Questions regarding the Solar Farms for South Norfolk.

1. How have fields which are classed as the 2 nd highest food producing category land, are close to housing and housing developments in and populated areas been selected?

There are a number of factors that influence site selection and the siting of the Scheme. One of the key factors influencing the location of the Scheme was the availability of securing a grid connection. Once a grid connection was agreed with National Grid, suitable land within feasible proximity to this, which was available from willing landowners and not subject to significant technical or environmental constraints, was considered for the Scheme.

Soil and Agricultural Land Classification surveys have been undertaken across parts of the Site. The finals survey results will be contained in the Environmental Statement to be submitted within the DCO application.

Based on the ALC surveys to date, the Site comprises Grade 2 to Grade 4 agricultural land, most of which has been identified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a quality. The Site therefore comprises BMV land. PEIR Volume I Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture provides a more detailed overview of the likely effects as a result of the Scheme. PEIR Volume III Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report provides a detailed breakdown of the ALC classifications across the whole Site.

There are a number of farm businesses operating on the Site. The land under and around the solar PV arrays will be kept in grassland use and potentially farmed by the grazing of sheep or production of hay/silage.

2. Can you give evidence and assurances that all alternatives have been explored and ruled out and that these sites are the only possible sites given the question above?

The 10 solar PV sites were considered suitable for the following reasons:

- There is available land from willing landowners;
- They benefit from good levels of sunlight (irradiance) ensuring efficient electricity generation;
- The general topography of the sites is relatively flat, making it particularly suitable for solar energy generation;
- Access to the sites is relatively well served by the existing road network;
- The majority of the sites are located within areas that are at low risk of flooding; and
- The sites are neither subject to international/ European designated ecological sites nor nationally designated landscapes.

Further details on the initial site selection process undertaken to date can be found in the PEIR Volume I Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives and Design Evolution. This details how There is no standardised approach to site selection for solar energy generating stations, however Securing a viable grid connection is a fundamental consideration, as set out in paragraphs 2.10.21 to 2.10.26 of NPS EN-3. Other factors outlined in NPS EN-3 also influence site selection, together with planning and environmental constraints, such as nationally designated landscapes and designated international and national ecological and geological sites. Land availability and assembly is another important factor in the site selection process, with the preference to secure land through voluntary agreements rather than rely on compulsory acquisition. Voluntary agreements have therefore been key in the assembly of the land for the Scheme.

The Applicant has entered into a Grid Connection Agreement with National Grid for the export and import of 500MW of electricity at a new PoC (point of connection) to the National Electricity Transmission System. The Scheme will aim to fully utilise the capacity of the Grid Connection Agreement.

3. Can you provide evidence that all other possible avenues have been exhausted, such as solar panels on all new and existing buildings. Wouldn't using space we already have be preferable to carving up the countryside, using food production sites and displacing wildlife be preferable, although perhaps not cheaper or as profitable?

The UK has set ambitious climate change targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions and to ensure that the energy supply remains secure, reliable and affordable. Together with legally binding commitments such as these, the UK Government has further set out how the deployment of renewable technologies such as solar will be accelerated in the Government's Make Britain a clean energy superpower (2024).

In relation to site selection, regard has been had to the policy and legal requirements set out in PEIR Volume I Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives and Design Evolution.

The site selection process was considered based on the following:

- Network connection;
- Irradiance and site topography;
- Proximity of a site to dwellings;
- Agriculture land classification and land type;
- Accessibility;
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW); and
- Security and lighting.

Local biodiversity

In many instances, solar farms provide a range of environmental and biodiversity benefits. It is our ambition to design East Pye Solar in a way that boosts and enhances local wildlife by delivering a net gain in biodiversity of at least 10%.

Ecological surveys are being carried out to help us better understand the site, ensure that ecologically valuable areas are identified and safeguarded, and identify opportunities to create new or improved habitats for wildlife. Solar farms have been proven to enhance biodiversity, including through the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The biodiversity value of the site will increase through the creation of new habitats, such as species-rich hedgerows, tree planting and the use of species-rich grassland mixes, alongside the enhancement of existing habitats.

