Scoping Opinion Consultation. However, we would like to bring to your attention the Sherwood Forest potential future Special Protection Area (SPA), as the buffer to this is extensive	Noted. The potential future SPA will be considered in the ecology chapter of the ES and the HRA at the appropriate time (i.e. when it achieves pSPA status).



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		and may need consideration within the Environment Statement. Can I also request, that Mansfield DC please be consulted when the application is lodged, so that we can go through the details and make any formal comments at that stage?	
Leicestershire County Council	Reporting	Leicestershire County Council has no comments to make on the document.	Noted.
Ministry of Defence	Reporting	I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding concerns to this proposal.	Noted.
National Grid	Reporting	National Grid have electrical apparatus within the vicinity and we would like to be consulted as you progress with your development	Discussion with National Grid will be ongoing for the DCO Application.
National Highways	Transport and Access	The site of the proposed development is located a significant distance away from the motorway and trunk road network. National Highways therefore has no comments on this proposal.	Noted.
NATS Safeguarding	Reporting	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...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 consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.	Noted.
Network Rail	Transport and Access	...the proposed development is situated along a large extent of the Lincoln to Gainsborough railway line. We note that the proposals include using the access under the railway at Clay Lane off the Gainsborough Road (A156)...In view of this, the EIA should consider of the impact of the proposed development upon operational railway safety. This should include a transport assessment section...	<b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport</b> includes measures to ensure operational railway safety including the avoidance of level crossings and low bridges by construction vehicles. A glint & glare assessment will be carried out as part of the ES to include any further mitigation to ensure operational railway safety if required.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Network Rail	Glint and glare	...the EIA should include a Glint and Glare study that considers the impact of the scheme upon adjacent railway, in particular relating to potential train driver distraction and obscuring/conflict with railway signals...	Glint and glare is considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> . A full assessment of glint and glare will be provided at ES stage upon finalisation of the Scheme design
Network Rail	Permits	Should any part of the scheme require the use of, or access across railway land...the developer will be required to obtain the necessary agreements and consents...from Network Rail.	Where necessary discussions with Network Rail will be undertaken and confirmation will be provided as to the necessary agreements and consents required to deliver the Scheme.
Newark and Sherwood District Council	Reporting	I can advise that Newark & Sherwood District Council have no comments to make on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (by AECOM Dated Nov 2021).	Noted.
North Kesteven District Council	Cumulative Effects	<p>North Kesteven District Council does not wish to make detailed comments in relation to the scope of the Environmental Statement in relation to the proposed Gate Burton Energy Park but would offer the following observations.</p> <p>The Gate Burton Energy Park is one of a number of relatively recently publicised large scale solar farms proposed in Lincolnshire and which are collectively subject to the provisions of the Planning Act (2008) and as such are classified as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). This includes the proposed circa 500MW Heckington Fen solar park being promoted by Ecotricity in North Kesteven District and which has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and where an application for Development Consent Order is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the 4th Quarter 2022. Other NSIP proposals more local to the Gate Burton site as also accepted by PINS include those being prepared by Cottam Solar Project Limited and West Burton Solar Project Limited. The Gate Burton Energy Park is located around 50km from the Heckington Fen solar park and therefore cumulative construction and operational impacts are likely to be negligible across the majority of EIA topic areas as listed in the AECOM Scoping Request document.</p>	As discussed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions</b> , the long-list of schemes to be assessed is for discussion and agreement with consultees. The ES will report the results of the assessment with particular consideration given to any significant cumulative effects that are identified, and the need for mitigation. These effects will be reported within individual topic chapters as relevant.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>There will be no intervisibility between the Gate Burton and Heckington proposals. However whilst paragraph 12.6.3 of the EIA Scoping Request states that 'an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) soil survey will be undertaken for the land parcels within the Site boundary, as deemed necessary', Chapter 12 'Socio-Economics and Land Use' does not commit to assessing cumulative agricultural land impacts associated with the development of the respective large scale solar proposals. Whilst Lincolnshire has a large quantity and high relative proportion of BMV agricultural land, the potential development of four substantial NSIP-scaled solar farms (as currently registered with PINS) has the potential to result in a degree of cumulative adverse impact stemming from temporary loss of opportunity for the continued cultivation of potential BMV land. We would therefore request that West Lindsey and Bassetlaw District Councils give consideration to this issue being specifically scoped in to the ES.</p>	
North Northamptonshire Council	Reporting	No Comment.	Noted.
