

Fosse Green Energy

Non-Statutory Consultation

Feedback Report

October 2024

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Purpose of the report.....	1
1.2	About Fosse Green Energy.....	1
1.3	Windel Energy	1
1.4	Recurrent Energy	2
1.5	The Proposed Development at non-statutory consultation	2
2.	Consultation at a glance	4
2.1	How we consulted	4
3.	Approach to non-statutory Consultation	4
3.1	Informing the approach	4
4.	The Non-Statutory Consultation	5
4.1	Non-statutory Consultation purpose	5
4.2	What we asked	5
4.3	When it took place	6
4.4	Making our non-statutory consultation accessible	6
5.	Notification and Publicity	7
5.1	Notification	7
5.2	Publicity.....	8
6.	Making information available	10
6.1	Non-Statutory Consultation materials	10
6.2	Information points	11
6.3	Non-Statutory Consultation events	11
7.	Providing feedback	12
7.1	How consultees could respond	12
7.2	Number of responses received	12
7.3	Enquiries and information	13
8.	Response to feedback received.....	14

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1.1 This report presents the outcome of the non-statutory consultation on the proposed project being brought forward by Fosse Green Energy. The non-statutory consultation took place between 11 September and 20 October 2023.
- 1.1.2 It sets out details of the non-statutory consultation and provides a summary of the feedback received in relation to the Project from the local community and other consultees. It also presents our response to the consultation feedback received and explains how the feedback has been considered in the development of the project.
- 1.1.3 This feedback report will inform the Consultation Report that is required to accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application produced for the Project.

1.2 About Fosse Green Energy

- 1.2.1 Fosse Green Energy Limited (the Project) is being developed by Windel Energy, Recurrent Energy and a professional project team which has been created to provide specific support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the project.

1.3 Windel Energy

- 1.3.1 Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.
- 1.3.2 With more than 3.5 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.
- 1.3.3 Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believes that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar energy and storage park can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.

1.4 Recurrent Energy

1.4.1 Recurrent Energy is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, Recurrent Energy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. and functions as Canadian Solar's global development and power services business. Recurrent Energy has completed the development of 11 gigawatts (GWp) of operating utility-scale solar projects and 3.7 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy storage projects across six continents. Recurrent Energy has more than 27 GWp of solar and 63 GWh of battery storage projects under development.

1.5 The Proposed Development at non-statutory consultation

1.5.1 Fosse Green Energy is a proposal for a new solar and energy storage park with associated infrastructure, connecting into the National Grid transmission system at their proposed new substation near Navenby.

1.5.2 Fosse Green Energy is proposed to be located on land 5.6 miles (9 km) south west of Lincoln in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. It will be made up of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, solar stations, an onsite substation and battery energy storage areas located to the north and south of the A46, known as Fosse Way.

1.5.3 At the time of the non-statutory consultation, we consulted on two potential corridors exporting and importing electricity from the new proposed National Grid substation near Navenby.

1.5.4 We also presented potential areas for landscaping, ecological enhancements, mitigation measures and screening.

1.5.5 At the time of this initial non-statutory consultation, the design of the scheme had not yet been finalised, but its principal components had been established, including:

- Solar PV panels (also known as 'modules');
- PV panel mounting structures;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
- Inverters;
- Transformers;
- Switchgear;
- An Onsite Substation and control buildings;
- Onsite cabling;
- Ancillary infrastructure (e.g. combiner boxes, weather stations);

- Electricity export and import via high-voltage Grid Connection Cable and connection to the National Electricity Transmission System;
- Fencing and security;
- Access tracks; and
- Landscaping, permissive paths and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement areas.

1.5.6 The map we presented at non-statutory consultation with the proposed location of the principal site and two grid connection corridor options can be found below.



Figure 1: Proposed location of the principal site and grid connection corridor at the time of the non-statutory consultation

2. Consultation at a glance

2.1 How we consulted

- 2.1.1 Wrote directly to over 13,000 people.
- 2.1.2 Held five events with 419 people attending.
- 2.1.3 158 pieces of feedback received.
- 2.1.4 Some of the main topics we received feedback on were:
 - Food production and security
 - Wildlife
 - Project location
 - Community benefits.

A summary of all feedback received and our responses to this feedback can be found in this report in the “Response to feedback received” section.

3. Approach to non-statutory Consultation

3.1 Informing the approach

- 3.1.1 The Applicant is committed to delivering renewable energy projects with transparency and collaboration. In part, this means ensuring that the communities living and working near our proposed projects have the chance to inform and influence the development of our proposals from an early stage.
- 3.1.2 We engaged with key stakeholders, giving them the opportunity to inform our approach. This included issuing communications in advance of the non-statutory consultation to local MPs whose constituencies host, or are located adjacent to, the site proposed for Fosse Green Energy (Dr Caroline Johnson MP, Sleaford and North Hykeham and Karl McCartney MP, Lincoln). The approach to non-statutory consultation was shared and discussed with the Local Planning Authorities.
- 3.1.3 On 11 May 2023 Fosse Green Energy was introduced to the public and stakeholders by the launch of the website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk and direct mailing to 477 residents and businesses living within or close to the proposed Site Boundary. Emails were issued to key stakeholders including parish councils, and a press release issued to local press outlets including Lincolnshire Live, The Lincolnite, East Midlands Connected and Newark Advertiser.

- 3.1.4 Similar communications were issued to officers and elected members at host and neighbouring local authorities, parish councils and other key stakeholders on 26 June 2023. Full details are set out in the Notification and publicity section of this document.
- 3.1.5 As a result, we held pre-consultation briefings with key stakeholders, which explored the emerging plans for Fosse Green Energy and provided the opportunity to comment on the consultation strategy.

The schedule of pre-consultation briefings is set out below in Table 1.

Stakeholder	Meeting date
Lincolnshire County Council	3 May 2023
North Kesteven District Council	10 May 2023
Lincolnshire County Council	26 June 2023
Caroline Johnson MP	27 June 2023
Witham and Brant Cluster Meeting	4 September 2023

4. The Non-Statutory Consultation

4.1 Non-statutory Consultation purpose

- 4.1.1 The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to introduce Fosse Green Energy, present emerging proposals and give local and / or interested people and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to our proposal.
- 4.1.2 We sought to identify any wider potential local impacts of the project and any opportunities to support local schemes or projects to benefit communities.
- 4.1.3 The feedback received at non-statutory consultation stage has been assessed, responded to where appropriate and has informed our more developed proposal to be presented at the statutory consultation.

4.2 What we asked

- 4.2.1 At the non-statutory consultation, we asked for people's views and feedback on:
- The overall project.
 - The proposed location of the project including solar panel array areas.
 - The two cable corridor options identified to enable the energy park to connect to the National Grid transmission system. (At this stage, these areas were broad to allow for route refinement informed by our

continued environmental surveys, minimising any potential adverse impacts).

- Initial ideas to mitigate potential environmental impacts, create areas for ecological enhancements and biodiversity net gain.
- The proposed method of using underground cables to connect to the National Grid system.
- Suggestions for community initiatives or schemes that could be supported once Fosse Green Energy is operational.

4.2.2 We collected the following data to help us understand any issues raised in more detail and to aid our analysis:

- Description of the respondent's interest in our proposals, such as being a landowner or community organisation, etc.
- Name and email address.

4.2.3 To understand how to improve our consultation at the statutory stage, we also requested comments and feedback on the non-statutory consultation undertaken, along with any suggestions for Fosse Green Energy to consider in the statutory consultation.

4.2.4 In gathering this information, we had full regard to data protection requirements as stated in the Data Protection Act 2018.

4.3 When it took place

4.3.1 The non-statutory consultation ran for just under six weeks from 11 September to 20 October 2023. We were keen to offer people the greatest opportunity to participate, and therefore chose this period to avoid school holidays.

4.4 Making our non-statutory consultation accessible

4.4.1 Consultation activities were designed to be accessible and inclusive, to ensure that Fosse Green Energy engaged with as wide a demographic as possible.

4.4.2 We presented information digitally, sharing information and feedback mechanisms on our website. This enabled a broad reach and instant access to our information, including recordings of our virtual events, providing flexibility to meet different working patterns and engage with a wide range of audiences across a large geographical area.

4.4.3 We held four in-person events where people could find out more about our proposals, speak to members of the project team and ask any questions. Feedback could be provided offline, via hard copy feedback forms and by freepost, providing access for those who prefer to not use the internet or those without internet access. We also placed hard-copy versions of

consultation documents at our Information Points in the local area, which can be seen below:

- North Hykeham Library and Community Hub
- Lincoln Library
- Collingham Community Partnership Library

4.4.4 We ensured the information was presented in a format which made it easy to understand, and written in non-technical language where possible.

5. Notification and Publicity

5.1 Notification

5.1.1 The non-statutory consultation was open to anyone and was widely publicised, via email, postcards, print and digital advertising and press releases.

5.1.2 To notify key stakeholders, we issued direct communications by email and / or letter at various stages marking key milestones to:

- MPs who represent the immediate constituencies, wards and parishes to the site and cable route corridors.
- Lead Officers from Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council, elected members and parish councils representing the immediate and neighbouring wards and parishes to the site and cable route corridors.
- Parish councils in the immediate vicinity of the site and neighbouring areas.

5.1.3 We also issued direct communications to:

- The consultation zone (those within three kilometres of the site)
- Web registrants (those who had previously signed up to receive project updates, this included around 100 people)
- Poster venues (46 community facilities to which we sent posters advertising the non-statutory consultation)

5.1.4 Notification of the non-statutory consultation period was also particularly targeted at specific local stakeholders and groups, including:

- Seldom heard groups, including but not limited to:
 - The elderly.
 - Young people.
 - People with visual impairments.
 - People with deafness or hard of hearing.

- Minority ethnic groups.
- We also contacted organisations operating in the local area. These include but are not limited to:
 - Sports, archaeology, angling and rambler groups.
 - Groups with an interest in wildlife, for example Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and RSPB Lincoln Local group.
 - Farmers unions.

5.1.5 In addition, all those who had been identified as having an interest in land were notified of the non-statutory consultation.

5.1.6 We wrote to the same stakeholders on 23 October 2023 when the non-statutory consultation ended.

5.2 Publicity

5.2.1 To ensure that anyone who may have a view about our proposals knew about the non-statutory consultation, we engaged in various promotional activities:

- A postcard delivered to around 13,000 addresses providing information about the non-statutory consultation and the events taking place. The mailing area for the postcard extended three kilometres from the Site Boundary presented at the non-statutory consultation.



Figure 2: Consultation zone at non-statutory consultation

- The project website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk was updated with information and a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report.¹
- Adverts were placed in the local press and on Google. Google advertisements were geographically targeted to Lincolnshire and targeted to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy developments. The Google advert ran for the whole consultation period. This provided a link to the project website. The Google advert gained 2,266 impressions and 437 clicks through to the project website.
- A print advertising campaign ran in the Lincolnshire Echo and Newark Advertiser for two weeks, appearing on 14 and 21 September 2023. Details can be found below in Table 3.
- Media releases were issued to numerous local, national and trade publications and local radio stations at various stages of the consultation, attracting 12 pieces of coverage in total. Details of the press releases issued are set out below in Table 4.

Newspaper	Advert 1	Advert 2
Lincolnshire Echo	14 September 2023	21 September 2023
Newark Advertiser	14 September 2023	21 September 2023

Table 2: Newspaper advertisement publication dates

Date issued	Title of media release	Summary
11 September 2023	Consultation launching on Fosse Green Energy solar and energy storage park	Media release advertising the dates of consultation, description of proposed project, and dates of in-person and online events.
13 October 2023	Consultation closing on Fosse Green Energy solar and energy storage park	Media release advising the close of consultation, the number of attendees at events and next steps for considering consultation feedback.

Table 3: List of media releases issued to local, national and trade publications

¹ The aim of Environmental Impact Assessment is to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority, when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision-making process. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>

6. Making information available

6.1 Non-Statutory Consultation materials

- 6.1.1 Our suite of non-statutory consultation materials provided varying degrees of technical detail to cater for all audiences. In all materials, we ensured information was accessible and supplemented with images and diagrams to enable people to visualise the proposals clearly.
- 6.1.2 Additionally, we posted hard copies of documents to people upon request. Details of our consultation materials are presented below in Table 4.

Material	Description
Website: www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk	Providing information about the Fosse Green Energy proposals, ways to provide feedback and a feature to register for project updates.
Information booklet	Providing information about the proposals and how to take part in the non-statutory consultation, supported by images and diagrams.
Feedback form	A feedback form for the project that was available both hard-copy and online.
Poster	A project poster used to advertise the proposed development.
Project location map	An indicative map of the proposed site and its location relevant to its surroundings.
Consultation panels	Panels that were used at the in-person events.

Table 4: List of non-statutory consultation materials

The website also hosted technical documents including the EIA Scoping Report.

6.2 Information points

6.2.1 Brochures and feedback forms were held at the following libraries for the duration of the non-statutory consultation.

- North Hykeham Library and Community Hub
- Lincoln Library
- Collingham Community Partnership Library

A poster was also sent to these libraries to publicise the non-statutory consultation and the ways people could take part.

6.3 Non-Statutory Consultation events

6.3.1 Our series of events enabled people to find out more about the proposals, speak to members of the project team from different disciplines and ask questions.

