Chapter 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1

Steeple Renewables Project

Land at Sturton le Steeple, Nottinghamshire

2. Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") sets out the approach taken to the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") process to date, explaining the methodology used to prepare the technical chapters of this PEIR and describes its structure and content. In particular, it sets out the process of identifying and assessing the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. This chapter also includes details of the consultation undertaken and the overall approach to the assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development. Further details of topic specific methodologies, such as survey methods, are provided in the relevant PEIR topic chapters (Chapters 6 – 17).

2.2 Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment

2.2.1 Scoping is the process of identifying the environmental topics that will require detailed assessment within the EIA (establishing the scope of the assessment). Scoping is therefore an important preliminary procedure, which sets the context for the EIA process. Through scoping, the key environmental issues of concern are identified at an early stage, which permits subsequent work to concentrate on those environmental topics for which significant effects may arise as a result of a development proposed on a site.

2.2.2 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as the "EIA Regulations"), allow an applicant to request that the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") (on behalf of the Secretary of State) sets out its opinion (known as a Scoping Opinion) as to the issues to be addressed in the EIA process. Whilst there is no formal requirement in the EIA Regulations to seek a Scoping Opinion prior to the submission of an application, it is recognised best practice to do so.

2.2.3 On 23rd April 2024, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to PINS, which described the scope and methodology for the technical studies being undertaken to provide an assessment of any likely significant effects and, where necessary, to determine suitable mitigation measures for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It also described those topics or sub-topics which are proposed to be scoped out of the EIA and provided

justification as to why the Proposed Development would not have the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects (see **Appendix 1.1 – Steeple Renewables Project Scoping Report**).

2.2.4 Following consultation with the statutory bodies, PINS (on behalf of the Secretary of State) provided a Scoping Opinion on the 3rd June 2024 (see **Appendix 1.2 – Steeple Renewables EIA Scoping Opinion**). The PEIR has also taken into account the EIA Scoping Response provided by the Environment Agency (see Appendix 1.3 – Environment Agency EIA Scoping Response), which did not form part of the SoS's EIA Scoping Opinion.

Topics Scoped into the ES

2.2.5 **Table 2.1** summarises the scope of the EIA process in the context of the requirements of Regulation 14(2) of the EIA Regulations. The environmental themes scoped into this PEIR and the subsequent ES are included in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Requirements (Regulation 14(2) of the EIA Regulations)

Required Information	Location within the PEIR
(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;	Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process
(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	• Chapter 3: The Site; • Chapter 4: The Proposed Development; • Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity; • Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity; • Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage; • Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 10: Socio-economics; • Chapter 11: Noise; • Chapter 12: Climate Change; • Chapter 13: Transport and Access; • Chapter 14: Air Quality; • Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture;
(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment	

Required Information	Location within the PEIR
	• Chapter 16: Glint and Glare; and • Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues. Cumulative effects and inter-relationship effects on the above factors are assessed under each environmental topic chapter under the headline 'Cumulative and Interactive Effects'
(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process
(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d); and	Standalone Non-Technical Summary
(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.	See **Appendix 2.1 - Schedule 4 Requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.**

Topics Scoped out of the ES

2.2.6 The EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1.1 – Steeple Renewables Project EIA Scoping Report**) proposed that several topics are not likely to cause significant effects, therefore not requiring a full chapter within this PEIR or the subsequent ES, in which PINS agreed on 3rd June 2024 via the formally adopted Scoping Opinion (**see Appendix 1.2 – Steeple Renewables Project EIA Scoping Opinion**). **Table 2.2** summarises why those environmental themes are scoped out of the PEIR and the subsequent ES.

Table 2.2 Environmental Topics Scoped out of the EIA

Environmental Topic	Reason for Scoping Out
Contamination	There is no history of significant contaminative processes on the Site nor have activities taken place that would be a high risk to unknown soil contamination; the majority of the Site has been in agricultural use. Therefore, there is no reason to expect any form of

Environmental Topic	Reason for Scoping Out
	land contamination. The land grade and soil structure of the Site has been considered and is contained within Chapter 15: 'Land Use and Agriculture'. Through the EIA Scoping process, PINS had set out that without a Phase 1 Contaminated Land report, it cannot be assumed that there is no soil contamination on the Site. Accordingly, the evidence of contaminants on the Site has been set out in the Phase 1 Geoenvironmental Desk Study Report that can be found at **Appendix 2.2**[1] of this PEIR. There are two active landfill records within 500m of the eastern portion of the Site, understood to relate to 'Bole Ings Site', known to store pulverised fuel ash on the north-eastern side of the West Burton Power Station site. However, at this stage, the potential for significant contamination is not anticipated. There are no significant off-site sources of potential soil or groundwater contaminants that could give rise to harm. There is low risk potential for ground gas generation on the Site. The land grade and soil structure of the Site has been considered and contained within Chapter 15 'Land Use and Agriculture'.
Material Assets	The EIA Regulations refer to 'material assets', including cultural heritage, architectural and archaeological aspects and landscape. The term 'material assets' has a broad scope, which may include an asset of human or natural origin, valued for heritage, landscape or socioeconomic reasons. It is not considered that there are any further 'material assets' to those already addressed within Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage, and Chapter 10: Socio-Economics. Therefore, no separate consideration of 'material assets' is considered necessary.
Risk of Major Accidents and Disasters	The nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development is not considered to be vulnerable to or give rise to significant impacts in relation to the Risk of Accidents and Major Disasters[2]. Potential effects relating to soil conditions, surface water flooding and