Nottinghamshire County Council	Minerals and Waste Planning	<p>Minerals and Waste The adopted Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Replacement Waste Local Plan, Part 1: Waste Core Strategy (adopted 10 December 2013) and the saved, non-replaced policies of the Waste Local Plan (adopted 2002), along with the adopted Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2021), form part of the development plan for the area. As such, relevant policies in these plans need to be considered. In addition, Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas (MSA/MCA) have been identified in Nottinghamshire and in accordance with Policy SP7 of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan, these should be taken into account where proposals for non-minerals development fall within them. From the point of the Scoping Report, whilst there is mention the MLP and WLP at the start of the report, it does not mention the safeguarding policies in any subsequent sections. There is a chapter towards the end on 'other matters' that could be used to usefully</p>	<p>Further discussion on the need for a Minerals Safeguarding Assessment (MSA) was held between the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in May 2022. It was agreed that a MSA was not necessary as a standalone DCO Application document due to further information provided by the Applicant on the reduced and narrowed routing of the Grid Connection Route which passes through a MSA for sand and gravel. Further information and consideration of mineral safeguarding will be provided in the Planning Statement which will accompany the DCO Application.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>reference the safeguarding policies in, as such NCC have the following comments in relation to Minerals and Waste.</p> <p>As the Mineral Planning Authority, it is the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council to form policies and determine applications relating to mineral development. One of the key responsibilities of both the County Council but also the District and Borough Councils is to safeguard mineral resource (PPG, Paragraph 005, 2014). As minerals are a finite resource that can only be worked where they are found, the emerging Minerals Local Plan contains a policy, SP7, Adopted Minerals Local Plan   Nottinghamshire County Council which seeks to safeguard mineral resource from unnecessary sterilisation from non-mineral development and so establishes Mineral Safeguarding and Consultation Areas (MSA/MCA).</p> <p>As a two-tier authority, the Minerals Local Plan forms part of the overall Development Framework for Bassetlaw District Council.</p> <p>The specifics relating to ‘Gate Burton’ and the cabling options for connection to the national grid. The entire of western side of River Trent lies within a Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Area, but that given relatively small land take we do not foresee any problems.</p> <p>There is an area of concern however. The northern cabling route option, the buffer zone for which, runs through or at least very close to the permitted sand and gravel site at Sturton Le Steeple quarry (1/46/06/00014/). As this site is not presently active, it may not have been picked up as part of the initial scoping exercise. NCC would draw attention to Adopted Minerals Local Plan March 2021 (Policy MP2.</p>	
Nottinghamshire County Council	Waste	Waste In terms of the Waste Core Strategy, there are no existing waste sites within the vicinity of the site whereby the proposed development could cause an issue in terms of safeguarding existing waste management facilities (as per Policy WCS10).	Noted.