6.3.2 To maximise opportunities to take part, we held both in-person events and an online event. This meant people who were unable to attend an in-person event had other opportunities to take part, including by watching recordings of the online event via the website. We also held our events on different days and times, including the weekend, to make sure that events were held with open times outside of typical working days and/or hours.

6.3.3 Venues were chosen based on proximity to the Site and their suitability in terms of the facilities offered, including disabled access and parking.

6.3.4 We timed the events to take place just under three weeks after consultation launch to provide people with an appropriate amount of notice to attend. We also timed the events programme to finish just under one week before consultation closed, to give people who attended time to provide their feedback.

6.3.5 Our events had a total of 419 attendees.

Date	Time	Location	Attendees
30 September 2023	10:00 – 14:00	Witham St Hughs Village Hall	124
4 October 2023	15:00 – 19:00	Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Hall	91
5 October 2023	10:00 – 14:00	The Venue Navenby	94
7 October 2023	10:00 – 14:00	Hammond Hall and Sports Centre	100
11 October 2023	18:00 – 19:00	Online webinar	10
Total event attendees			419

Table 5: Schedule of consultation events

6.3.6 We provided consultation materials at the events, including:

- Large-scale display panels containing key information from the consultation information booklet.
- A2 copies of each map on the website.
- Consultation information booklets and postcards.
- Feedback forms.
- Posters.

7. Providing feedback

7.1 How consultees could respond

7.1.1 Respondents could complete a response by:

Hard copy feedback form	People could fill in and submit the response via post or at events.
Freepost	By posting the consultation form or comments to the freepost address: FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY
Email	E-mail comments or a completed feedback form to info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk
Website	An online version of the feedback form was available at https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/

7.2 Number of responses received

7.2.1 In total, 158 responses were received between 11 September to 20 October 2023.

7.2.2 The feedback comprised:

- 93 emails
- 25 online feedback forms
- 40 hard copy feedback forms or letters

7.2.3 Feedback received during the non-statutory consultation included:

- Concerns about impacts on food production and security.
- Environmental impacts on flora and fauna.

- The project's location, including the placement of solar panels, battery energy storage systems and the substation.
- The cumulative impacts of the other solar projects in the area.
- Comments on the use of solar technology, including concerns about efficiency.
- Suggestions for community benefits.

7.2.4 A table that presents the key issues raised by the public and stakeholders, and how Fosse Green Energy has had regard to these comments can be found in the section: Response to feedback received.

7.3 Enquiries and information

7.3.1 The Community Relations team was available to provide information or assist with any questions throughout and after the consultation period via:

- Email: info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk
- Freephone: 0800 860 6262
- Freepost: FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY



8. Response to feedback received

Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Cumulative impact	<p>Concern about the cumulative impact of other nearby schemes in Lincolnshire, particularly on the environment, agricultural land, and local area in general.</p> <p>Concern that the local tourist industry and other associated businesses will be affected by such a concentration of solar farms.</p>	<p>We are exploring opportunities for coordination and cooperation, where possible. We believe that this will reduce potential collective impacts to local communities and lead to more efficient ways of working, while ensuring that agricultural activities can continue where possible, and enhancing local biodiversity through measures such as habitat creation, as the projects are developed.</p> <p>As part of our environmental assessment of the Proposed Development, we will consider cumulative impacts. The Cumulative Effects Assessment chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report states in paragraph 15.5.23: <i>"Within the majority of technical chapters, no likely significant effects have been identified through the cumulative effects assessment where they were not already predicted for the Scheme in isolation. Nor are any significant effects associated with the Scheme made greater (e.g. Moderate to Major) when considering these other developments alongside the Proposed Development. Therefore, for these chapters, it is considered that there will not be any new likely significant effects associated with cumulative effects that are not already accounted for by the assessment of the Proposed Development."</i></p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		<p>Regarding concerns about tourism, the design of the Proposed Development includes screening measures to preserve key views, including the view from the Site to Lincoln Cathedral, and minimize disruption. We remain committed to engaging with local stakeholders to ensure any potential effects on tourism and businesses are appropriately managed.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Food production and food security	Concern about the loss of agricultural, particularly arable, land, and possible impacts on food production / security.	<p>There is always a balance to be found when new development comes forward, with many factors and impacts to consider, including balancing the need for clean energy and food. Due to its proposed location, Fosse Green Energy will utilise land that could be used for food production. However, the land take involved is minimal, in the context of food production across Lincolnshire, and allows clean energy to be generated at greater scale and efficiency than rooftop alternatives.</p> <p>We have undertaken an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey as part of our technical and environmental assessments for Fosse Green Energy. A summary of the findings will be available in the PEI Report.</p> <p>This survey results also will be submitted as part of the Environmental Statement which will form part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Location	<p>Query as to why Lincolnshire / the site was selected.</p> <p>Query as to why another site not impacted by quarry works wasn't chosen.</p> <p>Query as to how the Project will impact the bio power generator at Sleaford as straw and maize are grown locally as fuels.</p> <p>Concern there is lack of evidence that other sites have been considered.</p>	<p>We consider a range of factors when evaluating land available to deliver a utility-scale clean energy scheme, including planning and environmental factors such as existing use and quality of land, as well as any land use planning designations and environmental constraints. However one of the factors ultimately informing site selection when looking at potential locations is available capacity on the local grid.</p> <p>There is always a balance to be found when new development comes forward, with many factors and impacts to consider, including balancing the need for low carbon, clean energy generation and food production. Due to its proposed location, Fosse Green Energy will utilise land that could be used for food production. However, the land take involved is minimal in the context of food production across Lincolnshire and allows clean energy to be generated at greater scale and efficiency than rooftop alternatives.</p> <p>In addition, the PEI Report prepared at the statutory consultation stage and the Environmental Statement prepared at the DCO application submission stage contain a chapter considering alternatives.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Roof top solar, brownfield sites, alternative renewable energies.	<p>Concern that adequate demonstration of investigation of alternative brownfield sites has not been shown.</p> <p>A preference stated for roof top solar, road verges, brownfield sites, contaminated sites, offshore and wind development as opposed to ground-mounted solar.</p> <p>Concern that the land occupied by solar panels and ancillary equipment will be classed as brownfield sites and will subsequently attract industrial and</p>	<p>Rooftops provide an obvious and natural location for siting solar panels, and this is something we gladly support. However, there are constraints that slow, or in some cases prevent, rolling out rooftop solar at scale. We categorise these constraints into three separate areas, including physical, legal and scalability. The cost of solar for rooftops is also significantly higher compared to that of ground-mounted systems; an additional cost which is passed on to consumers through our energy bills when the electricity is sold on the market. Ultimately, however, we are facing a climate emergency which makes it necessary to deploy renewable energy at scale. Simply put, this cannot be achieved by solar development on rooftops or brownfield sites alone. To make a meaningful impact, solar farms must form the backbone of this approach.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is a common misconception that when the life cycle of a solar farm comes to end, that the land becomes 'brownfield'. We are aiming to develop a scheme with a lifespan of approximately 60 years. If consent is granted, the permissions will therefore be temporary. When this time has lapsed, the land will be returned to its original use and in planning terms, the land will not be classified as having been previously developed.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>housing developments.</p> <p>Request to use land available where old power stations were on the Trent and use existing facilities, as they have the supply routes already in place.</p> <p>Query as to why decommissioned coal and gas power stations, and nuclear, that are already connected, are not being used for solar and wind.</p> <p>Query as to why farmland is being used for this Project when homes and businesses are</p>	



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>already connected to the grid.</p> <p>Request to use scrub land instead of farmland.</p>	
<p>Environmental Impact on wildlife and loss of habitat/green spaces.</p>	<p>Concern about the impact on wildlife, wildlife corridors, including potential loss of habitat and green spaces.</p> <p>Concern regarding impact on trees.</p> <p>Specific concerns regarding the potential impact on: deer, hares, butterflies, owls,</p>	<p>With appropriate land management, solar farms have the potential to support wildlife and make a significant contribution to biodiversity targets – not least because once construction is complete and the solar farm is operational, sites are secured and subject to very little disturbance from humans and machinery.</p> <p>Solar farms help to reduce the intensity of the land’s use. They often attract a variety of wildlife which thrives in the diverse habitat.</p> <p>Ecological studies are being conducted. The findings from which inform our final application for development consent, which will need to demonstrate that our Proposed Development will protect and enhance existing habitats.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>bats, badgers, buzzards, swans and nesting birds.</p> <p>Concern regarding plans to cut down woodland.</p> <p>Concern that the Project is counter to the Government's plan to improve local wildlife.</p> <p>Concern that there are several endangered species in the River Witham and Whisby Nature Park (which is of national importance for some wildlife species).</p> <p>Query as to how the Project plans to ensure that the corridors that wildlife</p>	<p>Fosse Green Energy Limited is committed to the Proposed Development achieving a biodiversity net gain. Surveys are still being undertaken by ecologists to determine the native species and habitats.</p> <p>Measures to enhance the existing biodiversity could include providing new habitats, connecting and enhancing existing habitats, new planting of hedgerows and woodland, seeding of wildflower and new grassland and the introduction of grazing.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Proposed Development is being planned in such a way as to maintain wildlife corridors for local wildlife migration. Our Indicative Concept Masterplan shows where areas of existing woodland are being incorporated as fundamental parts of the design. We are looking to maintain local hedgerows wherever possible and will be planting additional greenery across the site. More information is available in the PEI Report.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	use will be catered for during construction and operation of the site.	
Funding of project	Query on how the Proposed development is funded and if it will use taxpayer money.	<p>Fosse Green Energy Limited is an entirely private sector proposed development and does not use any form of taxpayer money for its development, construction, operation, maintenance, or decommissioning.</p> <p>All the development costs of the project are met in full by its owners, Windel Energy and Recurrent Energy.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Panel manufacturing and human rights concern	<p>Concerns as to where the panels would be manufactured.</p> <p>Concerns about manufacturing connections to China.</p> <p>Query as to whether the panels ethically sourced.</p>	<p>Fosse Green Energy is fully committed to the responsible and ethical procurement of all its equipment.</p> <p>Recurrent Energy's parent company, Canadian Solar, listed on NASDAQ in 2006, reports regularly on its commitment to several environmental, social, and governance factors, including its commitment to responsible and ethical business practices. Its most recent report can be found here:</p> <p>https://recurrentenergy.com/canadian-solar-and-recurrent-energy-release-2022-corporate-sustainability-report/</p>
Local House Value	<p>Concern proposals could devalue homes nearby.</p>	<p>In 2014, the Centre for Economics and Business Research and Renewable UK conducted a study of over one million homes in the UK to analyse the effect of wind farms on house prices. It found that onshore wind farms had no impact on the value of residential properties within a 5km radius.</p> <p>Given solar panels are less obtrusive than wind turbines, we are confident that local property prices will not be affected by our Proposed Development.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Mental and physical health concerns	Concerns regarding health concerns associated with electromagnetic hypersensitivity and EMF levels for solar panels.	<p>Solar power is one of the safest sources of energy and we do not anticipate any negative health impacts from the scheme.</p> <p>All electric appliances emit electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Solar panel arrays emit EMF in the same extremely low frequency ranges as electrical appliances and wiring found in most houses and buildings.</p> <p>More information on EMF can be found at: https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/engineering-and-consultancy-solutions-ecs/emf-management</p>
Screening	<p>Comment that there is a need for screening.</p> <p>Query as to how many trees will be planted, and if will they be used as screening, and how many trees deep the planting would consist of?</p> <p>Request that planting is carried out in the preconstruction period to minimise</p>	<p>We fully recognise the importance of effective screening to minimise visual impacts. As part of the design of the Proposed Development, we have included extensive measures to ensure that the visual impact on surrounding properties and the landscape is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>A Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application to demonstrate how successful establishment of planting will be achieved.</p> <p>We acknowledge the need to maintain boundary hedging in good condition throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development. As part of our Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, we will arrange for regular maintenance and upkeep of all hedging to ensure it remains effective as a visual buffer and in accordance with best practice for local ecology.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>visual impact where there is no natural equipment.</p> <p>Request to arrange appropriate housekeeping to keep boundary hedging in good order over the life operation of the Park.</p> <p>Request to include screening (hedges and trees) between the proposed panels and Scotland Farm House, Keepers Cottage and the farm land in the area to protect privacy and view.</p>	