[1] Please note that Appendix 2.2 'Phase 1 Geoenvironmental Desk Study Report' comprises a number of appendices. Appendix B and C of Appendix 2.2 have not been printed to paper; however, they are available electronically upon request.

[2] No definition of 'major accidents and disasters' is provided in the EIA Regulations, however the IEMA Article on 'Assessing Risks of Major Accidents / Disasters in EIA' produced by WSP in 2016 provides the following definition "man-made and natural risks which are considered to be likely, and are anticipated to result in substantial harm that the normal functioning of the project is unable to cope with/rectify i.e. a significant effect."

Environmental Topic	Reason for Scoping Out
	climate change are all considered in other EIA topics. Therefore, a standalone EIA chapter for 'Risk of Major Accidents and Disasters' was confirmed not to be included as specified in the Scoping Opinion provided by PINS. However, PINS did set out that the risk of fire associated with battery storage facilities should be assessed within the ES, and if required, relevant mitigation should be proposed (see Chapter 17 'Miscellaneous Issues'). During all phases of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning) the developer would implement measures to be in accordance with the relevant health and safety legislation, regulations, and industry guidance to ensure that risks are suitably controlled and managed (e.g., in relation to working near to overhead power lines or electrical infrastructure). A draft Construction Methodology is provided in **Chapter 4: Proposed Development**, which would inform the Construction and Environmental Management Plan. Similarly, an Outline Decommissioning Plan will be submitted with the Development Consent Order ("DCO") Application, which will inform the Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan when the lifetime of the Proposed Development has expired. Risk of battery fire and explosion is addressed at Chapter 17: Miscellaneous Issues, where information regarding the measures in place designed to minimise impacts on the environment in the event of such an occurrence are detailed.
Human Health	The potential effects on human health will be considered within Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity, Chapter 10: Socio-Economics, Chapter 11: Noise, and Chapter 14: Air Quality and therefore the scope of effects on Human Health have been shaped by their assessment criteria and scope of works. This approach was confirmed in the Scoping Opinion provided by PINS.

Transboundary Effects

2.2.7 The EIA Regulations require consideration of transboundary effects of development on the environment. Transboundary effects are the effects of a project on the environment of another European Economic Area ("EEA") member state.

2.2.8 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the EIA Regulations requires that:

"the likely significant effects of the development on the environment must be considered… taking into account - … (c) the transboundary nature of the impact".

2.2.9 Further, Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations state that the ES must include:

"the description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary… effects of the development"

2.2.10 Regulation 32 also obligates the Secretary of State (or PINS on behalf of the Secretary of State) to form a view on the potential for transboundary impacts and, where relevant, consult with relevant EEA states.

2.2.11 The Scoping Opinion provided by PINS outlined given the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development, PINS does not consider that it has the potential for significant transboundary effects on the environment of any EEA State. As such, transboundary effects have been scoped out of the EIA.

2.3 General Assessment Approach

2.3.1 The ES must contain the information specified in Regulation 14(2) and must meet the requirements of Regulation 14(3) and 14(4). It must also include any additional information specified in Schedule 4 - Information for Inclusion in Environmental Statements of the EIA Regulations which is relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.

2.3.2 The PEIR has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the EIA Regulations, comprising the following information detailed in Regulation 14(2), 14(3), 14(4) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations below.

2.3.3 Regulation 14(2), 14(3) and 14(4) sets out that:

"(2) An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least—

(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;

(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;

(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;

(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;

(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and

(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.

(3) The environmental statement referred to in paragraph (1) must—

(a) where a scoping opinion has been adopted, be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion);

(b) include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and

(c) be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which is reasonably available to the applicant with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.

(4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement—

(a) the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and

(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts".

2.3.4 Schedule 4 sets out that the PEIR must contain:

"1. A description of the development, including in particular—

(a) a description of the location of the development;

(b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;

(c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used;

(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.

2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.

3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.

4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.

5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia—

(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;

(b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;

(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;

(d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);

(e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;

(f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;

(g) the technologies and the substances used.

The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC(2).

6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.

7. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.

8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant

information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom (4) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.

9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under Paragraphs 1 to 8.

10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the Environmental Statement."