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
Nottinghamshire County Council	Archaeology	<p>Archaeology NCC have checked the proposal against the Nottinghamshire HER and read the submitted Scoping Report and have the following advice to offer:</p> <p>'There are archaeological implications for much of the areas covered by the proposed cable corridors on the Nottinghamshire side of the scheme, especially around the Scheduled Monument of Segelocum Roman town at Littleborough. Recent geophysical survey (yet to be entered on the HER) has identified roadside settlement running parallel to Littleborough Road which, although not Scheduled is of comparable significance to the adjacent Scheduled Monument and should be treated thus as per NPPF footnote 68. Archaeological mitigation will certainly be required, though it is not possible to advise on the scope of that mitigation at this time. Submission of a DBA with as much supporting evaluation information as possible (as detailed in section 7.6 of the scoping report), and any refinement of the proposed routes, will enable the details of any required mitigation to be firmed up.'</p>	<p>Noted: Data has been collected from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records. A full heritage baseline will be presented as part of the application. A desk-based assessment will consider data from available sources including historic environment data, aerial analysis, research, previous evaluation surveys and evaluation undertaken for the project. This will be included as an appendix to the ES. Consultation will be undertaken to agree evaluation and potential mitigation with the county archaeologists for Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council and if required Historic England.</p>
Peterborough City Council	Reporting	<p>The proposal site is some 50 miles remote from Peterborough, and accordingly, we do not have any comments to make on this proposal at this time.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
STW	Reporting	<p>I can confirm STW do not have any assets in the area in question per our records. Accordingly we have no comments to make.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
UK Health and Security Agency	Socio-economic	<p>We recognise the promoter's proposal to include a health section. We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.</p> <p>In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise</p>	<p>Noted.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID’s predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document ‘Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime’, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement<sup>1</sup>. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.</p> <p>Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e. an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to nonthreshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.</p>	
<p>UK Health and Security Agency</p>	<p>Electrical cables</p>	<p>It is noted that the current proposals scope out possible health impacts of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).</p> <p>We request that the ES clarifies this and if necessary, the proposer should confirm either that the proposed development does not impact any receptors from potential sources of EMF; or ensure that an adequate assessment of the possible impacts is undertaken and included in the ES.</p>	<p>Noted. EMF has been considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing.</b></p>
<p>UK Health and Security Agency</p>	<p>Socio-economic</p>	<p>Vulnerable populations</p>	<p>The impact on vulnerable population groups has been considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 14</b></p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>An approach to the identification of vulnerable populations has not been provided. The impacts on health and wellbeing and health inequalities of the scheme may have particular effect on vulnerable or disadvantaged populations, including those that fall within the list of protected characteristics. The identification of vulnerable populations and sensitive populations should be considered.</p>	<p><b>Human Health</b>, where appropriate – particularly populations with disabilities and long term health issues. <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 12 Socio-economics and Land Use</b> takes into consideration deprivation indices.</p>
<p>UK Health and Security Agency</p>	<p>Socio-economic</p>	<p>Housing affordability and availability</p> <p>The scoping report identifies a peak of 600 construction workers per day (Para 13.5.9), but does not identify the projected numbers of non-home-based workers. The presence of significant numbers of workers could foreseeably have an impact on the local availability of affordable housing, particularly that of short-term tenancies and affordable homes for certain communities. The cumulative impact assessment will need to consider this across the wider study area but also identify the potential for any local (ward-level) effects that may affect the capacity of sectors to respond to change, and where there could be knock-on effects on access to accommodation for residents with the least capacity to respond to change (for example, where there may be an overlap between construction workers seeking accommodation in the private rented sector, and people in receipt of housing benefit seeking the same lower-cost accommodation). It should be noted the Housing Needs Assessment for Central Lincolnshire (2020) identifies the private rented sector plays a particularly key role (between 26%-29%) in accommodating those in lower paid roles, such as customer services, caring and leisure service occupations.</p> <p>Recommendation The peak numbers of construction workers and non-home-based workers should be established, and a proportionate assessment undertaken on the impacts for housing availability and affordability and impacts on any local services. Any cumulative impact assessment should consider the impact on demand for housing by construction workers and the likely numbers of non-home-based workers required across all schemes.</p>	<p>Since the scoping report was submitted, the number of construction workers is now expected to be 400 per day. <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 12 Socio-economics and Land Use</b> includes an assessment of construction workers on national and local employment, national and local GVA, local amenities (such as community services and temporary accommodations that would be required to potentially accommodate non-local construction workers). The assessment takes into consideration hotel rooms as well as Bed &amp; Breakfast accommodation within the study area, the current level of remaining capacity and the impact of additional demand on this capacity. <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 14 Human Health</b> also looks at the impact of construction workers on health amenities (such as access to emergency services, dental or medical services).</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
West Lindsey District Council	Reporting	It is noted at this stage, the grid construction infrastructure could comprise of either underground cables or overhead lines (paragraph 1.2.1), and that the applicant considers the latter would constitute an NSIP in its own right. The Council is concerned that such infrastructure that will arise as a direct consequence of this proposed development, will be likely to have significant environmental effects, and must therefore be in scope for the purposes of this EIA (and Consent Order), and should not be considered separately.	As set out in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2 – The Scheme</b> , above ground cabling for the Grid Connection Route is not proposed. The assessment of the Grid Connection Route is considered in the EIA.