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Moving footpaths	Objections to moving foot paths as residents like how remote the house's location is.	<p>We understand residents' concerns about maintaining the remote and tranquil nature of their properties. The relocation of footpaths is only proposed where necessary to ensure safe and practical access. We are committed to minimising disruption and will work closely with the local community, through a Community Liaison Group, to help preserve the sense of remoteness and privacy.</p> <p>Where possible, footpaths will be retained in their current locations and diversions kept to a minimum in order to balance both public access and the preservation of the area's rural character.</p>
Heritage	<p>Concern regarding impact on heritage assets within wider landscape and how it will be protected.</p> <p>Query as to how a Knights Templar ancient right of way will be protected.</p> <p>Concern that Heritage Statements submitted by solar farm promoters will seek to down-play</p>	<p>A cultural heritage assessment is being undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Development. This will assess the impact of the Proposed Development on built heritage assets and archaeology and identify potential effects on both previously recorded and potential archaeological deposits.</p> <p>We appreciate the need to protect the Knights Templar route. Only a small part of this route crosses the cable route corridor, thereby minimising impacts to the right of way.</p> <p>Where possible, the Proposed Development will be designed to avoid built heritage and archaeological deposits. Where this is not possible, appropriate mitigation will be identified.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>the importance of heritage setting by: Misleading photography & minimising the sphere of impact and area of search for listed buildings; Minimising the extent of the setting of individual buildings and down-valuing their significance.</p>	
<p>NSIP process</p>	<p>Concern parish councils and district councils loss of control on community immediate environment as NSIP process.</p> <p>Solar farm developments should not be approved</p>	<p>We recognise the concern regarding the role of parish and district councils in the planning process under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) framework. While the NSIP process operates at a national level, local input is vital, and we are committed to engaging with local councils and communities throughout the development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development has been designed in accordance with the energy national policy statements and taking into account relevant local planning policy. Planning policy compliance tables (for relevant national, local and neighbourhood plan policies) will be prepared and appended to the Planning Statement for the DCO application. We</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	where it is contrary to Local Plan Policies.	<p>remain open to ongoing dialogue to ensure that the concerns of local authorities and communities are addressed as the application progresses.</p> <p>Furthermore, Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council will prepare a Local Impact Report once the DCO application has been submitted which the Secretary of State must take into account in decision making.</p>
Red Line Boundary	Query as to how public roads can be included within the proposed boundaries.	<p>Public roads included within the proposed boundaries are necessary for access and connectivity during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. However, there will be no permanent restriction on public use of these roads. Existing public rights of way and access will be maintained throughout the Proposed Development, with any temporary changes clearly communicated and managed to minimize disruption.</p> <p>Specifically, as part of the measures embedded into the design of the Proposed Development, avoiding closure of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing permissive paths, and keeping any PRoW diversions as localised as reasonably practicable. Additional permissive paths are proposed to further enhance local connectivity.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Energy supply	Query as to where is the electricity going, and concern that to the National Grid is not acceptable. Query as to whether there are already agreements in place to sell the electricity overseas.	Our grid connection agreement will allow for import and export energy into the National Grid network, connecting into the proposed Navenby substation. There is no current agreement in place to sell the electricity overseas.
EMF and TV, internet, mobile communications	Query as to whether phone reception and Internet will be affected due to electromagnetic interference.	There is no anticipated impact on phone reception or internet services due to the Proposed Development. Solar panels and associated infrastructure do not emit electromagnetic interference at levels that would affect telecommunications signals, including mobile phones or internet connectivity.



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Planning	<p>Concern that once planning for the panels is granted the site changes from agriculture to industrial land.</p> <p>Concern that once if consent is granted that the infrastructure has been put in place the site will continue to expand.</p> <p>Comment that supporting the project goes against the unanimous vote in NKDC to achieve our 2030 target - to achieve zero carbon in the District by 2030.</p> <p>Concern that the purpose of modern planning policy is to</p>	<p>While the site will be used for solar energy generation, the land is not permanently changed to industrial use in land use planning terms. The Proposed Development comprises a temporary installation and once the Proposed Development's operational life ends, the infrastructure will be removed, and the land returned to its previous use in accordance with a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>Any consent for the Proposed Development is within the defined boundaries identified in the DCO application. Any future expansion would require a separate planning process, including consultation with local authorities and the public if it comprises a scheme that is consented under the Planning Act 2008. This ensures that any changes are carefully assessed and do not happen without full transparency.</p> <p>We acknowledge North Kesteven District Council's commitment to achieving a zero-carbon district by 2030. This Proposed Development supports the transition to renewable energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and contributing to the UK's net-zero carbon targets. While the Proposed Development aligns with broader national and local decarbonisation goals, we remain open to discussions on how it complements local policies and ambitions.</p> <p>The Proposed Development has been carefully sited based on its suitability for renewable energy generation, which is distinct from traditional industrial activity. National and local planning policies support the responsible deployment of renewable energy in rural areas where appropriate. The Proposed Development has been designed to</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	zone industrial activity into industrial areas.	minimise environmental and visual impacts, ensuring it integrates into the surrounding landscape.
Soil sampling	Concern that Planning Inspectorate direction	An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey has been undertaken for the Proposed Development, although final results will not be available until the DCO application is submitted. The survey includes



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>has not been complied with regarding the Soil Surveys, and request that the soil surveys are repeated / extended and the correct process followed.</p> <p>Concern that the Project has been unable to define where and when soil samples were taken and what scientific process was used to determine the results.</p> <p>Concern that a large proportion of land had not been assessed and that it could alter the</p>	<p>an initial desk-based study using published data sources, as well as an investigative soil survey comprising at least one hand auger boring per hectare to a depth of 1.2m below ground level (where achievable) in accordance with current guidelines.</p> <p>The survey takes into consideration the ALC guidelines from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Best and Most Versatile agricultural land is also considered using guidance from the National Planning Policy Framework. The ALC Report submitted with the PEI Report shows the locations of boreholes where the samples were taken. The ALC Report clarifies how the classification is determined which explains any discrepancies between our field assessments and the high-level data from DEFRA and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.</p>



Topic Area 1: General comments on the plan		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>balance between 3a / 3b classifications.</p> <p>Concern that the DEFRA data services platform clearly shows that there is in existence Grade 2 land within the proposed area. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan also shows there is Grade 2 land.</p>	
Land quality and Sequential testing	<p>Comment that sequential testing is essential for any proposal involving greenfield land.</p>	<p>NPS EN-1 sets out that development should be directed into areas with the lowest risk of flooding through application of the Sequential Test and Exception Test.</p> <p>The Sequential Test and Exception Test will be explained as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is included in the PEI Report. This assessment identifies and assesses the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the Proposed Development and demonstrates how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.</p>





Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Supportive comment	<p>Expression of support for the Project.</p> <p>Support though expression of concern for using good quality arable land.</p>	The project team has acknowledged your feedback.



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Prefer other renewable energy forms	<p>Comment that wind and wave / hydro power should also be a high priority as we are surrounded by sea.</p> <p>Comment that the area's contribution to renewable energy should be the wind farms offshore the coastline instead of solar panels.</p> <p>Concerns that as other projects are in progress by National Grid and other offshore wind developments, this scheme is not necessary.</p>	<p>We appreciate the suggestion to prioritise wind and hydro power, especially given our coastal location. Renewable energy projects, including wind and hydro power, are indeed vital to achieving our energy goals. The development of a solar farm complements other renewable sources by contributing to a diverse energy mix, enhancing the overall resilience and reliability of our energy system.</p> <p>While offshore wind farms are a key component of renewable energy strategy, solar energy provides additional benefits and can be more versatile in land use. The Proposed Development is designed to contribute to the renewable energy mix, supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy alongside other renewable technologies. The UK Government Taskforce recognises the need for an energy mix and aims to achieve 70GW of solar power by 2035.</p> <p>NPS EN-1 specifically recognises that that there is a Critical National Priority (CNP) for the provision of significant low carbon infrastructure stating <i>“Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible”</i>.</p>



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Questioning climate change and whether net zero should be a target	<p>Comment that net zero is unachievable.</p> <p>Comment that there has always been climate change but little evidence of climate crisis.</p> <p>Concern that the population is being exploited for the benefit of the green energy industry.</p>	<p>Achieving net zero carbon emissions in the UK will greatly increase electricity demand while almost fully decarbonising supply.</p> <p>It is estimated that electricity consumption in the UK will increase by approximately 50 per cent by 2036 and more than double by 2050. This means that, to reduce CO2 emissions and reach net zero, more aspects of our lives that previously relied on fossil fuels will need to start using electricity instead. (In 2020 fossil fuels made up 84 per cent of the global energy mix, but this figure will need to fall to less than 20 per cent by 2050 in order to reach net zero.)</p> <p>Using renewable energy sources – such as wind and solar power – is one of the fastest-growing ways to get cleaner, greener electricity.</p> <p>The clean, renewable energy produced by Fosse Green Energy would make a valuable contribution to the UK reaching net zero by 2050.</p>
Support solar but not Fosse Green Energy	<p>Comment that new housing and other buildings should have mandatory solar panels to reduce / eliminate large scale solar projects.</p> <p>Comment that the use of green energy to meet the UK's goal of net Zero by</p>	<p>Solar is the quickest and cheapest form of renewable energy generation the UK can deploy to meet Net Zero targets.</p> <p>We would also support the need case for rooftop solar, however as a standalone solution it is not sufficient in scale in order to meet the energy demands of the UK and achieve Net Zero.</p> <p>Generation of low carbon energy through solar can help produce the power needed to support the UK's electricity system. In May 2020, along with other forms of solar power, solar helped the UK meet more</p>



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>2050 is supported but not at the expense of ruining the countryside.</p> <p>Comment supporting solar farms but stating that increasing green areas and planting more trees instead of covering the countryside in solar farms can help achieve net zero.</p>	<p>than 11% of its entire electricity demand and contributed to a record period of coal-free generation.</p>



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Solar energy is the wrong way to address net zero	<p>Suggestion that solar energy is unreliable, and will give little or no economic benefit to the UK.</p> <p>Suggestion that calculations for solar farms ignore the carbon cost involved in the production of materials.</p> <p>Concerns that panels do not work at night and that UK weather is not conducive to solar parks.</p>	<p>The UK's transition to a low-carbon energy system is necessary to avoid the effects of climate change. The Government expects that a low-cost, net zero and consistent electricity system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind, solar and nuclear. Solar will be a key building block of this future generation mix. The UK needs sustained growth in the capacity of this sector in the next decade to ensure we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions.</p> <p>Carbon emissions are near to zero for electricity generated from solar power and over the lifetime of a project through construction, operation and decommissioning phases any greenhouse gas emissions are offset. Solar projects are also quick to construct and operate, meaning they will provide decarbonisation benefits at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>The UK already has over 13 gigawatts (GW) of solar installed and operational (Office of National Statistics, 2022). This has been instrumental in helping the UK achieve a 70+ per cent reduction in carbon emissions from electricity generation versus a 1990 baseline.</p> <p>In 2022 solar energy supplied more than four per cent of the UK's entire electricity demand, with a target of up to 70GW of solar by 2030 (British Energy Security Strategy, 2022). Solar is already, and is set to continue to be, an incredibly important part of the UK's electricity generation sector.</p>



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Outdated and inefficient technology	<p>Concern that panels are unlikely to be the best available technology.</p> <p>Concerns that the proposed site will be using obsolete equipment inside the proposed lifespan of the site.</p>	<p>If the proposed Fosse Green Energy project is consented, it will be constructed using the most economically advantageous equipment to enable it to compete accordingly in the privatised UK electricity market, Equipment guarantees from commercial manufacturers for example for photovoltaic panels now normally exceed 20 years.</p> <p>The commercial competitiveness and operability of Fosse Green's technology will be assessed regularly throughout its lifespan, and for instance, where photovoltaic panel technology has progressed sufficiently, then such equipment would be replaced.</p>
Reduce demand	Suggestion that the UK should be driving down demand by incentivising householders and businesses to improve insulation and alternative power.	We would support this in combination with renewable energy deployment, ensuring optimal results to meet Net Zero targets and the UK energy demands



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
National plan for solar	<p>Request that Fosse Green Energy should be paused until there is a national strategic or tactical plan for the quantity and positioning of large-scale solar energy parks.</p> <p>Comment that the UK alone cannot solve the climate issues and that China, the US and Russia must contribute.</p>	<p>While a comprehensive national plan is important, the Fosse Green Energy project has been developed in alignment with existing national and local energy policies. It is designed to meet immediate renewable energy needs and support the UK's transition to a low-carbon future.</p> <p>The Proposed Development has been evaluated within the context of national and local energy strategies. While there may not be a single, unified national plan specifically for large-scale solar farms, the Proposed Development contributes to the UK's broader renewable energy goals and complements other initiatives, including offshore wind farms. We are committed to ensuring that our Proposed Development integrates with and supports existing and future energy infrastructure. NPS EN-1 specifically recognises that there is a Critical National Priority (CNP) for the provision of significant low carbon infrastructure stating <i>“Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible”</i>.</p> <p>We will carefully assess the Proposed Development's alignment with both national and local planning policy. The Proposed Development is intended to address the growing demand for renewable energy and</p>



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		<p>provide a flexible, sustainable solution that complements other energy sources.</p> <p>We agree that addressing climate change requires global cooperation. The UK's efforts, including projects like Fosse Green Energy, are part of a broader international effort to reduce carbon emissions.</p>