2.3.5 In preparing the PEIR, reference has also been made to the following government or institute guidance:

- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects)[3];
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)[4]
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[5];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (DESNZ, 2023)[6];
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (2024)[7];

[3] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[4] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1 [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[5] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3 [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[6] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5 [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[7] PINS (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation [last accessed 4th November 2024].

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (2024)[8];
- Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping (2020)[9];
- Advice Note Nine: Using the Rochdale Envelope (2018)[10];
- Advice Note Eleven: Working with Public Bodies in the Infrastructure Planning Process (2024)[11];
- Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Process (2024)[12];
- Advice on Cumulative Effects (2024)[13];
- Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Shaping Quality Development (2015)[14];
- Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Delivering Quality Development (2016)[15];
- Health in Environmental Impact Assessment: A Primer for a Proportional Approach (2022)[16];

[8] PINS (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Documents [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-preparation-and-submission-of-application-documents [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[9] PINS (2020) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[10] PINS (2018) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice Note Nine : Rochdale Envelope [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[11] PINS (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice on Working with Public Bodies in the Infrastructure Planning Process [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-working-with-public-bodies-in-the-infrastructure-planning-process [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[12] PINS (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Processes [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-transboundary-impacts-and-process [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[13] PINS (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment [last accessed 4th November 2024].
[14] IEMA (2015) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development
[15] IEMA (2016) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Delivering Quality Development
[16] IEMA (2022) Health in Environmental Impact Assessment: A Primer for a Proportional Approach

- Delivering Proportionate EIA: A Collaborative Strategy for Enhancing UK Environmental Impact Assessment Practice (2017)[17];
- IEMA Guide to: Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment- Guidance for a Proportionate Approach (2020)[18];
- IEMA Guide: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)[19]; and
- IEMA Guide: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance. 2nd Edition (2022)[20].

2.4 Development Parameters and the Rochdale Envelope

2.4.1 The Proposed Development is described in more detail within **Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process** and **Chapter 4: Proposed Development**. Together, these contain the parameters and controls defining those aspects of the Proposed Development capable of having significant environmental effects, as defined in the EIA Regulations. A series of project parameters (see **Figure 2.1 Construction Phase Parameter Plan** and **Figure 2.2 Operational Phase Parameter Plan**) have been prepared and used for assessments within this PEIR. As the environmental assessments progress the parameters plans will develop into an Indicative Site Layout which will form the basis for assessment within the subsequent ES.

2.4.2 The matters encapsulated within the parameter plans for assessment within this PEIR include:

- Above ground works associated with the Proposed Development on the Site;
- Land Use – Ecological Enhancements, Solar Panels, Energy Storage, Substations, existing utilities and landforms such as drains and ditches; and
- Access points from the Highway to the Proposed Development, Cable Route and Substation Area.

[17] IEMA (2017) Guide to: Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment- Guidance for a Proportionate Approach
[18] IEMA (2020) Guide to: Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment – Guidance for a Proportionate Approach
[19] IEMA (2022) Guide: A New Perspective on Land and Soil and Environmental Impact Assessment
[20] IEMA (2022) Guide: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating Their Significance

2.4.3 Where flexibility is required, guidance produced by PINS with regard to the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach has therefore been applied within the PEIR to ensure a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters for the elements where flexibility needs to be retained, recognising that the worst-case parameter for one technical assessment may differ from another.

2.4.4 Any assumptions made regarding the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) design scenarios have been identified in each of the topic chapters and have been selected as those having the potential to result in the greatest effect on an identified receptor or receptor group.

2.4.5 Each of the technical chapters comprising this PEIR describe the parameters applied in relation to the particular discipline. As the design of the Proposed Development evolves, key elements of the design may be fixed. However, it is likely that flexibility will need to be maintained for some aspects of the Proposed Development for the DCO application. Where flexibility is to be retained in the Application for Development Consent, any changes to design parameters will remain within the likely worst-case envelope such that they will not give rise to any materially more adverse environmental effects than those assessed within the EIA. Justification for the need to retain flexibility in certain parameters is outlined in **Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process**.

2.5 Preliminary Environmental Information Report Assessment Methodology

2.5.1 The content of the PEIR is based on the following:

- Review of the baseline situation through existing information, including data, reports, site surveys and desktop studies;
- Consideration of the relevant local, regional and national planning policies, guidelines and legislation relevant to the EIA such as the National Policy Statements (EN1, EN3 and EN5), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and accompanying National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), and the statutory extant and emerging development plan policies;
- Consideration of potential sensitive receptors;

- Identification of likely significant environmental effects and an evaluation of their duration and magnitude;
- Expert opinion;
- Modelling and calculations;
- Use of relevant technical and good practice guidance; and
- Specific consultations with appropriate bodies.

2.5.2 Each technical chapter provides details of the methodology for baseline data collection and the approach to the preliminary assessment of effects. Each environmental topic has been considered by a specialist in that area.