- A preliminary summary of mitigation measures embedded within the Scheme is provided below:
- Restricting development in ecologically-sensitive locations and applying appropriate development offsets and buffers from important ecological receptors including off-site Ancient Woodland, statutory and non-statutory designated sites, ponds, hedgerows and watercourses (as defined in PEIR Volume I Chapter 5: Scheme Description).
- Retention and enhancement of existing semi-natural vegetation throughout the Site, wherever possible.
- Reinforcement of existing field boundaries, where appropriate through a combination of underplanting, new planting and/or hedge laying.
- New soft landscape planting to provide enhanced ecological connectivity, green infrastructure, and biodiversity opportunities.

Our PEIR Volume I Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity has considered the preliminary findings of the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme in relation to ecology and biodiversity.

Agricultural land

We are carrying out surveys on the agricultural land within the Site to identify its Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grading.

The ALC framework uses a grading system to assess the land quality – Grade 1 being the highest quality land, and Grade 5 being the lowest. Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is graded between 1 and 3a, meaning land ranges from ‘excellent’ to ‘good’ quality land. Non-BMV land is graded from 3b to 5.

Soil and ALC surveys have been undertaken across parts of the Site. The final survey results will be contained in the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the DCO application.

Please see page one for further information on the ALC surveys conducted to date, and where to find more information, including the Agricultural Land Classification Report.

4. With regards to question 3 - Would it not cut down on bureaucracy and implementation time and the need for transmission lines? Would it not impact less on the environment aesthetics and displacement of wildlife and therefore be preferable?

No commercial rooftops or combined premises of an adequate area to facilitate a 500MW utility-scale solar project or provide a viable network of sites in proximity to the Point of Connection (PoC) has been identified. Achieving this capacity would require securing agreements with a large number of land ownerships over an extensive geographic area, making the Scheme unviable. In accordance with paragraph 4.3.27 of NPS EN1, commercial rooftops are therefore not considered a reasonable alternative to the Site.

Rooftop solar is not an alternative option for grid-scale electricity generation; rather, it is widely acknowledged that it should be deployed alongside utility-scale solar projects to support the broader transition to renewable energy.

Additionally, commercial buildings and residential properties function as both electricity consumers and generators, which limits their ability to contribute meaningfully as a low-carbon, renewable alternative to conventional sources of electricity production. Rooftop solar is not an alternative option for grid-scale electricity generation; rather, it should be deployed alongside utility-scale solar projects to support the broader transition to renewable energy.

This is explained in more detail in PEIR Chapter 4, page 55.

Further, any potential effects of temporary disturbance, habitat loss and displacement on local wildlife populations during construction are currently considered to be minor lin the context of the availability of extensive habitat locally and the retention, creation and enhancement of habitats suitable for nesting bird species within the Site.

5. Can you provide data analytics to show the above has been considered and will impact more than the solar fields?

Further information to PEIR Volume I Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives and Design Evolution can be located in the following PEIR Volume II figures:

- Figure 4.1: Environmental Constraints and Key Features

This figure shows the environmental constraints and key features surrounding the Site, it is explained here how the initial site selection process was subject to a desk-based study to evaluate planning, environmental and landscape sensitivities. This included, but was not limited to, consideration of: 1. Designated international

and national ecological and geological sites: the presence of international and nationally designated sites; 2. Nationally Designated Landscapes: the presence of National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes; 3. Flooding: Flood zones and surface water flooding; 4.Heritage: historic designations, such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens; 5. Best and Most Versatile Land: predictive likelihood of BMV land. The proposed Site was assessed positively against these criteria. In summary, the Site is neither subject to international/European designated ecological sites nor nationally designated landscapes. The Site is largely located within Flood Zone 1and is not subject to statutory historic designations, although Listed Buildings are in the vicinity of the Site.

- Figure 4.2: Provisional Agricultural Land Classification

This figure shows Natural England's provisional mapping of ALC showing the area of the Site is predominantly undifferentiated Grade 3, with scattered pockets of Grade 2 and Grade 4 land. The ALC map does not differentiate between Grades 3a and 3b. Based on this provisional mapping used for the initial Site selection, the Site is predominantly undifferentiated Grade 3, with poorer quality Grade 4 in Site 3 and Site 10 and with higher quality Grade 2 land shown on the edge of Site 8.