Topic Area 2: Solar energy used to meet the UK's net zero goals		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Green credentials of solar energy	<p>Suggestion that solar projects are not 'green'.</p> <p>Argument that a true assessment has not been made about the environmental impact of sourcing the solar panels, batteries and supporting infrastructure, and that the carbon saving benefits of the Project are not clearly established.</p> <p>Request that formal carbon lifecycle analysis (CLA) should be used to prove that during its whole lifecycle, including construction, operation, decommissioning and disposal/recycling, this installation will actually save more carbon emissions than it creates.</p>	<p>As with all manufactured products, some carbon is emitted in the manufacture of solar panels. However, the claim that solar panels produce more carbon than they save is false.</p> <p>Research has shown that the average carbon payback period for solar panels is 1-4 years, see https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/35489.pdf</p> <p>As manufacturing processes advance, it is likely that the carbon payback period for solar will decrease further. Solar power generation is zero emission at the point of use and a key technology to help achieve a net zero global economy.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is expected to break even in terms of its carbon footprint after nine years of operation. By this, it means that the GHG emissions during manufacturing, transport, and installation are offset within this time period of operation. There will therefore be several decades of clean renewable energy.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Size/Scale of project & proximity to villages	<p>Concern that 700,000 solar panels will be required.</p> <p>Concerns over the scale of the project.</p> <p>The Project is too close to seven villages and has no consideration for Lincolnshire residents.</p> <p>Suggestion that residents will be isolated and cut off from walks and rural amenities.</p> <p>Suggestion that the initial promotion of the Project is that the whole area was solar panels, but that split up areas of panels would be more attractive.</p> <p>Request to place panels near infrastructure like the A46 instead of land near</p>	<p>We acknowledge concerns regarding the scale of the Proposed Development, including the number of solar panels and the overall area it covers. The Proposed Development is designed to be large-scale to maximise renewable energy generation, but we understand that its size may raise concerns. We are committed to ensuring that the design of the Proposed Development minimises impact on the local environment and communities. To address this, we will review and, where possible, adjust the layout of the Proposed Development to reduce its visual and environmental footprint.</p> <p>We understand that the proximity of the Proposed Development to several villages and the potential impact on the rural character of the area are significant concerns to the local community. We are actively evaluating the layout of the Proposed Development to consider alternative locations or configurations that may better balance energy needs with local impacts. Suggestions to place panels closer to existing infrastructure such as near the A46 will be reviewed to explore their feasibility.</p> <p>The Proposed Development’s potential impact on local communities, including isolation from rural amenities and the effects on tourism and local businesses, is an important consideration. We are aiming to minimise disruption and ensure that local needs are taken into account.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>smaller rural roads. Concern that the project surrounds Thurlby. Suggestion that the application has no real plan, and that it lacks design and is the opposite of compact. Request that no panels or equipment is located within 300m of residential buildings, churches or war graves. Request for confirmation that areas designated as 'other land' will not be used to increase the Project capacity. Suggestion that the Project on this scale is premature. Request that a 30m wide green corridor is</p>	<p>We acknowledge requests for specific design features, including maintaining a 30-meter wide green corridor from Thurlby to Norton Disney and exploring the use of smaller, more localised installations. The offsets from residential communities have been developed by experienced landscape specialists who have also integrated vegetation screening into the design to break up views of the scheme.</p> <p>We understand the concern about the Proposed Development's impact on infrastructure, including potential disruptions to roads and villages, and the need for careful consideration of topography.</p> <p>We recognise concerns about the Proposed Development 's scale and the possibility of it being premature. We will ensure that the Proposed Development is developed in a manner that balances the need for renewable energy with local and environmental considerations. It is recognised in national policy, NPS EN-1, that that there is a Critical National Priority (CNP) for the provision of significant low carbon infrastructure stating <i>“Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible”</i>.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>preserved from Thurlby to Norton Disney.</p> <p>Concern that topography has not been considered yet.</p>	
Density of solar arrays	<p>Suggestion that the solar panel areas are too densely packed and too close to the boundaries of the project land area.</p>	<p>We understand the concern about the solar panel density and proximity to the boundaries of the Proposed Development. Our design aims to balance the need for efficient energy production with minimising environmental and visual impacts. We are reviewing the layout to ensure that it meets both operational requirements and local concerns about boundary proximity.</p> <p>Our landscape specialist has introduced vegetation screening to minimise views of the Proposed Development and break up views across the Site. The design has also integrated areas of open access, managed habitat for bird compensation areas, and includes some areas of continued agricultural land use within the Site.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		The design distributes the solar PV across the Site in a way in which the team has sought to minimise visual and landscape effects and offset adverse effects on ground nesting breeding birds.
Contamination and hazardous waste from the panels	<p>Concern that panels and batteries will lead to a massive waste disposal problem.</p> <p>Query as to how often the panels are checked for damage (especially regarding metals leeching into surroundings).</p>	A series of environmental management plans will be produced that deal with waste, including a Construction Waste Management Plan and a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan. Most of the infrastructure utilised for the Proposed Development is recyclable, with over 95% of the solar PV panels currently recyclable, and the metal tables almost entirely recyclable. The energy generation will be monitored continuously using AI and checked using human staff with faults, such as lower than expected generation, identified and resolved quickly. The solar PV panels are very robust and unlikely to become broken, and even in the event this does occur, would not leach metals into the surroundings.



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Safety	<p>Concerns about safety, fire hazards, and pollution concerns about battery storage being close to residential areas.</p> <p>Concern that chance of fire could increase home insurance costs.</p> <p>A request for a full assessment of potential hazards and risk to life of the Project being in close proximity to residential housing to be in the Environmental Statement.</p>	<p>The DCO application will include a Framework Battery Safety Management Plan, which will demonstrate the safety of the battery storage equipment and compliance with the National Fire Chief Council guidelines. The batteries automatically detect overheating ahead of any fires to allow cooling or fire suppression systems to activate and avoid a fire event, or in the worst case situation provide the fire services with advance notice of a fire event. The Proposed Development will be designed to allow easy and free access to emergency services, with sufficient firewater onsite and impermeable drainage swales to capture and hold any fire water that is used to cool batteries and avoid fires onsite.</p> <p>The Framework Battery Safety Management Plan will explain the battery technology, fire suppression technology, and other safety features. These will commit to safety principles, but not the specific manufacturer, model, or country of origin, which are not known at this stage.</p> <p>The potential impacts from major accidents and disasters will be assessed in the Environmental Statement that will be produced as part of the DCO application.</p>
Construction	<p>Concerns of impact on construction traffic and access around the site.</p>	<p>Construction impacts will be carefully planned and managed as part of the technical submission for the DCO Application. The Application will include a drawing showing the heavy goods vehicles routes to and from the Site, any temporary transport measures, and a Transport</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>Concerns for large/industrial vehicles accessing site on 30mph village roads.</p> <p>Concerns about disruption to village life.</p> <p>Query as to length of construction and disruption during this phase.</p> <p>Comment that this project should be delayed until the final part of the Lincoln ring road is completed.</p> <p>Concern re noise, dust, new roads, damage, safety issues.</p>	<p>Assessment outlining the impacts on the local road network and the community. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared as part of the Application outlining the mitigation and control measures.</p> <p>In addition, dust, noise and air quality impacts are assessed and the results presented in the DCO application. A Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be prepared that sets out control measures to minimise impacts during construction arising from activities that cause dust, air quality and noise impacts.</p> <p>A description of the construction phase will be included in the Application, with a preliminary description provided in the PEI Report.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Flood risk	<p>Concern about flooding and the damage it could cause to equipment, environment and residential properties.</p> <p>Comment that the southern (OPTION B) corridor for grid connection goes through an area regularly flooded and which is used as the overspill flood plain for Anglian Water, and that option A is therefore more practical.</p>	<p>The site was carefully selected through our development process, the starting point for which is trying to establish a viable location to connect to the grid network. This is one of the biggest challenges we face. Once a viable connection has been established, a filtering process is then applied to exclude, where possible, sensitive planning and environmental constraints such as higher risk flood zones.</p> <p>The majority of the Scheme lies in Flood Zone 1, which has a low flood risk. A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared as part of the PEI Report and will be updated for the DCO Application. Similarly, a Preliminary Surface Water Drainage Strategy is also provided. These documents demonstrate that the flood risk will not be increased offsite, and the Applicant is exploring enhancement measures to reduce flood risk in some localised areas in the north west of the Site.</p> <p>It is noted that the southern corridor for the grid connection goes through some sensitive areas; this corridor has been discounted from the proposals in preference to the northern corridor.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
<p>Visibility & aesthetic impact and destruction</p>	<p>Concern for visibility and aesthetic impacts and damage to the countryside.</p> <p>Concern about loss of views.</p> <p>Concern about the visual impact, especially from the height of the cliff villages above.</p> <p>Concern that screening would not be sufficient.</p> <p>Concern that the Project will turn 2,500 acres of the Witham Valley County Park into a predominantly industrial landscape.</p> <p>Concern that 12 visual impact assessment sites were inadequate for a site of 2,500 acres, and request that the number be increased from 12 to 40</p>	<p>It is important for a project such as Fosse Green Energy to integrate well into the landscape. The development process includes spending time locally on-site to assess this aspect.</p> <p>The final design and layout of the site will evolve in response to the findings from all the environmental and technical studies we are undertaking to determine the most appropriate areas for development. Our studies will help us identify those areas that are the least visually prominent, those that are free of restrictive planning designations and those areas that can be most appropriately assimilated and screened within the local landscape.</p> <p>This information, together with feedback submitted through consultation, will be taken into consideration to help shape the final layout for the site and determine specifically where the solar panels are located.</p> <p>Fosse Green Energy is being planned in such a way as to minimise the visual impact locally. This means we are making use of the existing trees and hedgerows wherever possible. We are also planning to plant additional hedgerows, trees, and shrubbery to enhance existing networks.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>and at least half of the ten protected views recorded in the TOTH Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Request to minimise visual impact: no security fencing more than 1.5m high, no permanent security lighting, noise attenuation on colling fans and other related equipment.</p> <p>Concern that the size of the panels is over 3m but screening is only 2m.</p> <p>Concern the Project will turn the landscape "black" and "dark".</p>	