West Lindsey District Council	Reporting	Whilst the applicant considers (paragraph 1.2.7-1.2.8) that section 105 (Decisions in cases where no national policy statement has effect) of the Planning Act 2008 will be engaged, it is recognised that under the Energy White Paper, draft National Policy Statements have been published and have been subject to consultation. The draft NPS EN-3 does expressly now consider Solar Photovoltaic Generation (page 79 onwards). Consequently, at the time a DCO is applied for, and during consideration of the application, it is likely that it will be S104 (Decisions in cases where NPS has effect) that should be applied, not S105. In any event, it is considered that the draft NPS (particularly draft EN-1 and EN-3) should be a material consideration.	We acknowledge this point and agree that the planning policy landscape may change between Scoping and DCO submission and we will continue to review and adjust information accordingly. Planning policy is considered in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction</b> .
West Lindsey District Council	Reporting	(Paragraph 1.2.10) It would be helpful if the Report could have a map showing the local planning policy areas such as the CLLP and neighbourhood plans in the context of the proposal. There are a number of Neighbourhood Plans in the West Lindsey District, which adjoin the site and should be considered. It should be taken into account that the north eastern area of the site falls within the Upton and Kexby Neighbourhood Area (designated November 2019) i . Consequently, the publication of any draft Neighbourhood Plan will be a consideration (and if formally made, whilst the DCO is under consideration, formally part of the Local Development Plan). The immediate north of the application site, and within the 1km buffer, is the Lea Neighbourhood Area, in which the Lea Neighbourhood Plan (January 2018) is in force	We note the response raised and highlight that Planning policy is considered in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction</b> . We will continue to monitor changes to the planning policy landscape. The provision of a map showing local planning policy areas may be helpful and is being considered for ES.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>ii . The Designated Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Area, immediately adjoins the south-eastern aspect of the site, and is within the 1km buffer – the draft Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan has reached examination stage, and therefore there is a likelihood that it will form part of the Local development Plan by the time the DCO is submitted</p> <p>iii . It is considered that the above should be taken into consideration. All neighbourhood plans can be viewed on the Council website here: <a href="https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/myserVICES/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/">https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/myserVICES/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/</a></p> <p>(Paragraph 1.2.12) Review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is underway. Consultation on the first draft of the CLLP (Reg18) concluded on 24th August 2021, and consultation responses have been published</p> <p>iv. A live timetable is maintained on the website. It currently envisages consultation on the pre-submission Local Plan document to take place in Spring 2022, with submission to the Secretary of State in Summer 2022. Consequently, it is expected that the draft CLLP is likely to be at an advanced stage by the time an application for the DCO is made, and may even be adopted during consideration of the NSIP application. It therefore should be taken into consideration.</p>	
West Lindsey District Council	Reporting	<p>It is noted that much of the infrastructure and layout arrangements are yet to be determined. This includes the arrangements of the solar PV modules (paragraph 2.1.7), and whether they will be orientated to be south facing, or on an east-west alignment. This will be likely to vary the significant environmental effects that may arise – for instance the east-west alignment will need considerably more panels. It is important therefore that the Environmental Statement considers all scenarios. It is noted that the scheme will include an associated battery energy storage system (paragraph 2.1.25 onwards), but that the design, scale, appearance and layout for such is yet to be determined. The ES must cover all design scenarios being proposed. Whilst measures for achieving biodiversity net gain are noted (2.1.48), the ES must take into account the time and nature of any new landscaping being</p>	<p>Information on the components of the Scheme is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Scheme</b>. Maximum parameters have been comprehensively assessed within the technical chapters. Any further changes to the design will be assessed within the ES.</p>



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		established and maturing during the lifetime of the development (paragraph 5.4.8 with a future year of 2042, is noted).	
West Lindsey District Council	Electricity cables	Electricity Export Connection (paragraph 2.2.1- 2.2.6) – it is considered that the nature and alignment of the cabling, be it underground or above ground, is likely to have significant environmental effects and that this must be covered in the scope of the ES.	Overhead cabling is no-longer proposed. Further information on the components of the Scheme is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> . The Cable Connection Route has been comprehensively assessed within each technical chapter.
