



Guidance

Form B

This Form must be used in connection with an application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed above ground an electric line of any voltage.

This Form should be sent to each local planning authority in whose area the proposed development would be situated. The views obtained by means of this Form are then to be submitted to the Secretary of State to help inform the decision making process on the application.

The local planning authority¹ is required to sign and complete all sections of Part Two and Part Three and to return this form to the Applicant **within two months**². Please note that the Secretary of State would not progress a section 37 application in the absence of a completed Form B. Additional information describing this procedure and the reason for it can be found in the published [Guidance Note 14D/226](#).

Appendix A

If the section 37 application is for a development as referred to under [Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2017](#) (the 2017 Regulations) (i.e. the proposal is within a sensitive area³ or the voltage is of 132kV or more), the Secretary of State will be required to make a Screening Decision before the section 37 application can be decided. To inform its decision, the Secretary of State must receive the views of the Local Planning Authority. To this effect:

- The applicant should submit to the Local Planning Authority the additional information referred to under [Regulation 12](#) of the 2017 Regulations, and
- The Local Planning Authority should provide their views by completing Appendix A⁴.

¹ Please note: if the development falls partially within a National Park, a Form B must be completed by each relevant planning authority for that area. If the proposal concerns a line of 132kV or more, the Part One, Certificate of the Form B must also be completed by the County Council.

² The relevant planning authority is obliged to make its representations to the Secretary of State on the proposal within a statutory two month period or obtain an extension to the time limit from the Secretary of State and as agreed with the Applicant as per [Regulation 8 of the Electricity \(Applications for Consent\) Regulations 1990](#).

³ The full list of sensitive areas is in legislation at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/580/schedule/2/made>.

⁴ Appendix A enables the local planning authority to give its views under [regulation 13\(3\)](#) of the 2017 Regulations.



Form B - Part One

To be completed by the Applicant

Name	Matthew Banks
Company	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Applicant's Reference	

PARTICULARS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Application is being made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero:

- a) for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install or keep installed an electric line above ground;
- b) for a direction under section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that planning permission for the proposed development be deemed to be granted.

1. Description of the proposed development⁵.

The proposed OHL works relevant to this application include:

- The reconfiguration of the 2WS overhead line requires not exceeding 0.9 km of new 400 kV overhead line to turn into the new Weston Marsh Substation A ('2WS Overhead Line Works'). The reconfiguration originates from the occupational land 5m parallel with Weston Marsh southern façade's fence and extends in a southerly direction to existing pylon 2WS015.

- For this reconfiguration there are five new structures, consisting of three new pylons (2WS016-N, 2WS017-N, 2WS018-N) ranging 55–60 m in height (including Limit of Deviation).

- The dismantling and removal of existing 2WS pylons and not exceeding 830m of overhead lines between 2WS015 and 2WS017.

It is the intention that land within the substation's boundary will be within the ownership of the applicant and therefore OHL works within this boundary are not included within the Section 37 consent.

2. Details of any representations or objections which have been received by the applicant prior to the submission of this form⁶.

The following statutory bodies were consulted in November 2025 and have provided feedback on the Section 37 OHL works:

- Natural England 13/11/25 - While significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites cannot be ruled out; given the commitment to produce a HRA to address any potential impacts to European designated sites, an EIA may not be required.

- Environment Agency 14/11/25 - The proposal is not believed to have a significant environmental effect within our remit.

- Historic England 05/12/25 - Not identified any significant effects in respect of the historic environment.

- MMO 20/02/2026 - With the works proposed being able to be covered by a self-service license, the MMO class these as low risk that would not require screening under the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.

Copies of the consultation responses received are provided.

⁵ In this section the Applicant should include the link to the Energy Portal application which will contain the necessary information to enable the LPA to provide their views on the proposal.

⁶ In this section the Applicant should list any consultations and representations received prior to consulting the LPA. These consultations should be made available for review by the LPA on the Energy Portal.



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3. Details of the Applicant's compliance with their duty as specified under [paragraph 1\(1\)\(a\)\(b\) of Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989](#)⁷.

In formulating the proposal, NGET has considered the duties under Schedule 9 having regard to the preservation and conservation of natural beauty, flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protected sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest. We have taken reasonable steps to mitigate effects of the proposal on the natural beauty of the countryside and on the flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.

The proposal is not considered to result in significant effects and should have no negative impact.