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
PROWS	<p>Concern about impact on PROWS and fields.</p> <p>Suggestion that footpaths between Bassingham and Aubourn will be a 'misery'.</p> <p>Concern that a footpath with 2.4m fences on either side would no longer be the attractive to use.</p> <p>Request that there is a buffer between the Proposed Development and the footpaths.</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to minimising the impact of the Proposed Development on existing PRowS. This forms part of our technical work as we prepare the DCO application.</p> <p>In our initial engagement period we have been made aware of interest for additional permissive rights of way forming part of the Proposed Development, even the possibility of a running loop. This is something we are reviewing as part of our work on offering community benefits.</p> <p>A Framework Public Right of Way Management Plan will be provided with the DCO Application, providing information on the management of PRowS.</p> <p>Our landscaping proposals seek to introduce vegetation screening and buffers around PRowS to minimise impacts on visual amenity.</p>
Bassingham community wood	<p>Concern that in Bassingham community wood there is a gap of 100m in the safe footway separation from the road for visitors to the wood to access it from the village.</p> <p>There is a need for a strip of land to be purchased to</p>	<p>The Applicant is not proposing to make changes outside the Site boundary, but a financial community fund will be made available by the Proposed Development and could potentially be used for initiatives like this.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	enable a safe access for villagers to the wood.	
Noise and vibration	<p>Concern about the impact of noise and query as to whether that will affect residents in addition to traffic noise from the A46.</p> <p>Concern about possible wind noise emanating from the panels and supports; moaning or whistling when the wind gets up.</p>	<p>As part of our work to develop our proposals, we are carrying out a range of surveys to ensure the level of noise produced by the equipment onsite is within an acceptable range and a full noise impact assessment will be included as part of our DCO application.</p> <p>Wind noise is nil or negligible but noise from the inverters, transformers, and batteries has been modelled and the results presented in the PEI Report. Commitments to a minimum offset between this equipment and residences will be included in the final design to avoid significant noise impacts.</p>
Panels	Concern was raised on size of solar panels - height, fixed, tracking.	<p>We are committed to addressing any concerns related to the scale and impact of the panels and will ensure that all specifications are in line with best practices for solar energy projects.</p> <p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the PEI Report, which will be updated for the DCO Application. This is based on the maximum heights and has led to the development of a landscape strategy to minimise any impacts. A Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will be provided with the DCO Application.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Glint and glare	Concern that the Project could be considered as a hazard to aviation and a safety issue due to proximity to RAF Waddington flight path.	Solar panels are designed to absorb light and not to reflect it, which limits the risk of glint and glare. Testament to this fact is the installation of solar panels at Gatwick Airport, alongside major roads and beside car race tracks.
Disrupting community and village life	Concern that the solar panels would be a 'blight' to the area, as well as disrupting the village and the access routes.	<p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the PEI Report, which will be updated for the DCO Application. This is based on the maximum heights and has led to the development of a landscape strategy to minimise any impacts.</p> <p>We are committed to avoiding permanent closures or re-routing of roads and public footpaths. Any temporary closures or re-routing required during construction will be managed with minimal impact on local residents, and clear communication will be provided about any changes. At this stage we also propose permanent minor diversion of three sections of PRoW.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Green corridors	<p>Comment there is opportunity to create new 'green' recreational east-west, north-south corridors through the whole project area to the benefit of local communities and mitigate impact of the development.</p>	<p>We recognise the potential value of establishing new east-west and north-south green corridors within the area of the Proposed Development. These corridors could provide recreational opportunities, improve connectivity, and enhance local biodiversity. We are currently exploring how these green spaces can be integrated into the design of the Proposed Development to benefit the community and support environmental goals.</p> <p>The PEI Report includes new proposed permissive paths and green corridors, which we welcome feedback on during statutory consultation. These include small, circular routes and longer, linear routes connecting villages.</p>
Security lighting	<p>Request that security lights should not create light pollution and destroy the current "dark skies", and that they should operate in infra-red.</p> <p>Request to limit the heights of security fencing.</p>	<p>We are committed to minimising light pollution and preserving the area's "dark skies." Security lights will be designed to avoid unnecessary light spill and will use technology that limits their impact on the night sky.</p> <p>Our design will incorporate measures to minimise their visual impact, and any lighting will be directed and shielded to avoid unnecessary illumination of the fields.</p> <p>We are committed to balancing security needs with environmental and visual considerations and will work to address these concerns in the final design of the Proposed Development. No areas of the Proposed Development are proposed to be continuously lit. For security requirements, operational lighting would include Passive Infra-red</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		Detector systems which would be installed around the perimeter of the Proposed Development.
Infrastructure	<p>Request that the buildings and surrounding road infrastructure should blend with the natural landscape.</p> <p>Concern that there is no reference in consultation documents to auxiliary equipment e.g. diesel generators, being part of your stand by equipment, and request for confirmation of this as other energy parks appear</p>	<p>We are committed to ensuring that all buildings and surrounding road infrastructure integrate well with the natural landscape. The design will include measures to integrate these elements harmoniously with the local environment, using materials and colours that complement the surrounding area and minimize visual impact.</p> <p>Regarding auxiliary equipment, diesel generators are not required during operation. The Proposed Development is able to generate energy to power its auxiliary equipment.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	to have this feature to cover for 'dull' conditions.	
Decommissioning/ Uncertainty of the operational lifespan of the project.	<p>Concern about potential disruption to the community during decommissioning phases.</p> <p>Concern that restoring the landscape to original state would not occur.</p> <p>Comment that it appears that fertility improves on solar farms but this theory is unproven until more research is done.</p>	<p>Fosse Green Energy is planned to operate for 60 years until 2093. During the time it is operational there will be some equipment maintenance and servicing, which may include the periodic replacement of components.</p> <p>When operation ends, the site will need to be decommissioned. All material from the site, including PV panels, substations, and batteries, will be removed and disposed of sensibly over 24 to 30 months. Recent research shows that 99 per cent of a solar panel can be recycled, and we will commit to maximising recycling materials as far as possible.</p> <p>We will set aside money for decommissioning Fosse Green Energy. Once decommissioned, most of the site will then be returned to the landowners and will be available for its original use. Solar does not permanently displace agricultural land; it only borrows it. As agricultural</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>Query if the redundant solar panels will be removed from the site and be ethically recycled.</p> <p>Concern there is no evidence on monitoring the decommissioning process and no evidence has been provided to substantiate that there will be no negative impacts from the extended period of change in the environment of the land.</p> <p>Comment that panels from SE Asia generally need replacing in 12 years.</p> <p>Concern that the land may never revert to agriculture, and the equipment may never be recycled.</p> <p>Comment that the proposals should include</p>	<p>land under a solar farm is in effect left fallow, soil health can recover. Any planting we have done will also be retained as far as possible.</p> <p>Windel and Recurrent Energy have committed to a full decommissioning bond. This means that adequate funds will be set aside specifically for the purposes of fully decommissioning the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The effects of decommissioning are usually similar to or lesser than construction effects. However, the specific methods used to decommission the Proposed Development at the end of its operational life will be informed by evolution in engineering approaches over the lifetime of the project.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>comprehensive mobilisation and decommissioning plans.</p> <p>Comment that the Applicant should seek a binding commitment that equipment and structures will be removed at its own cost.</p>	
Maintenance	<p>Concern there will be disruption to the community in relation to significant maintenance/ replacement works during the operational life of the project.</p> <p>Concern that maintenance of panels will be disruptive. Query as to the cleaning of the panels.</p>	<p>We understand the concern regarding potential disruption from maintenance and replacement works during the operational life of the Proposed Development. We are committed to minimising any such disruption to the community.</p> <p>Maintaining the panels and surrounding areas, including managing vegetation growth between the rows of panels, is a key aspect of our operational plan. We will implement a well-managed vegetation control program that includes regular maintenance to prevent overgrowth and ensure the area remains tidy. Efforts will be made to carry out this work in a way that minimises noise and other disturbances. Our preferred maintenance is to have sheep grazing within the Site.</p> <p>In the UK climate solar panels are largely self-cleaning and deterioration in PV system output due to dust or dirt is generally low.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		<p>The requirement for, and the frequency of, cleaning of the solar PV panels due to the build-up of dust and dirt varies depending upon site specific conditions. The cleaning requirements for the Proposed Development can only be accurately determined once operational, therefore, to present a worst case for the assessments presented in the PEI Report, a two-year cleaning cycle is assumed. The PEI Report assumes that a tractor mounted system (currently the system typically used on UK solar farms) will be used.</p>
<p>Visitor economy/impact on tourism</p>	<p>Concerns there will be a negative impacts on the visitor economy including PROWs and recreational facilities.</p> <p>Comment that a proper land management balance should be struck so that the visual appearance</p>	<p>It is proposed that a network of permissive paths is provided to connect existing PROWs allowing for circular walking routes and access between communities on what would otherwise be private land. Additional proposals include community orchards, landscaping/planting and open spaces will also support the visitor economy.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	does not change markedly.	
Public roads	<p>Query as to how public roads can be included within the RLB, and why planning rights over sections of roads possibly including compulsory acquisition would be sought.</p> <p>Concern that there are numerous accidents around a corner on Clay Lane, and that it is used by numerous walkers.</p> <p>Concern regarding the potential loss of roads and</p>	<p>We understand the concerns regarding public roads being included within the Site Boundary and the potential for compulsory acquisition. Including roads within the Site allows for necessary access and infrastructure integration. However, we will seek to minimise impacts on existing roadways and will work to ensure that any planning rights sought are essential and justified by the needs of the Proposed Development. Detailed plans and justifications for any such measures will be provided as part of the application process.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns about road safety and disruption, particularly around Clay Lane and other local roads. The safety of pedestrians and local traffic is a priority. Measures will be taken to avoid significant disruption during construction, and alternative routes will be used wherever possible.</p> <p>Regarding the road crossings for cables, we plan to use underground methods for most crossings to minimise visual impact and disruption. For major roads, such as the A46, we will ensure that all crossings are</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>disruption to roads during construction.</p> <p>Query as to why parts of Clay Lane, Station Road, Lincoln Lane and Fosse Lane are within the RLB, and concern that since electricity is being transferred to Navenby, there is no justification to use Fosse Lane.</p> <p>There will be 5 road crossings as part of the project and the biggest is the 4 lane A46 Trunk road followed by:- C123 Haddington Lane, C25 Bassingham Road, C1 Broughton Lane, A607 Grantham Road. How will these be crossed with cables, via underground or will they be by pylons and</p>	<p>designed and executed in compliance with relevant standards and regulations. Any interaction with existing power lines will be carefully managed to avoid conflicts and ensure seamless integration.</p> <p>Weight restrictions through Thorpe on the Hill will be respected and we will work with the local highway authority to ensure that construction vehicles adhere to these restrictions and avoid causing any undue stress to the local infrastructure. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to minimise impacts from construction traffic.</p> <p>We are committed to avoiding permanent closures or re-routing of roads and public footpaths. Any temporary closures or re-routing required during construction will be managed with minimal impact on local residents, and clear communication will be provided about any changes. At this stage we also propose permanent minor diversion of three sections of PRoW.</p> <p>We will take steps to preserve open countryside views and minimise the impact on local footpaths. Additionally, we will coordinate with relevant authorities to manage traffic effectively and mitigate any potential issues with traffic diversions through villages.</p> <p>We will incorporate a buffer zone between the Proposed Development and surrounding roads to reduce visual and environmental impacts. This buffer will be designed to integrate with the landscape and maintain the rural character of the area.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>what about feeding into existing power lines?</p> <p>Query if weight restrictions through Thorpe on the Hill will be honoured or rescinded?</p> <p>Desire for no permanent closures / re-routing of roads or public footpaths when Project is completed.</p> <p>Request that no roads are closed during preparation, installation, operation and decommissioning.</p> <p>Concerns that the sections alongside Clay Lane disrupt the open countryside views enjoyed by the many residents who walk along the road and the connected footpaths.</p>	



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>Concern that problems with the A46 and A17 whilst there is construction will result in traffic diverted through villages.</p> <p>Request that there is a buffer between the Project and the roads.</p>	



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Thorpe on the Hill	<p>Concern that the fields closest to Thorpe on the Hill will be used for solar panels and storage which will have high visual impact.</p> <p>Desire to see the buried cabling and habitat creation planned to the west of TOTH and North of the A46 swapped instead. Alternatively, desire to see justification why these options have been chosen instead.</p> <p>Concern that TOTH will overlook the panels due to having higher elevation.</p> <p>Desire to see panels and storage as far away from main density of population as possible.</p>	<p>We recognise the concern about the visual impact of solar infrastructure near Thorpe on the Hill. Landscape and visual impacts regarding Thorpe on the Hill are assessed in PEI Report Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment).</p> <p>We are aware that Thorpe on the Hill's higher elevation may result in a more prominent view of the Proposed Development. To address this, we are considering additional measures, such as increased screening or natural buffers, to reduce the visual impact from elevated viewpoints. We will evaluate options to further minimise the visibility of the panels from the village. The Proposed Development is mostly set back from settlement boundaries, such as fields immediately adjacent to Thorpe on the Hill. Where this has not been possible, offsets (typically measuring in excess of 100m) and new planting have been incorporated to retain a sense of openness whilst screening the solar PV panels.</p> <p>We understand the desire to place solar infrastructure and battery storage as far from the main population centres as possible. We are reviewing the layout of the Proposed Development to explore opportunities for relocating certain components further from densely populated areas while maintaining the efficiency and functionality of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>We acknowledge the request to remove the area south-east of Thorpe on the Hill from the proposals. We will carefully consider this request</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>Comment that there is no need to install panels so close to Thorpe on the Hill (south-east of the village running to the A46) - request to remove this area from the plan to provide a more acceptable barrier between the village and Project.</p>	<p>and assess the potential impacts of removing this area, including the implications for the overall design of the Proposed Development and energy generation capacity. Our goal is to balance community concerns with project requirements and find a solution that addresses both.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Bassingham	<p>Request that a field designated as partially ecology and partially panels, is used fully for ecology.</p> <p>Concern also that the field has a footpath through it and query as to why it is not protected like other footpaths.</p> <p>Concern that the section on land adjacent to river Witham south of Haddington Wier will affect views on the footpath between Bassingham and Haddington / Aubourn.</p> <p>Concern that placement of the development near to a Conservation area surrounding the church with Grade II listed</p>	<p>We acknowledge the request to use the field currently designated as partially for ecology and partially for solar panels entirely for ecology. We will review this request, considering the visual impact and how fully designating the field for ecology might benefit both the landscape and local community. Our goal is to find a balance between maximising renewable energy generation and minimising visual and environmental impacts.</p> <p>We understand the concern about a footpath running through the field in question and why it is not afforded the same protections as other footpaths. All footpaths are important, and we will review the status of this particular route to ensure it is appropriately managed and protected. We are committed to preserving public rights of way and will incorporate measures to protect and enhance access where needed. Access to PRow is assessed in PEI Report Chapter 12 (Socio-economics).</p> <p>We recognise the concern regarding the potential visual impact on the footpath near the River Witham, particularly south of Haddington Weir. To mitigate this, we are exploring options for additional screening or buffer zones along this stretch to protect views and the enjoyment of the footpath by walkers. Our aim is to preserve the natural beauty of the area while accommodating the development.</p> <p>We understand the sensitivity around developing near a conservation area, particularly in proximity to Grade II listed buildings near the</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>buildings is not acceptable.</p> <p>No issues other than the fields immediately opposite to the river Witham in Bassingham.</p>	<p>church. The Proposed Development will ensure that appropriate measures are taken to respect and protect the historical and cultural significance of these areas. PEI Report Chapter 7 (Cultural Heritage) concludes at paragraph 7.7.39 <i>"The visual intervisibility associated with setting from and to Bassingham Conservation Area in relation to the Solar and Energy Storage Park is limited, with any infrastructure changes reversible after the life of the Proposed Development"</i></p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Witham St Hughs	<p>Comment that the more 'desirable or more upmarket areas' around are far less affected by this proposal.</p> <p>Concern that the Witham St Hughs ex RAF sites appear to bear the brunt of this proposal, a lot of which may be due to the proximity of floodplains.</p>	<p>We understand the concern that certain areas may seem less affected by the proposal. The location of the Proposed Development has been chosen based on a variety of factors, including land suitability, environmental considerations, and energy generation potential. The aim is not to disproportionately impact any particular community, and we are committed to working with all local stakeholders to minimize effects across all areas involved.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concern that Witham St Hughs, particularly the ex-RAF sites, may appear to bear a larger portion of the proposal's impact, potentially due to their proximity to floodplains. The selection of these sites has been based on a thorough review of land suitability for solar development, including flood risk assessments. We are taking steps to ensure that the layout of the Proposed Development is optimised to minimise negative impacts, particularly in sensitive or historically significant areas.</p>
Coleby, Viking Walk, Cliff Villages, Lincoln Cliff Edge	<p>Concern the proposals have not taken into consideration the elevated view looking westward and downwards from Coleby.</p> <p>Concern regarding the impact on the rural landscape and views from</p>	<p>We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the visual impact of the proposals, particularly from elevated areas like Coleby and the Lincoln Cliff Edge. The rural landscape and the views from such vantage points are highly valued, and we are committed to minimising the impact on these important areas. As part of the design process, we will explore the use of additional screening measures, such as natural buffers and strategic planting, to help preserve the landscape and reduce visual disruption. In PEI Report Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Impact</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>Lincoln cliff edge, especially from Coleby.</p> <p>Concern that Cliff Villages are situated in an arc around the site, meaning the site is visible from footpaths from Waddington to TOTH to Carlton le Moorland.</p> <p>Concern that Lincoln Cliff Edge is a designated area and that the view will be ruined due to power lines and pylons.</p> <p>Concern the views will not be preserved for future generations.</p> <p>Query as to what the impact will be on Witham Valley Way or the Cliff.</p>	<p>Assessment) the initial area of search extended 5km from the Proposed Development. The review found that there was no potential for significant landscape or visual effects beyond 2km from the Site Boundary. Although the Proposed Development may be visible beyond 2km, it is unlikely to result in any notable change to people’s views given the intervening distance, vegetation, built form and overall visibility.</p> <p>We recognise that the Cliff Villages, being situated in an arc around the site, may have visibility of the development from various footpaths, including those from Waddington to Thorpe on the Hill to Carlton le Moorland. We understand that the Lincoln Cliff Edge is a designated area, and we share the concern about preserving its iconic views for future generations. Our approach will be to minimise the intrusion of infrastructure, including the use of an underground cable to the substation at Navenby, instead of pylons and power lines. In PEI Report Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) it is stated in Table 10-5 that in some areas Lincoln Cliff will be screened by the 3.5m high solar PV arrays. There will be short to medium distance views of the Onsite Substation and BESS Compound. This impact is temporary and reversible.</p> <p>We are also carefully evaluating the impact on the Witham Valley Way. Any adverse impacts during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would be temporary and reversible.</p>