West Lindsey District Council	Reporting	As well as statutory bodies, the site falls across a number of Parish Councils (including Marton, Gate Burton, Knaith, Kexby, Willingham) and adjoins a number of Neighbourhood Planning Areas (Lea, Stow). These should be included within all consultation events.	Noted.
West Lindsey District Council	Cumulative effects	It is anticipated that the cumulative effects upon the environment from the Gate Burton project in combination with the Cottam and West Burton projects will be significant. It is therefore imperative that any Environmental Impact Assessment considers the cumulative effect of these three solar project NSIP schemes.	As discussed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions</b> , the long-list of schemes to be assessed is for discussion and agreement with consultees. The ES will report the results of the assessment with particular consideration given to any significant cumulative effects that are identified, and the need for mitigation. These effects will be reported within individual topic chapters as relevant.
West Lindsey District Council	Climate Change	Where relevant, the ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example, alternative measures such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from climate change.	Comment noted. A climate change assessment is provided as <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> .
West Lindsey District Council	Climate Change	The Scoping Report (paragraph 6.4.6) states that “The climate resilience review will provide a description of how the Scheme will be designed to be more resilient to the climate change impacts identified.” This may be included in detail of the planned review, but it would be good practice that the ES should include a description and assessment of any likely significant effects resulting from the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change. The ES	Comment noted and accepted; these details will be included in the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b> .



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
West Lindsey District Council	Climate Change	<p>should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example, alternative measures such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from flooding.</p> <p>The Applicant proposes (paragraph 6.5.5) that the assessment of the combined impact of the Proposed Development and future climate change on the receiving environment are scoped out of the ES. It seems reasonable that the Proposed Development is not likely to result in impacts relating to temperature change, and wind. The applicant also states that <i>“A more detailed assessment of climate change projections will be conducted for the land within the Site boundary as part of the ES.”</i> It would seem reasonable to consider these specific areas out of scope for the ICCI assessment– though the local authority are not experts in this area and would defer to more esoteric knowledge from other consultees.</p> <p>Table 6.2 states: <i>“no significant impacts on surface water or groundwater levels are expected as a result of precipitation changes, in combination with the Scheme, as the flow of precipitation to ground will not be significantly hindered. The Scheme, in combination with projected changes in precipitation, is also not expected to have a significant impact upon receptors identified by other environmental discipline.”</i> Given some of the public concerns that have been raised about the potential impact of flooding, and the constraints that this development might put upon future options for natural flood management and mitigation options, it is felt that this area should remain in-scope for the ICCI and more detailed assessment made. Table 6.2 explains that the Proposed Development is not located in an area that is susceptible to sea level rise. The River Trent is tidal in this area and significant effects are likely to occur in that flooding risk will increase from climate change during the lifetime of the development. It is suggested that assessment of sea level rise in the climate change resilience review should remain in the scope of the ES. The draft</p>	<p>Sea level rise will be considered in the climate resilience review as part of the ES.</p> <p>In-combination effects on surface water or groundwater levels is incorporated as part of the ICCI assessment within the <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b>, this includes reference to <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment</b> which addresses flood management.</p> <p>Noted re the draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – this has been reviewed and discussed where relevant within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change</b>.</p>





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		Central Lincolnshire Local Plan should also be included (paragraph 6.3.2).	
West Lindsey District Council	Cultural Heritage	Study Area (paragraph 7.2) – the intention of a 3km zone for built heritage assets is agreeable. It is agreed that a 5km zone for “ <i>high-value assets</i> ” should be considered. However, it should clarify what is considered a “ <i>high-value asset</i> ”. The ability of the development to effect the setting of a heritage asset will depend upon the type of asset and the extent of its setting – not its “ <i>value</i> ”. Consequently the methodology should set out what assets within the 3-5km zone are, and are not included, and the reasoning for such.	Noted. A cultural heritage assessment has been provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> . Further detail will be included within the ES.