2.5.3 Each topic chapter defines the scope of the assessment within the methodology section, together with details of the study area, desk study and survey work undertaken.

2.5.4 Environmental effects have been evaluated with reference to definitive standards and legislation, where available. Where it has not been possible to quantify effects, assessment have been based on available knowledge and professional judgement.

2.6 Structure of the Technical Chapters

2.6.1 Throughout the EIA process, the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed. Each technical chapter of the PEIR has generally been set out in the way shown in **Table 2.3** below.

Table 2.3 Structure of the Technical Chapter

Section	Description
Introduction	Introduces the topic under consideration, states the purpose of undertaking the assessment.
Assessment Approach	Describes the method and scope of the assessment undertaken and responses to consultation in relation to method and scope in each case pertinent to the topic under consideration.
Baseline Conditions	Describes the baseline conditions pertinent to the topic under consideration including baseline survey information.

Section	Description
Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	Identifies the likely effects, evaluates those effects and assesses their significance, considering the construction, operational and decommissioning phases and direct and indirect effects.
Mitigation and Enhancement	Describes the mitigation strategies for the significant effects identified and sets out any residual effects from the Proposed Development, after the implementation of mitigation.
Cumulative and In-combination Effects	Considers potential cumulative and in-combination[21] effects with those of other developments in the area.
Summary	A non-technical summary of the chapter, including baseline conditions, likely significant effects, mitigation and conclusion.

2.7 Determining the Baseline Conditions

2.7.1 The existing and likely future environmental conditions in the absence of the Proposed Development are known as 'baseline conditions'. Each topic-based chapter includes a description of the current (baseline) environmental conditions. The baseline conditions at the Site and within the study area form the basis of the assessment, enabling the likely significant effects to be identified through a comparison with the baseline conditions.

2.7.2 Consideration has been given as to how the baseline conditions would evolve in the absence of the Proposed Development, known as the 'future baseline'.

2.7.3 The consideration of future baseline conditions has also taken into account the likely effects of climate change, as far as these are known at the time of writing. This has been based on information available from the UK Climate Projections project,

[21] An 'in-combination' effect can occur when a single receptor (e.g., a residential property) is affected by more than one impact arising from the Proposed Development (e.g., noise and air quality impacts arising from the excavation of soils).

developed by the Met Office and Environment Agency[22], which provides information on plausible changes in climate for the UK.

2.7.4 Topic authors have also considered other factors relevant to identification of future baseline conditions, such as trends in population size of protected species or changes in socio-economic conditions over time.

2.8 Assessment Years

2.8.1 The approach to assessment has incorporated the use of identified assessment years to allow for preliminary evaluation of the likely effects during the phased construction and operation of the Proposed Development. The following assessment years have been used to inform this PEIR:

- Existing Baseline (2023 / 2024) – this is the principal baseline against which environmental effects will be assessed in which the baseline studies for the EIA are being undertaken. Some survey work has taken place in 2023, hence the spread in years for the existing baseline;
- Future baseline (Without the Proposed Development) is set out for each topic, where needed, within the respective chapter;
- Construction (2027 - 2029) (With the Proposed Development): - The length of the construction programme for the purposes of the EIA is anticipated to be 2027-2029. This assumes that the Proposed Development is built over a 24-month period. This is a likely 'worst-case' scenario from a traffic generation point of view as it compresses the trip numbers into a shorter duration and represents the greatest impact on the highway network. A lengthened construction phase would likely result in lower traffic, air quality and noise impacts; therefore, the likely worst-case scenario has been assessed within the PEIR.
- Operation (2029 – 2069) (With the Proposed Development): - This assumes that the Proposed Development will be operational during the latter part of 2029 and is determined by the timeframe National Grid has stated within their Grid Offer for completion of the connection at the existing West Burton Power Substation.
- Decommissioning (2069) –It is proposed that the Proposed Development will be decommissioned after 40 years of operation.

[22] Met Office (2018) UK Climate Projections (UKCP) [online] available at: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp [last accessed 4th November 2024].

2.9 Determining Significance of Effects

2.9.1 The purpose of the EIA is to identify the likely 'significance' of environmental effects (beneficial or adverse) arising from a Proposed Development. In broad terms, environmental effects are described as:

- Adverse - detrimental or negative effects to an environmental resource or receptor;
- Beneficial - advantageous or positive effect to an environmental resource or receptor; or
- Neutral - a neutral effect to an environmental resource or receptor.

2.9.2 Effects will be considered against three phases of the development; the construction phase, operational phase and decommissioning phase.

2.9.3 The construction phase effects are those effects that result from activities during enabling works, construction, and commissioning activities. This covers sources of effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, risk of fuel/oil spillage, and the visual effect of plant and machinery on site. Here it should be borne in mind that beneficial effects can occur, that can be determined as 'significant', for example the beneficial economic effects arising from the construction of the Proposed Development. Some aspects of construction related effects will last for longer than others. For example, impacts related to earth moving are likely to be relatively short in duration compared with the construction of energy infrastructure and landscaping activities, which are likely to persist throughout the entire construction period.