- Figure 4.3: Alterations to the Site Boundary between Scoping and PEIR

As shown in the figure, through ongoing engagement with landowners and design evolution and development, there have been alterations to the Site boundary, since the EIA Scoping Stage. The main changes to the Site boundary to date respond to the following: Accommodating highway visibility splays and potential traffic management measures; Avoidance of the proposed landscaping associated with the Long Stratton bypass; Avoidance of the Hempnall Fritton Road Water Recycling Centre; Avoidance of land used for horse grazing by Redwings horse sanctuary; and Accommodating (including flexibility) for the potential for Grid Connection Infrastructure, including overhead lines which could include new/replacement pylons between the National Grid Substation and the PoC, (point of connection).

6. Can you provide Independent Landscape Quality Assessment Recommendations and findings? National Planning Policy Framework reflects greater importance on agriculture and food production – why isn't poorer quality land being used?

Please see answer covered above.

7. Can you provide assurances that these solar farms are being constructed NOT AT ANY COST, IN ANY PLACE AND RIDING ROUGHSHOD OVER VIEWS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Good design is sought to be embedded with the Scheme so that good design outcomes are achieved. Project level design principles (Appendix 5.1) have been

developed in line with IGP's corporate design principles, the Scheme's vision and the local context. The aim of these project level design principles is to design a Scheme that responds to - the Applicant's brief; the Site and local context; and the views expressed by local communities, through an understanding of the local area. The project level design principles will continue to be used to guide the iterative process of design evolution of the Scheme, which will be set out in the DCO Application.

Our ambition is for East Pye Solar to be developed through collaboration with local communities and stakeholders and have used and will continue to use community consultation to inform and influence the development of our proposals. Local communities, residents, and councils will have an important role to play.

We are committed to engaging openly throughout the development process, carrying out clear, comprehensive and accessible public consultation before we submit our application. The development of our proposals for the Scheme will therefore be an iterative process; structured to make sure that people receive information at the right time so they can have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the process from an early stage.

8. Is this the cheapest option leading to clustering around substation and intensifying harm to landscape, character and public rights of way?

Please see the answers to your question covered in the response for Q3.

9. If the only way forward is solar farms, have all existing wasteland and hardstanding areas been exhausted? For example disused buildings, construction sites etc which would provide a purposeful use , be more aesthetically pleasing and less invasive on people and wild life?

Please see the answers to your question covered in the response for Q3.

10. Have areas more isolated from communities, and lower grade land been considered? Can you provide evidence that these types of sites have been explored and ruled out for better reason than profit, accessibility and ease of transmission?

Please see the answers to your question covered in the response for Q2 and Q3.

11. Are Turbines that power wind energy less harmful to environment, people and wildlife and produce more electricity and can be installed offshore? Are they not a better option?The Applicant is a leading developer of utility-scale solar and BESS projects. Alternative types of low-carbon forms of power generation such as onshore wind have been discounted as the Applicant is a developer, with a focus and

expertise on utility-scale solar projects and BESS. Notwithstanding this, the Site is not considered suitable for other forms of renewable generation such as onshore wind at the same scale as the Scheme owing to the topography and surrounding land uses, such as the proximity to Tibbenham airfield and Seething airfield.

This is covered in PEIR Chapter 4: Reasonable alternatives and design evolution.

12. I understand that solar farms soak up a lot of water whilst under construction. Can you give assurances that the thousands of acres that will be dedicated to solar farms will not threaten water supply for locals where acquifiers are relied upon? Is it true that some areas that have a lot of sunshine also suffer water shortages?

As detailed in PEIR Chapter 9, page 8, the Environment Agency (EA) advised that the BESS and National Grid Substation overlay a principal aquifer. A Water Resource Assessment is available to view as PEIR Appendix 9.3, this includes details on water resource and supply. This will be updated to accompany the ES alongside an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), which will detail the impacts and mitigations of the Scheme on any utility assets such as water supply lines.

13. Is it true to say that when damaged by strong wind, hail and fire, the panels and battery stores release chemicals such as cadmium, lead, silicon tetrachloride into the soil below?

A Plume Study will be conducted to assess the environmental impact of a BESS site incident to sensitive receptors, NFCC draft revised guidance advises all sensitive receptors within a 1 km radius should be considered. BESS are a relatively recent technology with rapidly maturing safety standards, certifications, test requirements and incident response strategies which incorporate lessons learned from real world incidents and large-scale destruction testing. IGP uses advisors who are experts in BESS fire safety to assess and fully mitigate risks.