West Lindsey District Council	Cultural Heritage	It states (paragraph 7.6.6) that a “moderate (significant) effect is unlikely to meet the test of substantial harm”. This needs explaining – if the effect is significant, it does not exclude substantial harm from occurring.	Noted. A cultural heritage assessment has been provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> . Further detail will be included within the ES.
West Lindsey District Council	Ecology	<p>The Council does not presently have in-house expertise to cover ecology matters. This is an area in which we will need to seek additional resource. It is recommended that information is sought from the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>It is noted that the assessment will follow CIEEM guidelines. It is noted that the ES covers both statutory and non-statutory designations within the buffer zones, and identifies records of protected and/or notable species of flora and fauna within the 2km study area.</p> <p>There is a small area just south of Knaith on the westerly site boundary that adjoins the well-used road, the A156, and which contains various large, mature TPO trees. These trees are group G1 of Tree Preservation Order Knaith No2 1997, and the outline of this group is not shown on the constraints plan. Trees and hedgerows are both essential for ecology and landscape screening and the effect of development on these areas needs to be considered, particularly in relation to the construction phase. Paragraph 8.6.2 should include the</p>	The assessment of impacts on biodiversity will follow CIEEM guidelines. Data has been obtained from relevant sources during the desk study. Further information is provided within <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> .





Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		impact that the deer fences may have upon biodiversity pathways and priority species.	
West Lindsey District Council	Water	The proposed methodology appears to be comprehensive. It is expected that the appropriate drainage bodies will all be consultation bodies. On the basis that the scheme and layout are yet to be determined (section2), it is considered that this will have a significant bearing on the assessment of flood risk and drainage (paragraph 9.7.1).	Noted. Further detail on the methodology used in the assessment is provided in <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment.</b>
West Lindsey District Council	Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>10. Landscape and Visual Amenity (p89 - 95) The Council does not presently have in-house expertise to cover ecology matters. This is an area in which we will need to seek additional resource. It is however noted that the LVIA will follow the Landscape Institute’s GLVIA3.</p> <p>Whilst it is noted that a preliminary LVIA study area of 5km has been defined (10.2.4), it is agreed that the study area should be informed by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and in consultation with the local authorities.</p> <p>Paragraph 10.3.7 references the West Lindsey Local Plan 2006. The WLLP was superseded by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) in April 2017. The LVIA should therefore take into account the adopted CLLP and the draft CLLP currently under review. Crucially, it needs to recognise that the area to the west of the railway line is allocated as an “Area of Great Landscape Value” (AGLV) in the CLLP.</p> <p>Furthermore, it needs to recognise the Neighbourhood Plans within the study area, including the adopted Lea Neighbourhood Plan. The applicant should use all endeavours to visit those residential properties (paragraph 10.7.1) and not solely rely upon “aerial photography and fieldwork observations”. Agreement on viewpoints should be made with West Lindsey District Council and not only the “LCC Landscape Advisor” (paragraph 10.7.3).</p>	The LVIA methodology is set out in the methodology section of <b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity.</b> Relevant planning policies have been reviewed, including those listed, <b>PEI Report Volume 3, Appendix 10-A: Legislation and Planning Policy Agreement</b> on viewpoints, including viewpoints representative of residents, has been made in consultation with West Lindsey District Council, as well as the LCC Landscape Advisor.

Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
West Lindsey District Council	Socio-economic	12. Socio-Economics and Land Use (p103 – 107) The development is proposed on an area that includes a significant area of land being used for agricultural purposes, including the cultivation of arable crops. Consequently, the section must assess the loss of productive agricultural land, including the displacement of tenant farmers. Any site specific survey of agricultural land (12.6.15) should follow Natural England guidelines and clearly distinguish between best and most versatile land (grades 1-3a) and other.	An agricultural land classification survey is underway for the DCO Site. The final results of the survey and the assessment of the loss of productive agricultural land, and the displacement of tenant farmers will be considered in the ES.
West Lindsey District Council	Socio-economic	14. Human Health (p124-130) Paragraph 14.4 – we would propose that potential effects would include the recreational value and enjoyment of the Public Right of Way network.	Comment noted.