For and on behalf of the applicant:

Date: 12/03/2026

Signed:



⁷ In this section the Applicant can indicate the sections or documents within the Energy Portal application that include the measures to comply with this requirement.



Form B - Part Two

To be completed by the Local Planning Authority

CERTIFICATE

The local planning authority:

Object on the grounds set out below to the development described above in Part One of this Form;

Request that a public inquiry be held pursuant to paragraph 2 of Schedule 8 to the Electricity Act 1989 before the Secretary of State reaches his decision on the application.

Dated: 15 May 2026 .



Designation:

Signed:
On behalf of the:

If the Local Planning Authority objects to the development, please provide details below:

To bring forward the proposed electricity infrastructure ahead of the main works associated with the Grimsby to Walpole project is not acceptable. The consequence of undertaking these works in advance would result in an unnecessary extended period of disruption to the local community that can be avoided if all the works were undertaken within the construction window of 2029 to 2033 for the wider Grimsby to Walpole project. The necessary works to make the substation A and overhead lines operational could still be achieved by 2031, therefore only delaying the Outer Dowsing connection by a year but greatly reducing the period of disturbance to local communities that would be caused should these works be brought forward on an accelerated basis.

Insufficient information has been provided with the submission to enable the Council to fully assess the impacts of the development on such matters as highways, archaeology, ecology, and flood risk. Without this information, it is not possible for the Council to adequately assess the environmental impacts and confirm if the development is acceptable or not or could be made acceptable with the imposition of suitable conditions.



Form B - Part Three

To be completed by the Local Planning Authority

CONSULTATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

LPA Planning Reference:

PL/0021/26

1. List the names of interested parties consulted by the local planning authority and provide particulars of any comments received⁸.

Environment Agency - objects on the grounds of flood risk. The submitted FRA does not comply with the requirements for site-specific FRAs as set out in Paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change planning practice guidance. The FRA fails to assess and provide suitable mitigation measures against the residual risk of a breach in the design flood event and an overtopping event in the 1 in 1000 event. The applicant needs to undertake an assessment of residual risk and the impacts a breach scenario could have on the proposed development. They should make commitments to inspecting pylons after the breach of flood defences to ensure necessary repairs can be made to reduce the risk of collapse of infrastructure as well as clearing debris where necessary. The development may require an Environmental Permit for any proposed works or structures in, under, over, or within 8m of the top of the bank of the River Welland or within the floodplain of designated 'main rivers'. Conditions have been recommended in respect of water vole and watercourse buffer zones. The EA identified a lack of biosecurity planning which could lead to the accidental spread of INNS, thereby making the applicant liable to criminal prosecution. It recommends that the applicant produces an INNS/Biosecurity Management Plan, and embeds biosecurity measures in the CEMP. Watercourses in the landscape have several common INNS recorded, such as Nuttall's Waterweed, Least Duckweed, and Himalayan Balsam, all of which are easily spread.

Historic England - notes that it was consulted by the applicant in November 2025.

Natural England (NE) - notes the precedent and experience of the National Grid teams to enable a good preliminary indication of significant impacts. NE is satisfied with the study areas for impacts to designated sites and their features. It will provide more detailed comments once the surveys and full assessments have been completed. NE welcomes the application of the mitigation hierarchy within the Scheme. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the intention to use management plans to mitigate impacts on sensitive ecological features is also welcomed. It notes that there was no discussion within the Environmental Summary Report of monitoring to ensure the efficacy of the management plans in mitigation of impacts. This should be considered as discussed in previous consultations. NE welcomes the approach to cumulative assessment and the inclusion of TCPA and NSIP applications in the area. It would be useful to see these mapped spatially and temporally to enable a clear depiction of impacts from construction and operation.

NE notes that the HRA remains outstanding and as such, will make detailed comments on internationally designated sites and their features once this is submitted. It recommends using bird survey data (including nocturnal) to inform the assessment of impacts to mobile features of designated sites from lighting and noise within the HRA. Figures depicting bird survey data and lighting/acoustic thresholds would be useful in reviewing the impact assessment. NE notes that there was no outright commitment to return any temporarily impacted soils to their original ALC grade. This should be stated in the documents and SMP. It recommends soils only to be worked when in a dry and friable condition and a stand off period from October to March to avoid compaction from construction as a key avoidance practice. Suitably qualified professionals should be present in any on-site assessment of soil suitability for works during construction. NE advises that the potential for air quality impacts arising from this development needs to be assessed and refers to its Standing Advice 'Air pollution and development: advice for local authorities'.