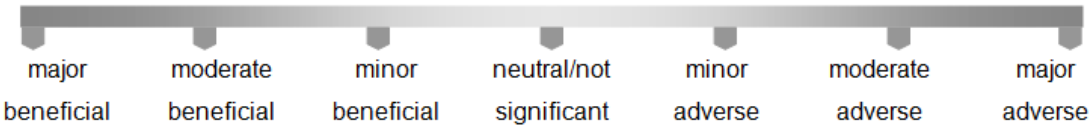
2.9.4 Operational effects are the effects that are associated with operational and maintenance activities during the generating lifetime of the Proposed Development. This includes the effects of the physical presence of the energy infrastructure, and its operation, use and maintenance. Timescales associated with these enduring effects are as follows:

- Short term – a period of months, up to one year;
- Medium term – a period of more than one year, up to five years; and
- Long term – a period of greater than five years.

2.9.5 If there is any variation with the above time periods, then this is set out within the respective PEIR chapter.

2.9.6 Decommissioning effects are changes resulting from activities beginning and ending during the decommissioning stage. This covers sources of effects such as decommissioning site traffic, recycling of solar PV panels, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, risk of fuel/oil spillage, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site, for example. Typically, decommissioning phase effects are similar in nature to the construction phase, although may be of shorter duration and of slightly less intensity.

2.9.7 It is proposed that the level of environmental effects (adverse, negligible/neutral or beneficial) would be described in accordance with the following 7-point scale:



2.9.8 The level of effect reflects the relationship between two factors:

- The magnitude or severity of an effect (i.e. the actual change taking place to the environment); and
- The sensitivity, importance or value of the resource or receptor.

2.9.9 The broad criteria for determining magnitude are set out in **Table 2.4.**

Table 2.4: Degrees of Magnitude and their Criteria

Magnitude of Effect	Criteria
High	Total loss or major/substantial alteration to elements/features of the baseline (pre-development) conditions such that the post development character/composition/attributes will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Loss or alteration to one or more elements/features of the baseline conditions such that post development character/composition/attributes of the baseline will be materially changed.
Low	A minor shift away from baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration will be discernible / detectable but the underlying character / composition / attributes of the baseline condition will be similar to the pre-development.
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions. Change not material, barely distinguishable or indistinguishable, approximating to a 'no change' situation

Magnitude of Effect	Criteria
None	No change from the baseline conditions.

2.9.10 The sensitivity of a receptor is based on the relative importance of the receptor using the scale in **Table 2.5.**

Table 2.5 Degrees of Sensitivity and their Criteria

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	The receptor / resource has little ability to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, or is of international or national importance.
Medium	The receptor / resource has moderate capacity to absorb change without significantly altering its present character, or is of high and more than local (but not national or international) importance.
Low	The receptor / resource is tolerant of change without detrimental effect, is of low or local importance.
Negligible	The receptor / resource can accommodate change without material effect, is of limited importance.

2.9.11 Placement within the 7-point significance scale would be derived from the interaction of the receptor's sensitivity and the magnitude of change likely to be experienced (as above), assigned in accordance with **Table 2.6**, whereby effects assigned a rating of Major or Moderate would be considered as 'significant'.

Table 2.6: Degrees of Significance

Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity of Receptor				
		High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Negligible**
	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor / Moderate	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor / Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

2.9.12 The above magnitude and significance criteria are provided as a guide for specialists to categorise the significance of effects within the ES. Where discipline-specific methodology has been applied that differs from the generic criteria above, this is clearly explained within the given chapter under the heading of Assessment Approach.

2.9.13 As can be seen from **Table 2.6**, when an environmental effect is assessed as having a major or moderate degree of significance it is deemed to be 'significant'. These are the cells shaded in orange in **Table 2.6**. When such a significant effect occurs, consideration of mitigation solutions or enhancements to minimise the effect (which can include design alterations) will be considered. Once these mitigations and enhancements have been assessed the degree of significance may decrease to minor/moderate, minor or negligible.

2.10 Addressing Uncertainty in Assessment

2.10.1 There is some degree of inherent uncertainty within the EIA process, in relation to factors such as future improvements to construction and design, the potential effects of climate change on existing receptors and in terms of the margin of error within forecasting and modelling tools. In all cases, where uncertainty exists, or where difficulties have been encountered, this has been identified within the relevant chapter of the PEIR, together with details of the measures that have been taken to reduce uncertainty as far as reasonably practicable. As the EIA process progresses, the degree of uncertainty is anticipated to reduce.

2.10.2 The assessment of construction and decommissioning effects will be undertaken based on existing knowledge, techniques and equipment. A 'reasonable worst-case' scenario will be used with respect to the envisaged construction methods, location (proximity to sensitive receptors), phasing and timing of construction activities.