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Thurlby	Query as to what the impact of the Project will be on wildlife in the Witham Valley Country Park, as this area contains SSSIs and local wildlife sites with rare species of flora and fauna.	We recognise the importance of the Witham Valley Country Park as an area rich in biodiversity, containing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and local wildlife sites that support rare species of flora and fauna. Protecting these sensitive habitats is a priority for the Proposed Development. Comprehensive ecological assessments are being conducted to ensure that the design and implementation of the Proposed Development do not harm these critical ecosystems. Wherever possible, we are incorporating measures to avoid or minimize any disruption to wildlife, such as creating buffer zones around sensitive areas, carefully planning construction activities to avoid key breeding seasons, and enhancing habitat creation efforts to support local biodiversity. The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on the country park and local designations.
MOD	Query if the M.O.D. facilities within ten miles of this development, some of a highly sensitive nature, could be affected by this development.	We will consult with the Ministry of Defence as part of our statutory consultation and they will be given the opportunity to set out their comments, which we will consider when finalising our proposals for the DCO application.



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Air Ambulance	Concern that there is an Air Ambulance base in close proximity to the proposed development.	Local authorities and consultees will be further consulted on the proposal whereby impacts can be assessed and amendments to the proposal made, as and when required
Scoping plan	Criticism that the scoping report only looked at a range of 1km.	The 1km buffer was initially chosen as a standard distance for assessing direct environmental impacts, particularly related to visual, noise, and ecological effects. However, we understand that a broader assessment may be necessary to capture potential wider impacts, especially given the scale of the Proposed Development and its proximity to sensitive areas. For the PEI Report and Environmental Statement, varying topic specific study areas will be used.
Question about what supporting infrastructure there is.		At the time of the non-statutory consultation, supporting infrastructure included inverters, transformers and switchgear, known as power conversion stations (referred to as Solar Stations in the PEI Report).
Only solar generated on site	Request for a guarantee that only electricity generated by solar power would be produced/created from	Yes, there is no other generating infrastructure proposed on Fosse Green Energy. The batteries proposed will store energy generated from the solar, and import/export from the Grid, and will serve no generating function.



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	Fosse Green Energy project area.	
Impact on local weather	<p>Query as to if the Project will affect the wind and rainfall patterns due to the effect of accumulated heat around panels on the immediate environment.</p> <p>Comment that solar farms create heat island warming the local environment.</p>	<p>Research on the subject suggests that while solar panels can create a localised "heat island" effect by absorbing sunlight, the impact is typically minimal and limited to the immediate vicinity of the panels. This phenomenon is better observed in desert environments. This effect is usually small and localised, and can often be mitigated by design measures, such as spacing between panels, natural vegetation cover, and shading. It is important to note that solar farms generally have a much smaller effect on wind and rainfall patterns compared to urban heat islands caused by concrete and asphalt infrastructure. There will also be substantial tree and hedge planting, which benefit the local climate.</p>
Work commence	Query as to when work would commence if you received planning permission?	Should the DCO application be granted, development cannot legally commence until all pre-commencement requirements have been discharged. The construction phase is anticipated to start in 2031 to enable completion for the agreed grid connection date in 2033.
NSIP process	Query as to why planning is not a local decision made by our County and District Councils?	As Fosse Green Energy Limited is proposing to develop a solar farm with a generating capacity of more than 50MW, it is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and therefore a DCO is required under the Planning Act 2008. This requires an application to



Topic Area 3: Area for solar PV array and supporting infrastructure		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, rather than the Local Planning Authority.
Visual Impact Scoping Report	<p>Query as to if it is correct that the Visual Impact Scoping Report has only looked at a range of 1km around the proposed development.</p> <p>Request that the Visual Impact and general impact should be assessed from the Cliff Edge villages, including Coleby.</p>	<p>We acknowledge the concern about the 1km range used in the visual assessment. The 1km distance was initially chosen as a standard approach to assess the most immediate and direct visual impacts of the development. However, we recognise that the surrounding landscape, including views from elevated areas like the Cliff Edge villages, may be affected and require broader consideration. A wider study area and Zone of Theoretical Visibility has been used for the PEI Report. In PEI Report Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) the initial area of search extended 5km from the Proposed Development. The review found that there was no potential for significant landscape or visual effects beyond 2km from the Site Boundary. Although the Proposed Development may be visible beyond 2km, it is unlikely to result in any notable change to people's views given the intervening distance, vegetation, built form and overall visibility.</p>



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Preference for Option A	Comment that as Option B goes through an area that is regularly flooded and used as the overspill flood plain for Anglian Water, Option A is therefore more practical.	The project team has acknowledged your feedback.
Preference for Option B	Stated preference for option B.	The project team has acknowledged your feedback.
Substation	<p>Query as to why Fosse Green Energy proposed location is not nearer to the grid connections.</p> <p>Query as to the size, feasibility and appearance.</p> <p>Query if National Grid has given a confirmed date when the Project expects to export electricity.</p> <p>Query what feed tariff has been quoted.</p> <p>Comment that the grid connection will be determined by the location of the new facility planned in Navenby.</p>	<p>The location of the Proposed Development was selected based on a variety of factors, including environmental considerations, land availability, and the proximity to suitable grid connection points. While the Proposed Development may not be directly adjacent to the grid connection, the chosen location ensures a balance between maximising energy production, minimising environmental impact, and ensuring efficient grid access.</p> <p>The size and layout of the Proposed Development has been carefully designed following baseline studies that account for local conditions, environmental impact, and the technical requirements of the energy infrastructure. Visual impact assessments are being undertaken and preliminary findings are set out in PEI Report Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment). These find that the solar PV site and the Grid Connection Corridor may have some major adverse</p>



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		<p>(significant) effects during construction however this is short term and reversible.</p> <p>We are working closely with the National Grid to finalise grid connection arrangements with their proposed substation near Navenby.</p> <p>The feed-in tariff, if applicable, will be determined closer to the Proposed Development's commissioning and is subject to market conditions and government policy at the time of grid connection.</p> <p>The grid connection process is influenced by several factors, including the location of future facilities like that proposed by National Grid in Navenby. We are coordinating with the relevant stakeholders to ensure smooth integration with the wider energy network.</p>
Overlap other renewable developments	Concern that the overlap between Fosse Green Energy area and draft plan of areas not excluded from onshore and wind turbine development, particularly in relation to grid connectors.	The Applicant cannot prevent other developers bringing forward other renewable projects in the area. The relevant determining authority would be responsible for deciding whether the Fosse Green Energy project and these other schemes can proceed.
Secured land	Query if land has been secured for the grid connection at Navenby substation?	The Navenby substation is being proposed by National Grid. Any land negotiations are being managed separately to the Proposed Development by National Grid, More information about National



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		Grid's proposals can be found on its website - Navenby Substation - www.nationalgrid.com
Impact on land	<p>Comment that mitigation will be required.</p> <p>Request that land is 'made good' afterwards.</p> <p>Concern that the installation of either of these corridors will create significant upheaval to nature and local agriculture.</p> <p>Comment that there is no issue with the scheme as long as once installed the land is returned to agricultural use.</p> <p>Concern that the connection to the National Grid and the extra infrastructure required will add further complications and have a visual impact.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development recognises the importance of mitigation to reduce impacts on the environment, agriculture, and local communities. Various mitigation strategies, set out in the PEI Report, will be implemented to address any short and long-term disruptions, ensuring minimal impact during installation and throughout the operational life of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that the land is 'made good' after the installation, with plans to return the land to its original agricultural use wherever feasible once the Proposed Development's operations cease. This includes careful planning to minimise disturbance to local agriculture during the Proposed Development's construction and operation phases.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns regarding the potential upheaval to nature and local agriculture. Measures will be taken to ensure that the construction and installation processes are as minimally invasive as possible. This includes the development of biodiversity enhancement areas to support local wildlife during and after the Proposed Development.</p>



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		<p>A Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will be prepared as part of the DCO Application to secure the return of the Site to its previous use.</p> <p>While necessary infrastructure will be introduced to connect to the National Grid, every effort will be made to minimise its visual impact and complexity. We are carefully planning the placement and design of this infrastructure to ensure it integrates with the landscape and causes minimal disruption.</p>



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Impact on roads	<p>Query whether local road access will be maintained and if there will be an update to the existing road networks.</p> <p>Concern that installation of either of these corridors will create significant upheaval to road infrastructure.</p> <p>Concern how the road would be crossed.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will aim to minimise disruption to the local highway network wherever possible during the construction and operational phases. Any disruptions will be temporary, and efforts will be made to provide alternative routes or minimise inconvenience for residents and local traffic. Further details about specific road access plans will be set out in a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan that will be submitted as part of the DCO application. PEI Report Chapter 13 (Traffic and Transport) assesses the impact of the Proposed Development during the construction and operation phases.</p> <p>While the primary goal is to avoid extensive modifications to existing road networks, some adjustments may be necessary to accommodate the Proposed Development's infrastructure. Any potential updates or changes to road networks will be clearly communicated in advance to the local community.</p> <p>We acknowledge concerns regarding the potential upheaval to road infrastructure during the installation of corridors for cabling and equipment. Detailed plans will be made to minimise disruptions, including careful routing and coordination of construction activities to reduce the impact on roads.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will involve crossing certain roads, and methods such as underground cable installations will be considered to avoid unnecessary road closures or surface disruptions. These plans will prioritise safety and the preservation of the road</p>



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		infrastructure. Where crossings are required, clear communication about any temporary closures or detours will be provided to minimise inconvenience.
Not enough information	Comment that it is impossible to comment further until more accurate proposals are offered.	Our first stage of consultation was an introduction to our plans, meaning that not all of the details had been decided. At our second, statutory consultation, we are proposing plans that we have refined following surveys and feedback received.