Weston Parish Council - objects to the proposed overhead line works for the following reasons:

- Prematurity and failure to consider the whole development.
- Artificial segmentation of a single project.
- Failure to comply with EIA requirements.
- Conflicts with key provisions of the NPPF.
- Failure to adequately assess landscape and visual impact.
- Failure to adequately assess the cumulative impact of incremental infrastructure intensification.
- Use of Section 37 and deemed planning consent circumvents the full application of local planning control, limits community engagement, and risks approval of ancillary works without proper scrutiny. This undermines the principles of transparent and accountable decision-making.
- Concerns regarding the certainty and deliverability of the scheme when the land has not yet been secured and may rely on compulsory purchase.

Lincolnshire Police - does not have any objections.

⁸ Please note if the proposal falls within a [SSSI Risk Zone](#) the local planning authority should consult with the relevant statutory conservation body to seek guidance on any necessary mitigation.



Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) - is pleased to hear that ecology surveys are ongoing and would stress the importance of obtaining a comprehensive ecological baseline of all impacted areas. The HRA should include a detailed analysis of how the development will impact protected sites, particularly with regards to the impact of the overhead lines on bird populations associated with The Wash and areas of functionally linked land. LWT would be happy to be consulted on any plans for mitigation, habitat creation, or enhancement, as well as ecological surveys and impacts.

Reading Agricultural Consultants (Council's Agricultural Advisor) - confirms that the assessment of soils and ALC is satisfactory and it is accurate to say that given the predominance of Grade 1 Wisbech soils, the loss of BMV land cannot be avoided. Sufficient consideration is given to the management of soils and land reinstatement following construction. There is a lack of consideration of the likely impacts on the affected farms. The site is intensively arable, and this Grade 1 land is likely to be irrigated. In Paragraph 5.11.15 of the applicant's Environmental Summary Report, the land holdings as a receptor are considered to have a low sensitivity, with no justification given for this low rating. In the 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA112: Population and Human Health', farmland of this type would be of high sensitivity on the grounds that they are 1) areas of land in which the enterprise is dependent on the spatial relationship of land to key agricultural infrastructure; and 2) access between land and key agricultural infrastructure is required on a frequent basis (weekly). A commitment needs to be made for close liaison with the affected farming landowners and tenants to minimise the adverse impacts on cropping, irrigation, and field drainage. They should be consulted on the location of pylons within fields to minimise impacts on cultivations and irrigation.

Ecology (Lincolnshire County Council) - notes that a suite of important ecological sites have been identified within the applicant's Environmental Summary Report and appropriate areas of search have been used to account for the presence of sites designated for highly mobile species such as birds. States that the applicant will need to identify potential impact pathways for these sites and their interest features and present an analysis of potential impacts, along with associated avoidance and mitigation measures. Notes that no field survey data is presented in the report as these are ongoing. Surveys to establish the precise locations of sensitive habitats and the presence / absence of protected species will be required to identify any impacts and to inform mitigation and enhancement opportunities. Specific comments have been provided in relation to trees, botanical surveys, and ornithological surveys. In respect of cumulative effects, the combined implications of impacts such as habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance of species will need careful consideration. The applicant's recognition of the requirement for a HRA is noted. The Secretary of State will need to be satisfied that sufficient information has been submitted by the applicant to enable this to be completed.

Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) - notes there is no technical information provided with regards to highways impact on which to make an assessment. For this scale of development, a Transport Assessment outlining construction activities, traffic, traffic routing, likely impacts, and the mitigation needed would be expected. In respect of the construction haul road, improvement works on Stone Gate, construction routing, and access points, no detail has been provided in terms of layouts, passing places, construction vehicle numbers, vehicle swept paths etc. Discussions with National Grid have only been at a pre-application stage.

Historic Places (Archaeology) (Lincolnshire County Council) - notes the proposed red line boundary is located within an area of Prehistoric and Medieval archeological potential as acknowledged in the Environmental Summary Report. Any groundworks are therefore likely to result in the harm or loss of surviving archaeological remains if present. States that the applicant has not provided sufficient detail to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of any underground heritage assets. Recommends the application be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment informed by a Geophysical Survey, Geoarchaeological Assessment, and Trial Trench Archaeological Evaluation in order to properly assess the site's significance, inform appropriate archaeological planning advice, and design a suitable mitigation strategy should consent be granted.