The Scheme's BESS will use 24/7 monitoring from a remote-control centre, with the ability to automatically shut down the entire system, this can also be facilitated from the Site's control room. The Scheme will employ monitoring systems that will help identify any abnormal operation and safely shutdown the system before it develops, these systems will be independent of the control systems and equipment that can cause the abnormal event. Safety systems include thermal monitoring systems, fire and gas detection systems, and fail-safe battery liquid cooling systems. Monitoring and detection systems will trigger active safety systems to prevent or mitigate a thermal runaway scenario, as well as providing alerts to the site operator or fire and rescue services. The site or the remote-control facility is responsible for the implementation of the emergency response plans acting as a point of contact to emergency services.

Further information can be located within our BESS Fact Sheet.

The Environmental Statement (ES), to accompany the DCO application, will detail the design of the proposed development to mitigate against any weather-related risks such as heatwaves, storms etc. As detailed in PEIR Volume I Chapter 6, page 3, the Scheme will be designed to be climate resilient, including to extreme weather events such as hail, windstorms, high rainfalls and other extreme or climate change related weather patterns.

14. Is it fair to say this poses a significant health risk and can enter humans through inhalation, seepage into the food chain, and ingestion of contaminated food/water and also skin contact?

PEIR Volume I Chapter 18: Human Health outlines health related issues such as light pollution, noise, dust and fires.

Human Health impacts associated with the Scheme have been assessed in the relevant assessment sections of each of the Environmental Statement chapters outlined in Table 18.6.1. The level of significance of effects identified in these chapters is based on likely impacts after accounting for embedded mitigation, as will be set out in full in the relevant Environmental Statement chapters and DCO application.

Human health is defined in line with the World Health Organization's (WHO's) definition of health : 'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'. For the purposes of this Human Health section of the PEIR (and within the ES in due course), changes to mental health outcomes are considered alongside changes to employment and physical activity.

Additional mitigation measures will be implemented where necessary to reduce effects from the Scheme on human health and wellbeing. These measures will be set out in the ES once identified.

15. Where do they intend to source the solar panels and Lithium? Can they guarantee that no child labour or enslaved labour has been utilised in the production?

e.g. Child Labour as young as 13 forced to mine Cobalt from Congo Corridor

-Bolivia children mining silver where they are exposed to explosives, unsafe tunnels, toxic fumes, dust with no protective equipment?

- Indonesia (tin)

Zambia where 6 year olds are forced to harvest copper and manganese and suffer physical and verbal abuse

Nigeria (Lithium)

Zimbabwe (Lithium)

Children as young as 12 spending 24hours underground in tunnels

Will panels be purchased from China, who are behind the poor and abusive conditions?

As explained in PEIR Chapter 6: Climate Change, page 16. The location of the supplier and manufacturer of the solar PV panels is not yet known. It is anticipated that solar PV panels will be sourced from China as China accounts for 80% of global solar PV panel production. Other materials are anticipated to be sourced from Europe and the UK. Assumptions will be made on potential ports to be used for shipping, based on proximity to relevant manufacturing facilities within each country. The assumed distances used to support the carbon assessment will be set out in the ES.

IGP is committed to an ethical supply chain.

Some may argue this is better than starving, however what is being done by companies behind solar farms to provide appropriate and safe conditions? Can you demonstrate corporate responsibility?

It is too early to confirm specific suppliers of materials for East Pye Solar. Procurement decisions such as this will be taken closer to the point of construction, to ensure appropriate panels are used based on technology, planning consent and best practice at the time.

However, these decisions will be guided by an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan which we anticipate submitting as part of our DCO application, as well as Island Green Power's Renewables track record of using trusted and ethical suppliers. Island Green Power are signatories to Solar Energy's Supply Chain Commitment and use industry leading audit services to verify the supply chain.

16. When the panels reach the end of the lifespan, how will they be responsibly recycled? Currently we do not have the capacity to recycle the volume of panels and it is not good enough to say well in 60 years we will have. How are you ensuring this NOW?

The solar panels used for East Pye Solar would be as recyclable as possible. As part of our design materials, we would seek to minimise the use of non-recyclable materials. For example, instead of using concrete, materials such as steel will be used.

Up to 99 per cent of materials in solar panels are recyclable and there are several established businesses that do this. Companies such as PV Cycle (pvcycle.org.uk) and Recycle Solar (recyclesolar.co.uk) can manage faulty or expired solar panels.