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Underground cables	<p>Query if the cables from the solar farm to the substation will run underground or if that decision could change.</p> <p>Concern that there is a possible detrimental impact of pylons leading to the substation, as an underground cable has been proposed but the 40m wide path through Cliff Edge limestone has not been investigated.</p> <p>A desire to see a guarantee that the grid connection (cables and equipment) will be underground, instead of overhead.</p> <p>Concern that the Project would result in power lines and pylons for distribution.</p> <p>A desire to see interconnectors within the Park run underground.</p> <p>Concern the underground cables would damage the earth and insects.</p>	<p>We are committed to minimising the visual and environmental impact on the landscape and as such the cable to the substation will be underground. This method reduces visual impacts and maintains the aesthetic integrity of the area, particularly concerning sensitive sites like the Cliff Edge limestone.</p> <p>The Proposed Development supports the placement of interconnectors underground to minimise the impact on both the environment and the local communities.</p> <p>While underground cabling reduces visual and noise impacts, we acknowledge concerns about potential impacts on the soil and ecosystems, including insects. The Environmental Impact Assessment will ensure that any such effects are minimised, and biodiversity is protected. For example, as stated in Table 8-11 of PEI Report Chapter 8 (Ecology) <i>"The crossing of the River Witham and River Brant will be undertaken using techniques that would not disturb the watercourse, with the depth of the cable below the bed of these rivers to be a minimum of 5 m, to avoid impacts to watercourses and bankside vegetation (riparian habitats)."</i></p>



Topic Area 4: Two grid corridors options		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Irrelevant	Comment that the grid connection is irrelevant as it does not feed the area.	Our grid connection agreement allows for import and export directly into the national grid, which will then be distributed across the network where required. Although the Proposed Development will not be able to technically or safely generate electricity into communities, all users of electricity will indirectly benefit from its production.
Storage size	Concern that the Project does not know how big the storage block would be.	Our last stage of consultation was an introduction to our plans, meaning that not all of the details had been decided. At the statutory consultation, we are proposing plans that we have refined following surveys and feedback received.
River crossings	Query as to how the River Witham and River Brant will be crossed in distribution network to Navenby - will this be cables bearing in mind this is part of the managed flood plain, or will it be pylons?	As stated in Table 8-11 of PEI Report Chapter 8 (Ecology) <i>"The crossing of the River Witham and River Brant will be undertaken using techniques that would not disturb the watercourse, with the depth of the cable below the bed of these rivers to be a minimum of 5 m, to avoid impacts to watercourses and bankside vegetation (riparian habitats)."</i>



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Free electricity or reduced electricity costs for local residents	<p>Request for there to be a potential to deliver free electricity.</p> <p>Query if residents will be entitled to a concession on their electricity bills.</p> <p>Request for a rebate on electricity costs for high priority users e.g. Lincoln County Hospital.</p>	<p>Our grid connection agreement allows for import and export directly into the national grid, which will then be distributed across the network where required. Although the Proposed Development will not be able to technically or safely generate electricity into communities, all users of electricity will indirectly benefit from its production.</p>
Local electricity infrastructure	<p>Request to upgrade the local residential electrical infrastructure and offer 3-phase installation to promote the use of electric cars, air sourced heating etc.</p>	<p>We are considering the suggestions we received on community benefits that could be provided by the Proposed Development. At the statutory consultation, we are presenting further information on the community benefits we are considering and feedback is being sought on any further community benefits people think we should consider.</p>
What benefits will be provided?	<p>Concern the project will have a general negative impact on local communities and that there will be limited community benefit.</p>	<p>This non-statutory stage of consultation invited suggestions for local projects and initiatives we could support or deliver to benefit those communities closest to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Feedback to this consultation is now being used to refine the design of the scheme. We are presenting more information on community</p>



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
		benefits at the statutory consultation and will continue to progress and communicate our plans for community benefits.
Funding for Village halls / churches / community facilities / roads	<p>Request to subsidise the running costs of local village halls and churches.</p> <p>Suggestion to help the Basingham Scout campsite.</p> <p>Request for funds to be allocated to upgrade/repair small roads within and around the project area and for bus services.</p> <p>Request for funds to be allocated to create/install electric car charging points in all the adjacent villages.</p>	<p>We are considering the suggestions we received as part of the community benefits which could be offered by Fosse Green Energy. At the statutory consultation, we are presenting further information on the community benefits we are considering and feedback is being sought on any further community benefits people think we should consider.</p>



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Bicycles and electric bicycles	<p>Request for a cycle path created as a continuous link from the Morton area up to Norton Disney and branching Eastwards over the underground grid connection corridor to reach Navenby and the A15.</p> <p>Request for a new cycle/pedestrian footbridge over the busy A46, at the South-Western corner of the Morton section, linking into new cycle paths.</p> <p>Request for free electric cycle charging points at picnic areas along corridor.</p> <p>Query if footpaths/cycle paths could be planned to span and criss-cross the site, and where a field is adopted beside a road, could cycle paths be built on the inside of each hedge, connecting to national routes?</p> <p>Cycling on the roads in our area</p>	<p>We appreciate the request for a continuous cycle path linking the Morton area to Norton Disney and extending eastward to Navenby and the A15. The suggestion for a new cycle/pedestrian footbridge over the A46 at the South-Western corner of the Morton section is also noted. We recognise the value of enhancing local connectivity and are exploring options to provide permissive paths as part of the design of the Proposed Development. Our proposals will consider creating seamless links that integrate with existing and proposed routes to support cycling and pedestrian access.</p> <p>We acknowledge the suggestion to plan footpaths and cycle paths that span and criss-cross the site. Integrating these routes within the area of the Proposed Development can provide safe, off-road routes for cyclists and pedestrians. We will explore the potential for incorporating such routes, especially where fields are adjacent to roads, to connect with national routes and enhance local connectivity. Additionally, we are aware of concerns about cycling safety on narrow roads in the area.</p> <p>We will be consulting on our suggested permissive paths presented in the PEI Report at statutory consultation and taking into account community feedback in the final proposals.</p>



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
	<p>is dangerous as they are so narrow, so doing this would be a benefit to the local community.</p> <p>Request for a ±2m wide cycle / walking route connecting Thurlby with Bassingham as the local rural road has no room for a pavement, and later a route connecting Witham St Hughes and Aubourn and onto an existing cycle path on the A46.</p>	
Financial compensation	<p>Desire to see local communities financially compensated for 'destruction' of local 'natural beauty'.</p>	<p>Fosse Green Energy will deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of a minimum 10% as part of the delivery of the Proposed Development. This will include, but is not limited to, landscaping and planting proposals, which will support the visual screening of the site.</p> <p>We are considering the suggestions we received on community benefits that could be provided by the Proposed Development. At the statutory consultation, we are presenting further information on the community benefits we are considering and feedback is being sought on any further community benefits people think we should consider.</p>



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Share offers and setting up a co-operative	Request that residents are offered share offers. Suggestion to form a co-op.	Fosse Green Energy does not propose to offer residents shares in its limited company, nor offer the project as a co-operative development, Instead, Fosse Green Energy is committed to competing in the privatised UK electricity market to deliver one of the lowest cost forms of electrical generation so that all UK electricity consumers can benefit, Furthermore, Fosse Green will engage with stakeholders to develop its contribution towards a range of community benefits,
Local councils	Query as to what offers/ considerations with North Kesteven Council have been made. Suggestion to help Withamside parish initiatives.	We are working with stakeholders such as North Kesteven District Council and local Parish Councils. We are also looking to set up a Community Liaison group following the statutory consultation to have discussions about support for parish initiatives and wider community benefits. More information about the Community Liaison group is planned to be published in 2025.
House values	Request for a contribution to the reduction in the values in their houses that will have been incurred.	In 2014, the Centre for Economics and Business Research and Renewable UK conducted a study of over one million homes in the UK to analyse the effect of wind farms on house prices. It found that onshore wind farms had no impact on the value of residential properties within a 5km radius. Given solar panels are less obtrusive than wind turbines, we are confident that local property prices will not be affected by the Proposed Development.



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Biodiversity areas	Request that some of the biodiversity areas need to be permanent. Therefore, a percentage of the land needs to be gifted to either Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust or local parish councils.	Biodiversity areas and planting of woodland or trees will not be removed during decommissioning and will be left onsite when the landowner takes back the land. We cannot guarantee the landowner will retain these areas after decommissioning but we hope that they are permanent. These areas will be designed to support and enhance local wildlife habitats, ensuring they provide ongoing ecological benefits.
Knights Templar	Request for the Knights Templar route to be planted on either side with trees and bushes creating a green corridor and gifted to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.	We appreciate the request to enhance the Knights Templar route by planting trees and bushes on either side to create a green corridor. Only a small part of this route crosses the cable route corridor, and we are not currently proposing to enhance PRowS within the cable route corridor.
Sports Facilities.	Request for sports facilities support from community schemes / initiatives.	We recognise the importance of supporting local sports facilities and community initiatives. Our aim is to ensure that the Proposed Development contributes positively to the community, supporting not just environmental goals but also local social and recreational needs. Some community benefits will be offered onsite, and there will also be a community fund set up and managed to benefit local initiatives offsite. The community fund will be organised in collaboration with North Kesteven District Council but does not form part of the application and will therefore form discussions outside of the DCO Application.



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
Play area equipment.	Request for play area equipment from community schemes / initiatives.	We recognise the importance of supporting local play area equipment and community initiatives. Our aim is to ensure that the Proposed Development contributes positively to the community, supporting not just environmental goals but also local social and recreational needs. The current design incorporates permissive paths through landscaped areas. We are exploring the potential for other benefits, such as a forest school onsite, and we would welcome feedback on the community's thoughts on this during statutory consultation. An equipped play area is not currently included .
Involve other organisations	A desire to see organisations like U.K. Wildlife Trust, RSPB etc. have some input.	Our goal is to ensure that the Proposed Development benefits from the insights and recommendations of leading conservation organisations, helping to achieve a balanced approach that supports both renewable energy goals and environmental stewardship. Statutory and non-statutory consultees will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the proposals during the statutory consultation. Their feedback will be considered in the final design of the Proposed Development.
Ongoing community benefit	Desire to see local communities gaining substantial amounts in community benefits each year instead of just at initial stages.	The community benefits delivered by the Proposed Development will be considered alongside Solar Energy UK standard guidance, which is yet to be released. However, it is currently assumed this will take the form of annual payments as opposed to a one off lump sum.



Topic Area 5: Suggestions community schemes		
Sub category	Feedback	Response
No community scheme will compensate enough	Comment that there is little the Project can do to compensate those affected by the reduced beauty of the area.	We recognise the concern about the visual impact of solar panels and storage facilities on the communities surrounding the Proposed Development. Landscape and visual impacts are assessed in PEI Report Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment). In this chapter the initial area of search extended 5km from the Proposed Development. The review found that there was no potential for significant landscape or visual effects beyond 2km from the Site Boundary. Although the Proposed Development may be visible beyond 2km, it is unlikely to result in any notable change to people's views given the intervening distance, vegetation, built form and overall visibility. To mitigate any possible effects, we are currently exploring options for screening or buffer zones throughout the Proposed Development.



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
Wildlife	<p>Suggestion that solar farms interrupt the movement and migration and animals and birds, and that they will eventually move out of the area or die.</p> <p>Concern there is a risk to birds/bats which can mistake the panels for water and to animals who can be stuck in fencing or diverted onto roads.</p> <p>Suggestion that grazing sheep and bee-keeping are token gestures and in no way compensate for the lost potential of the land.</p> <p>Suggestion that transitory animals have their traditional routes blocked. Deer are often diverted onto roads.</p> <p>Suggestion that the land is degraded with little potential for biodiversity as half of it will be in permanent shadow and rain water</p>	<p>Solar farms help to reduce the intensity of the land's use. They often attract a variety of wildlife which thrives in the diverse habitat, and species commonly found within our solar farms include; nesting birds, reptiles, Great Crested Newts, butterflies and bees.</p> <p>Ecological studies are being conducted, the findings from which will be included with, and inform, our final application for development consent. These will need to demonstrate that our Proposed Development will protect and enhance existing habitats. More information is available in the PEI Report which is published at statutory consultation.</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
	<p>run-off creates set channels without proper dispersal.</p> <p>Suggestion that hares, foxes, hedgehogs, pheasants, swans, geese, muntjac and roe deer, bats and birds of prey will be affected due to losing their habitats.</p> <p>Concern that birds of prey will not be able to hunt as they cannot see through solar panels.</p> <p>Concern that new planting would not restore the same wildlife and would only attract small mammals and insects.</p> <p>Suggestion that there should be areas for wild bird cover.</p> <p>Suggestion that there should be grass buffer strips near dykes.</p> <p>Suggestion that it should be similar to DEFRA schemes, countryside stewardship and SFI.</p>	



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
Fencing	<p>Request that there is deer fencing to protect both deer and the panels.</p> <p>Request for a guarantee that fencing will only be located around areas where solar panels are sited and not the whole area indicated on the outline map.</p>	<p>The Project team will carefully consider the need for stock proof (deer) fencing around the solar panel areas. PEI Report Chapter 8 (Ecology) states in Table 8-11 <i>"Measures to avoid animals being injured or killed within construction working areas, through excluding them from such areas (e.g., fencing) will prevent animals from falling into and becoming trapped in excavations."</i></p> <p>The importance of wildlife corridors is recognised in relation to the Proposed Development. To mitigate this, the design will aim to allow natural wildlife movement where possible, including badgers and deer. PEI Report Chapter 8 (Ecology) states in Table 8-11 <i>"The fence design will include gaps to allow mammals, including small deer, Badger, Brown Hare and Hedgehog, to pass underneath at strategic locations to maintain ecological connectivity. The final locations of these mammal passes will be determined following pre-commencement surveys."</i></p> <p>Security fencing will be installed to enclose the operational area of the Proposed Development. The fence will be approx. 2m in height. Pole mounted closed circuit television systems installed at a height of up to 3.5m are also likely to be deployed around the perimeter of the operational areas facing along the fence line and into the Site. To comply with British Standard (BS) EN 62271-1:2017, if outdoor transformers are used, they will be surrounded by a secure wire mesh fence or metal palisade fence. These will only be located in Solar Stations. This fence is likely to be 1.8m to 2.5m in height. In addition,</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
		the Onsite Substation would be surrounded by a secure metal palisade fence and would also be up to 2.5m in height.
Existing landscape	Concern that though the Project will recreate some of the existing landscape it will reduce the biodiversity and freedom of the wildlife.	Fosse Green Energy will deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of a minimum 10% as part of the delivery of the Proposed Development. This will include, but is not limited to, landscaping and planting proposals, which will support the visual screening of the site.