Minerals and Waste Policy (Lincolnshire County Council) - confirms that no MSAs intersect with the proposed development site boundary. Notes that whilst no safeguarded waste sites lie within the proposed site boundary, a mixed recycling waste site (no. 48) lies around 500m north of the Scheme Site Boundary and may share the same access roads from the A16. This may warrant further investigation although an extract from the Council's 2019 Authority Monitoring Report suggests that the site may no longer be operational. Welcomes the inclusion of a section on Waste Management (5.13) within the applicant's Environmental Summary Report. Notes that the baseline assessment of landfill capacity accords with the Council's 2021 Waste Needs Assessment however, the figures are from 2019 not 2024 (as stated in the summary report). Welcomes the report's indirect references to the waste hierarchy.

Consulted but no comments received:

Surfleet Parish Council
The Moultons Parish Council
Local County Council Member, Councillor J King
Local County Council Member, Councillor R Gibson
South Holland Internal Drainage Board
Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
Countryside and Public Rights of Way (Lincolnshire County Council)
Historic Places (Listed Buildings) (Lincolnshire County Council)
Public Health (Lincolnshire County Council)

Full copies of the consultation responses received can be viewed on the Council's website: <https://lincolnshire.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=PL%2F0021%2F26>.



2. Provide details of any objections or representations received by the local planning authority.

Five objections have been received by the Council, summarised as follows:

- Potential impact on working farms.
- Permanent, cumulative loss of BMV agricultural land (Grades 1 and 2). The 2026 Land Use Framework places an increased emphasis on protecting national food security.
- Close proximity to residential properties and a local tourism business at Crowtree Farm.
- Cumulative impacts relating to landscape and visual amenity, noise, dust, vibration, and traffic.
- Health risks associated with pylons and their electromagnetic fields.
- Implied job creation will not benefit local residents.
- No evidence that underground routing of diversion cables has been considered.
- Fragmentation of an NSIP into smaller, separate applications in an attempt to circumvent the EIA process. Creates a misleading impression of small, standalone infrastructure.
- Premature, speculative applications for permeant infrastructure which is functionally dependent on the proposed Weston Marsh Substation A. Potential predetermination of forthcoming substation application.
- Reference to Ashchurch Rural Parish Council v Tewkesbury Borough Council [2023] EWCA Civ 101 in which the courts quashed planning permission for 'enabling infrastructure' of a development that did not yet have permission.
- Requests that the Secretary of State holds a public inquiry.

3. Are there any restrictions on the land that require the Applicant to obtain approval from other organisations⁹?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details below:

The EA has advised that this development may require an Environmental Permit under the terms of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2016 for any proposed works or structures in, under, over or within 8m of the top of the bank of the River Welland, or within the floodplain of designated 'main rivers'

4. Is the local planning authority's agreement to the proposal subject to modifications or conditions being applied to the consent? (If so, specify the modifications or conditions proposed and state whether they are acceptable to the Applicant).

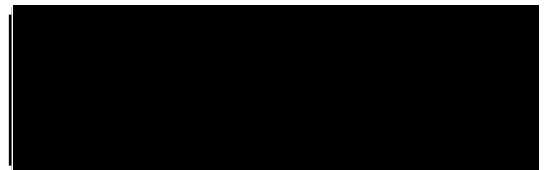
Due to the insufficient information that has been provided with the submission, it has not been possible for the Council to adequately assess the environmental impacts and confirm if the development is acceptable or not or could be made acceptable with the imposition of suitable conditions.

5. Does the local planning authority consider that the proposal is an [EIA development](#) and should be subject to an [Environmental Impact Assessment](#)? (Please note: if the development falls under [Schedule 2](#) of the 2017 Regulation, the Secretary of State must receive¹⁰ the local planning authority's views in order to make its EIA Screening Decision and therefore **Appendix A** must be completed.

Yes – Environmental Impact Assessment is recommended - Appendix A must be completed

Date: 15 May 2026.

Signed:



⁹ e.g. consent under [Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006](#).

¹⁰ [Regulation 13](#) of the 2017 Regulations sets out the legal requirement for this consultation.



Appendix A

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY'S VIEWS

The LPA should consider if the Applicant has submitted sufficient information to determine whether or not the proposal is an EIA development. Please note that the Applicant must take into account the relevant criteria set out in [Schedule 3](#) when compiling the required information.