2.10.3 Where modelling tools have been used within the topic assessments, care has been taken to ensure that the tool selected is appropriate for the assessment, taking into account topic-specific good practice and guidance. Calibration has been used to ensure a reasonable degree of accuracy in measurements. Topic chapters within the PEIR set out measures taken to address any uncertainty with regard to modelling inputs and outputs and any assumptions made.

2.11 Mitigation

2.11.1 The EIA Regulations (Regulation 14(2)(c)) require that where significant effects are identified, *"a description of any feature of the Project, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects on the environment"* should be provided.

2.11.2 The development of mitigation measures is part of the iterative EIA process. Therefore, measures are under consideration throughout the EIA process in response to the findings of initial assessments. The Proposed Development has had several measures incorporated into the concept design to avoid or minimise environmental impacts. In some cases, these measures may result in enhancement of environmental conditions.

2.11.3 Where mitigation measures are proposed that are specific to an environmental theme (i.e. ecological measures incorporated into the landscaping scheme etc) and incorporated into the design, these are also outlined within **Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process**, and highlighted within the relevant technical chapter.

2.11.4 Where the assessment of the Proposed Development has identified potential for significant adverse environmental effects, the scope for mitigation of those effects has been considered and is outlined in the appropriate technical chapter. It is assumed that such measures would be subject to appropriate DCO requirements.

2.11.5 Where the effectiveness of the mitigation proposed has been considered uncertain, or where it depends upon assumptions of operating procedures, then data and/or professional judgement has been introduced to support these assumptions.

2.11.6 The topic chapters included within this PEIR consider the following mitigation types:

- Measures included as part of the Proposed Development design (sometimes referred to as mitigation by design or embedded mitigation);
- Measures proposed to avoid effects occurring or to minimise environmental effects, and are not included within the design (referred to as additional mitigation); and

- Measures proposed that bring additional benefits to the Proposed Development but are not necessary to make the development acceptable (referred to as enhancements).

2.11.7 Standard measures and the adoption of construction best practice methods to avoid, minimise or manage adverse environmental effects, or to ensure realisation of beneficial effects, are assumed to have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development and the methods of its construction from the outset.

2.11.8 As the EIA process progresses, further work in relation to mitigation measures will be undertaken and this will inform the design of the Proposed Development for which development consent is sought. This will be reflected in the ES. The draft DCO will be developed to secure the measures identified in the ES and any draft management plans.

2.12 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

2.12.1 Cumulative effects are assessed under two types of relationships:

- Inter-project effects: combined effect of individual development - for example, noise, dust and visual on one particular assessment; and
- Inter-relationship: several developments with insignificant impacts individually but which together represent a significant cumulative effect.

Legislative and Policy Context

2.12.2 With respect to inter-project cumulative effects, the EIA Regulations state that consideration should be given to:

"…other existing and/or approved projects taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources…".

2.12.3 Schedule 4, Paragraph 5(e)) in relation to cumulative effects. No further guidance or requirement beyond the need for the requirement for an assessment of the interrelationships between types of effect is provided.

2.12.4 Schedule 4 Part 1 of the EIA Regulations requires:

"a description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:

- *The existence of the development;*
- *The use of natural resources;*
- *The emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste; and*
- *The description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment."*

2.12.5 In-combination effects arise where effects from one environmental element bring about changes in another environmental element. Examples of types of interactive effects may include, for example effects of water discharges on ecology or effects of landscaping on ecology. The potential for such effects is reviewed in the technical chapters of the PEIR. The assessment of inter-related project effects and inter-relationship effects presented in this PEIR is based on information known about the Proposed Development at this stage. The assessment will be further refined at the ES stage to produce a conclusion on whether likely significant inter-related effects would arise.

2.12.6 PINS Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment[23] provides a clear and systematic approach to cumulative effects which forms the basis of the cumulative effects assessment for the Proposed Development. The approach consists of a four stage process which is further described below in **Table 2.7.**

2.12.7 In relation to the assessment of inter-relationships, the PINS Rochdale Envelope Advice Note Nine (PINS, 2018) states that the assessment should *"ensure that the assessment of the worst case scenario(s) addresses impacts which may not be significant on their own but could become significant when they inter-relate with other impacts alone or cumulatively with impacts from other development (including those identified in other aspect assessments)".*

Cumulative Effects Assessment Approach

2.12.8 This PEIR provides an initial consideration of cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with the environmental effects of other existing and/or approved schemes on sensitive receptors identified through the assessment process. The scope of the final cumulative assessment included within the ES shall

[23] PINS (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment [last accessed 3rd December 2024].

include for the identification of a long list of developments within the appropriate Zone of Influence (ZoI) for each topic discipline, which will form the basis of the search area for the cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will draw upon the method as set out within PINS Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment.