We expect these sorts of businesses to continue to grow over time, in direct proportion to the increasing number of solar panels that are deployed across the UK.

At the end of the project, as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) there will be a comprehensive decommissioning plan. We anticipate that materials will be recycled in line with best practice waste management measures available at the time of decommissioning.

17. Is there data to show how the construction, building, engineering, erection, use, recycling noise of fans etc will impact on wildlife, house prices, quality of life and will far outweigh the reasons not to have solar farms.

18. What will be done to ensure that construction traffic and temporary roads will not encroach on the day to day lives of people travelling to and from work and that noise and dirt will be kept to a minimum.

PEIR Volume I Chapter 5: Scheme Description, Section 5.5 outlines there will be Abnormal Loads, HGV and LGV movements associated with the construction works. Typical construction vehicles will include excavators, ramming machines, cable layers, low loaders, crane and waste vehicles, trenchers, telehandlers, forklift trucks and tractors/trailers.

Construction activities are likely to be carried out Monday to Friday 07:00-18:00 and between 08:00 and 13:30 on Saturdays. However, some activities may be required outside of these times (such as the delivery of abnormal loads, concrete pours for foundations and nighttime working for cable/HDD construction works). Where practicable, construction deliveries will be coordinated to avoid HGV movements during the traditional AM peak hour (08:00-09:00) and PM peak hour (17:00-18:00).

Prior to the commencement of construction, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. This will be secured through a DCO Requirement and be substantially in accordance with the Outline CEMP (OCEMP) that will be submitted with the DCO Application.

19. Can you refrain from language like ‘could’, ‘should’, ‘will do our utmost’, ‘will try to ensure’, ‘will likely’ and replace with definitive and concrete language such as will, and must.

Thank you for your feedback. We are currently at the statutory consultation stage of the Scheme, in which we are consulting on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). As we have not yet received consent, and are showing

our proposals, we are consulting on what we propose the Scheme, its components and potential mitigation would look like. Community feedback, as well as engagement from statutory consultees, is essential during this stage of the planning process.

20. Can you give definitive and concrete assurances that the destruction of trees and hedgerows will be made good and equivalent will be planted elsewhere?

Ecological surveys are being carried out to help us better understand the site, ensure that ecologically valuable areas are identified and safeguarded, and identify opportunities to create new or improved habitats for wildlife. Solar farms have been proven to enhance biodiversity, including through the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The biodiversity value of the site will increase through the creation of new habitats, such as species-rich hedgerows, tree planting and the use of species-rich grassland mixes, alongside the enhancement of existing habitats.

Our PEIR Volume I Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity has considered the preliminary findings of the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme in relation to ecology and biodiversity.

The potential for adverse effects during the construction phase has also been avoided and 'designed out' where practicable. These will be controlled through standard good construction and environmental working practices as an integral part of the Scheme, detailed within the OCEMP submitted with the DCO Application.

The proposed works surrounding the immediately adjacent woodland/trees will adhere to BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction as well as current guidance.

An ecologically sensitive approach to construction will be implemented through the provision of the OCEMP. That will detail measures and approaches to be adopted which will limit the likelihood of impacts upon retained habitats through damage, pollution and disturbance. Habitat protection buffers will be maintained throughout the construction phase. They will be identified with appropriate fencing and signage along with Site team briefings at 'toolbox talks'.

A suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) (or more likely, team of ECoW's) will be appointed prior to the commencement of construction activities and through whom appropriate ecological advice will be provided. The ECoW will be responsible for undertaking and/or co-ordinating checks for protected species before providing confirmation that construction activities can commence. The ECoW will also maintain a watching brief as necessary throughout the construction phase to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, including adhering to any protected species mitigation measures required, such as GCN mitigation requirements associated with an EPSML or DLL application. Further information will

be provided within the OCEMP and detailed licencing information (if required) provided within the OCEMP, secured through DCO Requirement

21. That proper archaeological, habitat and wildlife studies will be carried out and such studies will not lend themselves to persons being instructed 'not to find anything' or 'not to look too hard'#

The PEIR offers the preliminary findings of work undertaken to date as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and will be used to inform the statutory consultation process of the proposed application for a DCO to be submitted under section 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Further information on the preliminary findings for cultural heritage and ecology and biodiversity can be found here:

- PIER Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity

A number of habitat and species surveys have been undertaken to date and surveys are continuing being undertaken to establish the baseline conditions and inform the EIA. These surveys will provide further information on protected species, such as breeding birds, great crested newts and bats.