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
	Concern that construction will impact wildlife.	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Request to work with LWT in 'creative ways'.	<p>The Project team is open to collaborating with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in innovative and creative ways and we welcome suggestions from the Trust and the community to ensure that the Proposed Development contributes positively to the local environment, aligns with conservation goals, and provides long-term ecological benefits to the area.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will be consulted during the statutory consultation, and any feedback provided will be considered by the Project team.</p>
Doddington	Request to not see Doddington rewilding as a 'panacea'.	<p>The Proposed Development will commit to achieving a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain onsite and is expected to be able to demonstrate it will achieve much better than this through the proposed landscaping. A Biodiversity Net Gain report will be included with the DCO application.</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
Use of land	<p>Concern and comments on why so much land is to be set aside as mitigation.</p> <p>Query how food production loss will be offset.</p> <p>Query why best agricultural land within the proposed total area is to have panels whilst poorer land is 'mitigation' land.</p> <p>Comment that even with landscaping, planting etc. the panels will require a cleared area.</p> <p>Suggestion that this Project is an inefficient use of land.</p>	<p>Setting aside land for mitigation is necessary to ensure that biodiversity and environmental impacts are minimised and legally required standards are met. The main requirement is to provide compensatory land for ground based breeding birds. It allows the Proposed Development to enhance local ecosystems, protect wildlife, and comply with regulations for habitat conservation.</p> <p>The suggestion to reduce the mitigation area and leave more land for farming is noted. Some of the land within the Site can be retained for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>The issue of food production loss is a critical concern, and part of the Proposed Development's goal is to utilise lower-grade agricultural land for solar panels while reserving higher-grade land for farming. Parts of the Site can be retained for arable farming, with much of the remainder available for sheep grazing.</p> <p>The selection of land for panels versus mitigation is based on a combination of environmental assessments, land quality, and strategic planning to meet energy targets.</p> <p>Even with landscaping and planting, the solar panels require periodic maintenance, including cleaning to ensure efficient energy generation. Mitigation land will support this by improving biodiversity and offsetting any potential disruptions caused by the panels.</p> <p>We recognise the need to balance the efficient use of land for renewable energy with the importance of preserving farmland. This is a</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
		key consideration in the design of the Proposed Development, and we are committed to refining our approach to make the most efficient and sustainable use of available land resources.



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
Water storage	Query if water courses will be maintained and additional on site water storage provided.	Existing water courses will be maintained throughout the development. Protecting natural waterways is a priority and we will implement measures to ensure they are not disrupted by construction or operational activities. Paragraph 9.4.62 of PEI Report Chapter 9 (Water Environment) states <i>"Where culverts are required, they will be designed appropriately to maintain connectivity along watercourses for aquatic species and riparian mammals, where these are shown to be present. Where possible, culverts and culvert extensions will be set 150mm below bed level to allow sedimentation and a naturalised bed to form, which will maintain longitudinal connectivity for aquatic fauna."</i> Regarding the provision of additional on-site water storage is being considered, paragraph 9.6.11 of PEI Report Chapter 9 (Water Environment) confirms <i>"Appropriately sized runoff storage areas for the settlement of excessive fine particulates in runoff will be provided"</i>
Will not create BNG	Comment that it is moot whether biodiversity will develop.	The DCO Application will include a Landscaping Plan showing the proposed planting and a Biodiversity Net Gain Report which will demonstrate a minimum 10% gain in biodiversity.
Land bridge	Request for a land bridge across the A46 to help with larger mammals, and boxes for bats nesting birds.	A land bridge across the A46 is not planned as part of the Proposed Development. It would require National Highways approval and would need to be delivered in collaboration with them. We believe we can deliver biodiversity enhancements better within the Site.



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
Bird and bat boxes	Request for boxes for bats and nesting birds.	Bat and bird nesting boxes will be proposed as part of the application. This detail will be included in the Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which will be submitted as part of the DCO Application.
Tree and hedge planting	<p>Request that various crops/plantations need to be upheld, the more diverse the planting, the more diverse the population of species in the areas.</p> <p>Request lots of trees to be planted between the villages and the site (specific area is River Witham and Clay Lane) to help ease the eyesore, flooding risk and help to protect top soil against erosion issues.</p> <p>Request that native evergreen should be in the tree planting mix i.e. holly, both trees and hedging.</p> <p>Request that mitigation through planting of hedging and low height trees to shield the solar farm from view as a part of the upfront plan.</p>	<p>Planting a variety of crops and native species will indeed enhance local biodiversity, and a request for trees, particularly evergreen species such as holly, between villages and the site would help mitigate the visual impact of the development while also addressing concerns about flooding, erosion, and habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposal to integrate hedging, low-height trees, and indigenous plants between solar panel rows to shield the site from view and support wildlife is particularly constructive. These plantings can create natural corridors for wildlife, reduce soil erosion, and provide a more appealing landscape for local communities. Similarly, the idea of establishing small woodlands or copses, using fast-growing species, and ensuring hedges are maintained and replanted when necessary is noted as a proactive approach to long-term ecological health.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will deliver a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain and this will be demonstrated in a Biodiversity Net Gain report which will be submitted as part of the DCO Application.</p> <p>Trees play a significant role in carbon capture and could contribute to long-term carbon sequestration, as well as enhancing the landscape and biodiversity. Incorporating more tree planting into the design of the</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
	<p>Suggestion that spaces in-between panel rows could be planted out with indigenous low hedges and plants that offer some protection and encourage wildlife to return.</p> <p>Suggestion to consider planting some small woodland or copses to help break up large areas of solar panels.</p> <p>Request to use fast growing plants.</p> <p>Request to upkeep hedges and replant when needed.</p> <p>Suggestion to plant a native woodland (oak, ash, horse chestnut, sycamore, cherry).</p> <p>Suggestion to use former quarries and harvested woodlands nearby to generate BNG faster.</p> <p>Concern that a small number of trees and hedges will not repair/replace the damage that will be done.</p>	<p>Proposed Development could complement the existing agricultural use of the land and contribute more effectively to long-term sustainability goals.</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
	<p>Query as to whether planting trees in this area instead would have a bigger impact on reaching net zero?</p>	
Benefit local farming	<p>Comment that a combination of undercropping of wildflowers with winter sheep grazing could be one example of how the land could be used effectively with the result that the land would be in a better condition at the end of the project from its likely starting point.</p> <p>Request to grow replacement crops.</p>	<p>The land in solar PV areas will be sowed with wildflower mixes and the intention is that it will benefit from sheep grazing; this is the preferred method of cutting the grass. The land will be returned to the landowner who would then be able to return the land to arable crops.</p>



Topic Area 6: How can the project deliver BNG including plans for planting and landscaping		
Subcategory	Feedback	Response
Increase in Biodiversity in the parishes	<p>Support for buying land and or trees.</p> <p>Request to create long term habitats - the creation of meadows is to be welcome but is at the end of the scheme they are destroyed as the land is used for other uses then they become short termed and eventually not helpful in creating long term habitats.</p> <p>Request to build ponds and different habitats.</p> <p>Desire to see plans grown to make the Project more community and biodiversity friendly.</p>	<p>We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the habitats established during the Proposed Development endure beyond its completion. The creation of meadows, while beneficial, will only be truly impactful if maintained in the long term. Enhancement areas, woodland, and trees will not be removed at the end of the Proposed Development and we hope the landowner will retain these permanently after the Proposed Development is decommissioned.</p> <p>The request to include ponds and diverse habitats is noted, and these elements are under consideration to further enhance biodiversity. Establishing a variety of ecosystems, including water features and different types of habitats, will attract a wider range of species and contribute to the Proposed Development 's ecological goals. The Proposed Development will need to demonstrate a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain in habitats, watercourses, and hedgerows.</p> <p>We are also committed to making the Proposed Development more community-friendly and will seek opportunities for community involvement in developing and maintaining these long-term ecological benefits.</p>



Topic Area 7: Comments on consultation		
Sub category	Feedback	FGE response
Positive feedback on consultation	Comment that it is well done. Thanks for consulting early.	The project team has acknowledged your feedback.
Young people	Comment that the consultation needs to target young people more.	We will reach out to schools and sixth forms to invite them to participate in our statutory consultation. We will host a combination of in-person and online events to attract as many people as possible to participate in the consultation.
Consultation materials / too much information	Documents prepared by your consultants already run to hundreds of pages and are far beyond the capacity of any ordinary person to absorb and respond to. Suggestion that the consultation was limited and there was not enough information about the siting of the panels / distance from housing / noise control / fire risk / visual impact.	We will have a dedicated email and phonenumber to provide answers to any questions people may have about materials. We will create mix of digital and print materials, as well as host a combination of digital and in-person events to make the consultation as accessible as possible. We will also provide accessible consultation materials written in plain English. The information provided in our consultation materials is correct as of date published. For our statutory consultation, our proposals will have been reviewed and updated following further environmental and technical studies.



Topic Area 7: Comments on consultation		
Sub category	Feedback	FGE response
Consultants	<p>Criticism that the team was not engaging or knowledgeable, and provided only 'stock' answers and had little knowledge of the local area.</p> <p>Criticism that nobody at the events appeared to have experience of developing and managing a solar development, and that there were no answers to how the sites could be beneficial to local agriculture.</p> <p>Criticism that nobody could answer how the rights of way and solar panels would intersect.</p> <p>Comment that the original presentations had individuals who were not credible but the presentation at Bassingham was much better.</p>	<p>The team attending and hosting our events will come from variety of disciplines to provide as much knowledge as possible for answering questions we receive.</p> <p>If we are unable to answer questions at an event, we will take note of the question and respond via email or phone.</p>



Topic Area 7: Comments on consultation		
Sub category	Feedback	FGE response
	<p>Concern that no notes were being taken by consultants at events.</p> <p>Criticism that the staff were vague and unwilling to answer questions</p>	



Topic Area 7: Comments on consultation		
Sub category	Feedback	FGE response
Consultation maps	<p>Objection to the green area and definition 'other land areas within the site boundary which may be required for cabling and habitat creation' and concern that developers would avoid commitment to BNG measures.</p> <p>Concern that Existing Public Rights of Way were missing from the plan and request that they are all maintained.</p>	<p>The project team has acknowledged your feedback.</p> <p>Fosse Green Energy Limited is committed to enhancing the existing biodiversity within the boundary of the land available for the Proposed Development. We will demonstrate a biodiversity net gain on the site.</p> <p>As we develop the Proposed Development, we will protect the existing network of Public Right of Ways (PRoWs), comprising bridleways, footpaths and a byway. Security fencing, likely to be 2m in height to enclose the operational areas of the site, along with pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television deployed around the perimeter of the operational site, but this will not encroach on existing PRoWs.</p>
Future consultations schematics - Cliff Edge	<p>Request to see a schematic of what the solar arrays looked like from the cliff edge at the next consultation.</p>	<p>A description of the impacts from agreed viewpoints, including from the cliff, are included in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment within the PEI Report. Selected photomontages from 2 or 3 chosen viewpoints will be included at statutory consultation, with the full suite of photomontages to be available in the Environmental Statement as part of the DCO Application.</p>
Aerial Views and Flyovers	<p>Query as to whether aerial views and fly overs will be provided for the North Hykeham Relief Road project.</p>	<p>We will provide a range of maps and technical maps as part of our statutory consultation.</p> <p>As the North Hykeham Relief Road project has not been built yet, aerial views are not likely to be included as part of our materials for our statutory consultation.</p>



Topic Area 7: Comments on consultation		
Sub category	Feedback	FGE response
Grid connections	<p>Comment that it is not possible to respond on the two grid connection options if it is not publicly said where the project hopes to connect to the grid.</p>	<p>The electricity generated by Fosse Green Energy is expected to be exported into the national electricity transmission system at a new substation planned to be located near to Navenby.</p> <p>At the non-statutory consultation stage of our Proposed Development, we considered two different options for the grid connection corridor to the National Grid substation proposed near Navenby. At the PEI stage, this has been refined to a narrower single grid connection corridor that meets the objective of minimising environmental and social impact.</p> <p>At the time of writing, National Grid is consulting upon a proposed substation at Navenby, prior to submitting an application to North Kesteven District Council seeking planning consent.</p>
Communication	<p>Request to have open meetings to view plans and keep talking to local people.</p> <p>Concern that there has not been enough effort to advertise the events and proposal.</p> <p>Comment that 'covert meetings' with LCC / NKDC planning officers should be made public.</p>	<p>As part of our statutory consultation, we are planning a combination of in-person and online events which will be open to anyone to attend to learn more about the Proposed Development and ask any questions.</p> <p>We are advertising our consultation by direct mail to local residents and businesses within 3km of the boundary of the Proposed Development. We are also advertising in local print and digital newspapers and online, as well as in local libraries.</p> <p>We will have regular meetings with planning officers at Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council throughout the consultation process. The contents of these meetings relates to information made public at consultation.</p>



Topic Area 7: Comments on consultation		
Sub category	Feedback	FGE response
UK Manufacturing	Request for further consultation to include a commitment to a minimum proportion of the spend on UK manufactured items.	The project team has acknowledged your feedback. No decision has yet been made on where the equipment for the Proposed Development will be sourced from. This will depend on when construction is expected to begin.