2.12.9 **Table 2.7** sets out the four-stage process to assess cumulative effects:

Table 2.7 Summary of the Four Stage Process for Cumulative Effects Assessment

Cumulative Effect Assessment Stage	Description of Stage
Stage 1	Establish the National Significant Infrastructure Project's Zone of Influence and identify long list of 'other existing and/or approved developments'.
Stage 2	Identify shortlist of 'other existing and/or approved developments' for Cumulative Effects Assessment.
Stage 3	Information gathering of the 'other existing and/or developments'.
Stage 4	An assessment of the likely cumulative effects. Mitigation measures are identified (where appropriate) where an adverse cumulative effect is identified. The apportionment of effect between the Proposed Development and the 'other developments' is considered, e.g., whether the contribution to the effect is demonstrably related to one development or whether there is an equal contribution from either development.

Stage 1

Establishing the Long List

2.12.10 A review of other developments will be undertaken, initially encompassing a ZoI defined by the environmental topic specialists to prepare a long list of 'other existing and/or approved developments'.

2.12.11 The long list of other existing and/or approved development will be established using the tiered approach in accordance with PINS Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment Table 2 Assigning certainty to 'other existing and/or approved development'.

2.12.12 Developments included in the initial long list will be based on the following criteria:

1. Large-scale development currently under construction;
2. Approved applications which have not yet been implemented;
3. Large-scale submitted applications not yet determined;
4. Refused large-scale applications, subject to appeal procedures not yet determined;
5. On the National Infrastructure Planning Programme of Projects;
6. Development identified in the relevant Development Plan (and emerging Development Plans); and
7. Development identified in other plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consents/approvals where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.

2.12.13 Criteria will be developed and applied to filter developments which may be excluded from the initial long list, having regard to the size and spatial influence of each development. This long list will be kept under continual review up until the point of determination of the application to ensure that the information within the ES is up to date at the time that the decision is made.

Zone of Influence

2.12.14 The 'Zone of Influence' for each environmental topic area will be identified based on the extent of likely effects as identified as the study area in each of the individual topic chapters (Chapters 6 - 17) of this PEIR. The 'Zone of Influence' will be identified in line with industry specific guidance along with professional judgement and knowledge of the local area relevant to each environmental topic area. The identified 'Zone of Influences' will be presented in the subsequent ES.

Stage 2

2.12.15 There is no formal guidance on the size of a 'Study Area' when considering the cumulative impact of a development. Factors such as topography of a landscape can affect the extent of a visual envelope for cumulative or sequential views; flight lines for birds moving from a roosting to a feeding ground could affect the cumulative impact on ecology. As a result, consideration will be given to the known environmental constraints on and around the Proposed Development to determine what factors could affect extent of cumulative sites.

2.12.16 To ensure that the cumulative assessment will be proportionate, threshold criteria will be applied to the long list to establish a shortlist. The criteria will ensure that only other existing and/or approved development, which is likely to result in significant cumulative effects, is taken forward to the assessment stage. The threshold criteria that will be used will consider the following factors:

- Temporal scope;
- Scale and nature of the development;
- Other factors such as, nature and capacity of the receiving environment, source-pathway-receptor approach; and
- Professional judgement.

2.12.17 The Scoping Response from PINS (see **Appendix 1.2 – EIA Scoping Response**) stated that the study area for the cumulative sites with reference to relevant guidance and that the subsequent ES should provide a clear justification for the extent of each ZoI and how it captures the effects from the Proposed Development.

2.12.18 Following on from the Scoping Response, the shortlist for 'other developments' has been reviewed and the list of sites to be considered within the PEIR has been expanded. The cumulative assessment within the PEIR will consider the schemes set out within in **Table 2.9** below.

Table 2.8 Details of Shortlist Cumulative Schemes

No.	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP?	Reference Number	Size and Nature of the Scheme	Approx. Distance from the Site
1	Cottam Solar	West Lindsey District Council	Yes	EN010133	Solar energy generation and battery storage in excess of 50MW.	8km to the east
2	North Humber to High Marnam	East Riding of Yorkshire; North Lincolnshire; and	Yes	EN020034	Reinforcement of the National Grid transmission network (i.e., a new ~90km	12km to the south

No.	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP?	Reference Number	Size and Nature of the Scheme	Approx. Distance from the Site
		Bassetlaw District			transmission line).	
3	Gate Burton Energy Park	Bassetlaw District Council; West Lindsey District Council	Yes	EN010131	Solar energy energy generating scheme in excess of 50MW	300m to the east
4	Great North Road Solar Park	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Yes	EN010162	Slar photovoltaic array generating station, battery energy storage system and grid connection infrastructure, with a maximum generation capacity of 800MW	20km to the south
5	Tillbridge Solar Project	West Lindsey District Council; Bassetlaw District Council	Yes	EN010142	Generating station with an anticipated capacity in excess of 50MW, comprising ground mounted solar arrays, with associated development comprising energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and other	9.5km to the north-east