There are no likely significant effects for statutory and non-statutory sites and habitats on the Site during the construction phase of the Scheme, following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures. These ecological effects are expected to experience Short Term, Negligible (Not Significant) effects, except priority habitats: arable field margins, native hedgerows, ponds, rivers, and widespread habitats which are anticipated to experience Short Term, Temporary Minor Adverse (Not Significant) effects. Short Term, Negligible (Not Significant) effects have also been identified in relation to irreplaceable habitats (Ancient Woodland and lowland fen). The likely effect of the construction works on protected species will be provided in the ES, following completion of the surveys.

- PIER Volume I Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage

A preliminary assessment of archaeology based upon a search of the Historic Environment Records, geophysical surveys and aerial mapping surveys has been undertaken. There is a potential for the following archaeological resources: scattered medieval and post medieval coins, stock enclosures and moated site, postulated church, Roman remains such as coins and field systems, broken pottery and artefacts.

22. How will you mitigate bird and bat death who commonly mistake panels for water?

An Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), to accompany the DCO submission, will detail avoidance and mitigation measures for birds during the operational life of the Scheme. However, as detailed in PEIR Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity, the operational impact of the Scheme on bats, birds and other invertebrates has been scoped out of the ES, as the Planning Inspectorate deems significant impacts to be unlikely to occur during the operation of the Scheme.

23. How will you reduce industrial grade traffic, light pollution, glare? How will you increase biodiversity under panels that are constantly turning leading to undergrowth being in permanent shade?

PEIR Chapter 11: Transport and Access details mitigations that are proposed for traffic. Preliminary forecasts of traffic during the construction, operational and decommissioning phase indicate there will not be a change to traffic flow on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) greater than 30 two-way movements – Annual average daily traffic (AADT). Vehicles routes for construction will be detailed further and account for local conditions in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP), to accompany the ES.

The Scheme is not anticipated to cause any significant light pollution as lighting is not required within the solar PV arrays for the operational phase. An approach to lighting of the Scheme will be agreed with Norfolk County Council. At this stage it is suggested that, given the limited nature of any lighting required for the Scheme, this will comprise a lighting strategy which will be prepared for, and presented at, the ES stage. The assessment will include consideration of intermittent and motion-activated lighting and security systems as appropriate. This is detailed in PEIR Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual.

A preliminary glint and glare assessment has been undertaken as part of this PEIR Chapter 18 - Other Environmental Matters, which identifies a number of glint and glare effects on residential, aviation and road receptors. As part of the iterative design process, effects of glint and glare have reduced by excluding the solar PV arrays from locations where glint and glare was predicted. As part of the ES, mitigation measures will be considered to further reduce glint and glare effects of the Scheme.

The Scheme will aim to demonstrate a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10%, as detailed in PEIR Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity. This means many species will benefit from the net increase in biodiversity protection and enhancement, for example badgers are likely to benefit from an improved abundance of favoured food items within the modified grassland under the solar arrays, as grassland has been shown to contain a greater abundance of earthworms and soil invertebrates than arable soils. Although surveys have not been undertaken, efforts have been made to

embed measures in the Scheme to avoid impacts and include significant habitat enhancements to benefit those habitats and the species that they support.

24. How will you reduce noise which will carry over distance from fans when inverters overheat?

As detailed in PEIR Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration The following noise control measures have been included within the design of the Scheme:

The Site layout has been designed to maximise the distance between key noise-generating activities and NSRs (Noise-sensitive receptors); Solar inverters will only operate during daytime and early morning hours (between 04:00 hours and 07:00 hours to reduce noise during night-time hours); Solar PV Arrays, BESS containers and ancillary buildings will provide localised screening of noise generating plant within the Site, which will naturally reduce plant noise levels at the NSRs.

25. How will you ensure that the solar farms will be well screened and not intrude on surroundings with 4 metre high fences and CCTV and will be aesthetically in tune with the nature of South Norfolk.