Has the Applicant provided the following information?	
1. a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and, where relevant, of demolition works	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. a description of the location of the development, with regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. a description of any likely significant effects resulting from:	
a. the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
b. the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

The LPA should provide their views in the comments section in the next page taking account of the below factors where relevant to the proposal and tick the relevant boxes for confirmation.

Characteristics of development		Select all relevant factors
(a)	the size and design of the whole development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	cumulation with other existing and approved developments;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d)	the production of waste;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	pollution and nuisances;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f)	the risk of major accidents and disasters that are relevant to the development, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g)	the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of development		Select all relevant factors
(a)	the existing and approved land use;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c)	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas –	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i)	wetlands, riparian areas and river mouths;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(ii)	coastal zones and the marine environment;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii)	mountain and forest areas;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv)	nature reserves and parks;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v)	areas classified or protected under domestic legislation or legislation of EEA states;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vi)	European sites (as defined in regulation 8(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017);	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vii)	areas in which there has already been a failure to meet environmental quality standards that are set out in European Union legislation and are relevant to the development, or in which it is thought that there is such a failure;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(viii)	densely-populated areas;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ix)	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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	Type and characteristics of potential impact	Select all relevant factors
(a)	the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	the nature of the impact;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	the transboundary nature of the impact;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d)	the intensity and complexity of the impact;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	the probability of the impact;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f)	the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(g)	the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and approved developments;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(h)	the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>

The LPA should provide their views below and give reasons for their conclusion as to whether the proposal is an EIA development or not.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regime seeks to ensure that the likely environmental impact of any major project are considered and assessed before planning permission is granted.

The Weston Marsh targeted consultation document for the Grimsby to Walpole Development Consent Order (DCO) published November 2025 sets out the approach by National Grid to the Weston Marsh A sub-station. It makes it clear that the works subject to this Form B notification are also part of the wider Grimsby to Walpole 'project' and whilst separate approval for the accelerated works will be sought using Section 37 Electricity Act 1989 and Town and Country Planning Act 1990 these works will also be included within the forthcoming Development Consent Order application. The targeted consultation shows options of accelerating the construction of Sub-station A with the connecting overhead lines pursuant to Section 37 and also the option of construction the Sub-station as part of the wider Grimsby to Walpole DCO. Consequently these works subject to the Section 37 process must be seen as being part of a wider 'project'. Indeed the plans for these Section 37 proposals are included on the Grimsby to Walpole project website.

For Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes it is necessary to consider the whole 'project' not just to separate it into different parts to avoid the need to undertake an EIA by only assessing each component of the 'project' in isolation. It is accepted and expected that the forthcoming Grimsby to Walpole DCO application is EIA development and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. It is the Council's assertion that the project should not be split so that individual elements such as the works pursuant to the Electricity Act, the sub-station application under the Town and Country Planning Act and also the permitted development works are only considered in isolation and not part of the project as a whole. This would lead to a circumstance that certain elements of the project circumvents the objective of EIA Regulations so that these aspects of the project are excluded from EIA requirements but are delivered quicker.

There is no doubt that the works that are being sought at an accelerated rate using different authorisations are connected and also part of the Grimsby to Walpole project. At the very least the three elements of the project that are being promoted under different authorisation methods should be screened together but it is the Council's view that it goes further than this and these works are all part of the Grimsby to Walpole project and will be included within that DCO application. Consequently it is the Council's view that it is not lawful under EIA Regulations to separate these elements and not subject these works to EIA. When the DCO application is submitted these works will be subject to EIA as part of the wider project so it compromises the EIA Regulations to bring these elements forward and not subject them to EIA so this can be completed in advance of the main project.

The purpose of the EIA Regulations is to assess the impact of the project on the environment it is the Council's view that if this part of the project is separated and not subject to EIA this compromises this important EIA requirement that the works subject to this application will be subject to EIA when included within the wider project but not EIA when assessed on an individual development basis.

Finally for cumulative reasons when considered with all the other proposed infrastructure in this area (Outer Dowsing Meridian Solar Eastern Green 3 and 4 and Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire) the cumulative impact of these other projects make this EIA development due to the significant cumulative impact on the environment of all these projects.

Dated: 15 May 2026

Signed:

Designation:

Head of Planning

On behalf of the:

Lincolnshire County Council