West Lindsey District Council	Other environmental topics	15. Other Environmental Topics (p131-138) West Lindsey has a number of restricted airspace designations. Restricted Zone EG R313 places a number of specific restrictions on the airspace which allows the Red Arrows aerobatic team to practice safely and unfettered by other airspace activity. The EIA Scoping should set out whether any designated airspace / safeguarding zones apply to the site, and whether this is likely to have any significant environmental effects. It is considered that the potential effect upon airspace and RAF Scampton may also be relevant to chapter 12 (socio-economics...).	<b>PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 15: Other Environmental Effects</b> sets out the approach to glint and glare assessment which would consider the potential effects on aircraft. Further detail will be discussed at ES stage.
West Lindsey District Council	Air quality	Air Quality (15.2) - It is agreed that, subject to measures for the mitigation of air quality in the CEMP, that air quality can be “out of scope” for the ES.	Noted.
West Lindsey District Council	Glint and glare	Glint and Glare (15.3) – whilst this is noted, it is not possible to determine as to whether there would be a significant effect in the absence of the glint and glare calculations.	Glint and glare is considered within <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</b> . A full assessment of glint and glare will be provided at ES stage upon finalisation of the Scheme design.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
West Lindsey District Council	Battery Storage	Major Accidents or Disasters (15.5) – it is considered that the risk of an accident would relate to the risk of fire or explosion with the battery storage element. Whilst the extent and positioning of the battery storage is to be determined, it is unclear as to the magnitude or effect of such an event. Whilst it is recognised in table 15-2 that the battery energy storage system would have mitigation through cooling systems, this does not eliminate the risk. It is agreed that separate chapters are not required for telecommunications etc (15.6) and waste (15.7).	A battery fire safety plan is to be prepared as a standalone DCO document to accompany the DCO Application.
West Lindsey District Council	Cumulative effects	16. Structure of the ES (p139) Whilst we broadly agree with the proposed structure, the ES must cover cumulative effects with other projects for which consent is being sought. It needs to be clear as to whether this will be on a topic by topic basis, or a stand alone chapter.	As discussed in <b>PEI Report Volume 1: Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions</b> , the long-list of schemes to be assessed is for discussion and agreement with consultees. The ES will report the results of the assessment with particular consideration given to any significant cumulative effects that are identified, and the need for mitigation. These effects will be reported within individual topic chapters as relevant.
Upper Witham Drainage Board	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	The site falls within Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board District, Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board's Extended Area and also Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board's Extended Area. However, we are only able to comment on the areas associated to Upper Witham, all information regarding Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board needs direct contact with them.  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. Areas which fall within the 'Extended Area', are under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991. Therefore, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse	Noted. Further consideration will be given in the development of the outline drainage strategy at ES stage, following refinement to the Scheme design.



Consultee	Topic	Summary of Scoping Opinion Comment	Summary of Response
		<p>outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this 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.</p> <p>Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over or within the byelaw distance, currently 6m, soon to be revised to 9m of the top of the bank of Board maintained watercourses.</p>	
Upper Witham Drainage Board	Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water Management	<p>A permanent undeveloped strip of sufficient width should be made available adjacent to the top of the bank of all watercourses on the overall site, to allow future maintenance works to be undertaken. Suitable access arrangements to this strip should also be agreed. Access should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority, LCC and the third party that will be responsible for the maintenance in consultation with the Internal Drainage Board where watercourses are subject to Byelaws. All drainage routes through the Site should be maintained both during the works on Site and after completion of the works. Provisions should be made to ensure that upstream and downstream riparian owners and those areas that are presently served by any drainage routes passing through or adjacent to the Site are not adversely affected by the development. Drainage routes shall include all methods by which water may be transferred through the Site and shall include such systems as “ridge and furrow” and “overland flows”. The effect of raising Site levels on adjacent property must be carefully considered and measures taken to negate influences must be approved by the Local Planning Authority. Consent Applications forms and guidance materials are available to download from the Board’s website.</p>	<p>Agreed, a buffer will be proposed in the scheme along watercourses, with suitable width to be determined through consultation with relevant authorities. The surface water drainage strategy, that will accompany the DCO application, will look to mimic the existing surface water flow regime as far as practical and reduce flood risk where appropriate.</p>