The Scheme will utilise soft landscape planting and features to provide visual screening, break up the extent of visible infrastructure, and link existing habitats to provide enhanced green infrastructure and biodiversity opportunities. PEIR Volume II Figure 5.1 Indicative Masterplan identifies areas excluded from development where opportunities for additional landscape features will be explored as part of the ES. Measures may include grassland planting, hedgerow linear planting or new woodland groups. The introduction of features will seek to maximise green infrastructure which will connect to and provide links between existing features, providing structural diversity and maximising biodiversity benefits. These measures are currently being developed, the realisation of these measures will allow judgments to be made about residual effects at Year 15 once landscape mitigation has established and is providing the function for which it was intended.

The above measures would be secured within the DCO through a Requirement relating to a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). The ES will include an outline LEMP (OLEMP) is a preliminary document which will set out the management requirements for the landscape and ecology features and elements within the Site and targets for the long-term condition.

PEIR Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual details this further.

Measures may include grassland planting, hedgerow linear planting or new woodland groups. The introduction of features will seek to maximise green infrastructure which will connect to and provide links between existing features,

providing structural diversity and maximising biodiversity benefits. These measures are currently being developed, the realisation of these measures will allow judgments to be made about residual effects at Year 15 once landscape mitigation has established and is providing the function for which it was intended.

Fences will not be 4 meters high but rather have a maxmimum height of 3 meters and be galvanised steel poles painted green to ensure blending in with the surrounding greenery.

26. That all steps will be taken to ensure that the panels and land use will be simbiotic in nature, crops will be grown in the shelter of panels and panels will supply grazing land and act as hubs for attracting pollinators.

As PEIR Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture details, the land under and around the Solar PV Arrays will be kept in grassland use and potentially farmed by the grazing of sheep or production of fodder. Depending upon the grazing regime, there may be periodic need for some mowing or topping or grassland, but this will be normal agricultural activity and should have no adverse effect on soils. Operational activities will be covered by the Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP).

As mentioned, biodiversity net gain alongside continued use of land under arrays for potential farming means pollinators will naturally benefit.

27. That all measures are in place to ensure wildlife displaced is not endangered and can move elsewhere

Habitats will likely be subject to minor and localised indirect disturbance or displacement for a temporary period during the construction process. However, this is set against the regular disturbance activities associated with the intensive agricultural management regimes currently employed within the Site boundaries. The effects of temporary disturbance, habitat loss and displacement on local bird populations during construction are currently considered to be minor Iin the context of the availability of extensive habitat locally and the retention, creation and enhancement of habitats suitable for nesting bird species within the Site.

More information on this can be found in PEIR Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity.

28. Impact on housing and communities – Please provide reassurance and guarantees to those persons who face being forced to give up their homes through compulsory purchase orders of the following:

That all possible avenues to redirect the path of the farm to avoid compulsory purchase orders have been exhausted.

That the current harassment without legal grounds of homeowners will cease and desist

That where there is no possible alternative other than compulsory purchase – every possible step will be taken to ensure people are properly and legally supported to get the best possible deal and compensation for their loss, given time to adjust to make plans and have emotional and mental health support

There is no intention to compulsorily purchase any homes. In fact, part of the purpose of land referencing is to enable the Scheme to understand land interests so that we can avoid people's homes and gardens.

As part the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, East Pye Solar is undertaking Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQ) to identify people and organisations that have a legal interest in land or property that may potentially be impacted by the Scheme.

This is a statutory obligation under the 2008 Planning Act and is routine for helping to identify those with legal interest in land. Completing land referencing questionnaires allows these stakeholders to be consulted on the DCO application and ensures they receive formal notification such as when the Scheme is accepted for examination. Nothing we do will require anyone to leave their home, nor do we plan on using any compulsory powers to acquire land. We seek voluntary agreements with landowners on all our projects.

29. Provide plans in the event of fire and toxic fumes for the safe and timely evacuation of residents affected:

- Impact of toxic fumes, noxious gasses etc within a radius of

- 1 mile

- 5 miles

- 15 miles

- 25 miles

- 50 miles

- 100 miles

There is a risk of electrical fire within the BESS. The design of the BESS will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance and legislation, with appropriate temperature regulatory equipment installed and monitoring procedures in place.

An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) is proposed to be submitted alongside our DCO application as part of the ES (Environmental Statement). This will set out information on the fire risk with battery storage facilities and relevant mitigation, such as fire-fighting and containment measures on the environment.

Further embedded mitigation to limit human exposure to air pollution in the event of any fire incident will also be included in this plan. More information on this can be found in PEIR Volume I Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters (section 18.2.3, page 2).