No.	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP?	Reference Number	Size and Nature of the Scheme	Approx. Distance from the Site
					associated development	
6	West Burton C Power Station	Bassetlaw District Council	Yes	EN010088	Power station capable of generating up to 299MW of electrical generation capacity	Adjacent to the north-east of the Site
7	West Burton Solar Project	West Lindsey District Council	Yes	EN010132	Four electricity generating stations, each with anticipated capacity in excess of 50MW, comprising of ground mounted solar arrays, with associated development comprising energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure	8km to the south-east
8	One Earth Solar Farm	Bassetlaw District Council	Yes	EN010159	Solar farm and collated BESS allowing for the generation, export and storage of electricity exceeding 50 MW.	9km to the south

No.	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP?	Reference Number	Size and Nature of the Scheme	Approx. Distance from the Site
9	Land to the East of Bumble Bee Farm	Bassetlaw District Council	No	22/00358/FUL	Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure (49.9MW)	2.5km to the north
10	Land North and South of Tuxford Road	Bassetlaw District Council	No	21/01147/FUL	Installation of a solar farm and battery storage with associated infrastructure (49.9 MW)	12km to the south
11	Tiln Farm Land Tiln Lane	Bassetlaw District Council	No	20/01405/FUL	Installation and operation of a solar fam with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure	3.6km to the west
12	Land North West And South Of Field Farm	Bassetlaw District Council	No	20/00117/FUL	Installation and operation of a solar farm comprising an array of ground mounted solar PV panels with associated infrastructure including housing for inverters a substation compound, point of	Adjacent to the west

No.	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP?	Reference Number	Size and Nature of the Scheme	Approx. Distance from the Site
					connection mast, fencing, security cameras, cabling, access tracks and a temporary construction compound.	
13	Land East of Gainsborough Road	Bassetlaw District Council	No	22/01713/FUL	Construction and Operation of a Battery Energy Storage System with an Electrical Output Capacity of up to 500MW and Associated Development Including Power Inverter Systems, Electrical Banking Station, Electrical Cabling including Below Ground Cabling to 400KV Switchyard, Welfare Facilities, Internal Access Roads, Site Security Infrastructure, Lighting,	Adjacent to the north

No.	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP?	Reference Number	Size and Nature of the Scheme	Approx. Distance from the Site
					Boundary Treatments, and Landscaping.	
14	West Burton Power Station	Bassetlaw District Council	No	23/00485/DEM	Site clearance (demolition) of West Burton A Power Station	Adjacent to the north
15	Land to North and East of Sturton le Steeple	Notts County Council	No	1/46/11/00002/R	Application to extend the time limit for implementation of sand and gravel extraction, previously granted under planning permission 1/46/06/00014	Adjacent to the south-east

2.12.19 The cumulative schemes set out in **Table 2.9** are shown on **Figure 2.3 – Cumulative Schemes Plan**.

2.12.20 Where schemes have been discounted from the shortlist, they will continue to be monitored to ensure that any changes to those schemes are identified and their omission from the shortlist is reassessed.

2.12.21 The longlist and the shortlist have not yet been finalised and views are actively being invited on schemes that should be added to the longlist for consideration. Any other schemes that are identified, will be considered in the long list and a decision will be taken using the assessment criteria and professional judgement applied to determine whether the scheme(s) will be included in the shortlist.

2.12.22 Any new schemes added to the shortlist will be assessed in the ES. The longlist and the shortlist will be finalised in advance of submission of the DCO Application.

Stage 3

2.12.23 A desk study search of the environmental information available for each of the 'other developments' has been undertaken. This included searching on Local Planning Authorities and PINS websites. The information gathered has been used to identify the likely significant cumulative effects. In our ongoing consultations with Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, requests have been made to determine if there are any other schemes, which may not be in the wider public domain, that should be included within the cumulative assessment, seeking to ensure that the list of 'other developments' is robust.

2.13 General Assumptions and Limitations

2.13.1 The principal assumptions that have been made and any limitations that have been identified in preparing this PEIR are set out below:

- All of the principal land uses adjoining the Proposed Development remain as present day, except where redevelopment proposals have been granted planning consent. In those cases it is assumed the redevelopment proposals will be implemented or would but for the development being implemented;
- Information received from third parties is complete and up-to-date;
- The design, construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development will satisfy legislative requirements; and
- Requirements will be attached to the DCO with regards "mitigation", where considered necessary to make the development acceptable.

2.13.2 The PEIR provides a preliminary view on the likely significant effects and the appropriate methodologies to assess and address those effects. The environmental assessment is ongoing and, therefore, the development of the design and appropriate mitigation, monitoring and enhancement measures will be refined alongside the continued assessment and taking into account the consultation responses received. The findings will be reported in the ES, which will form part of the application for development consent.