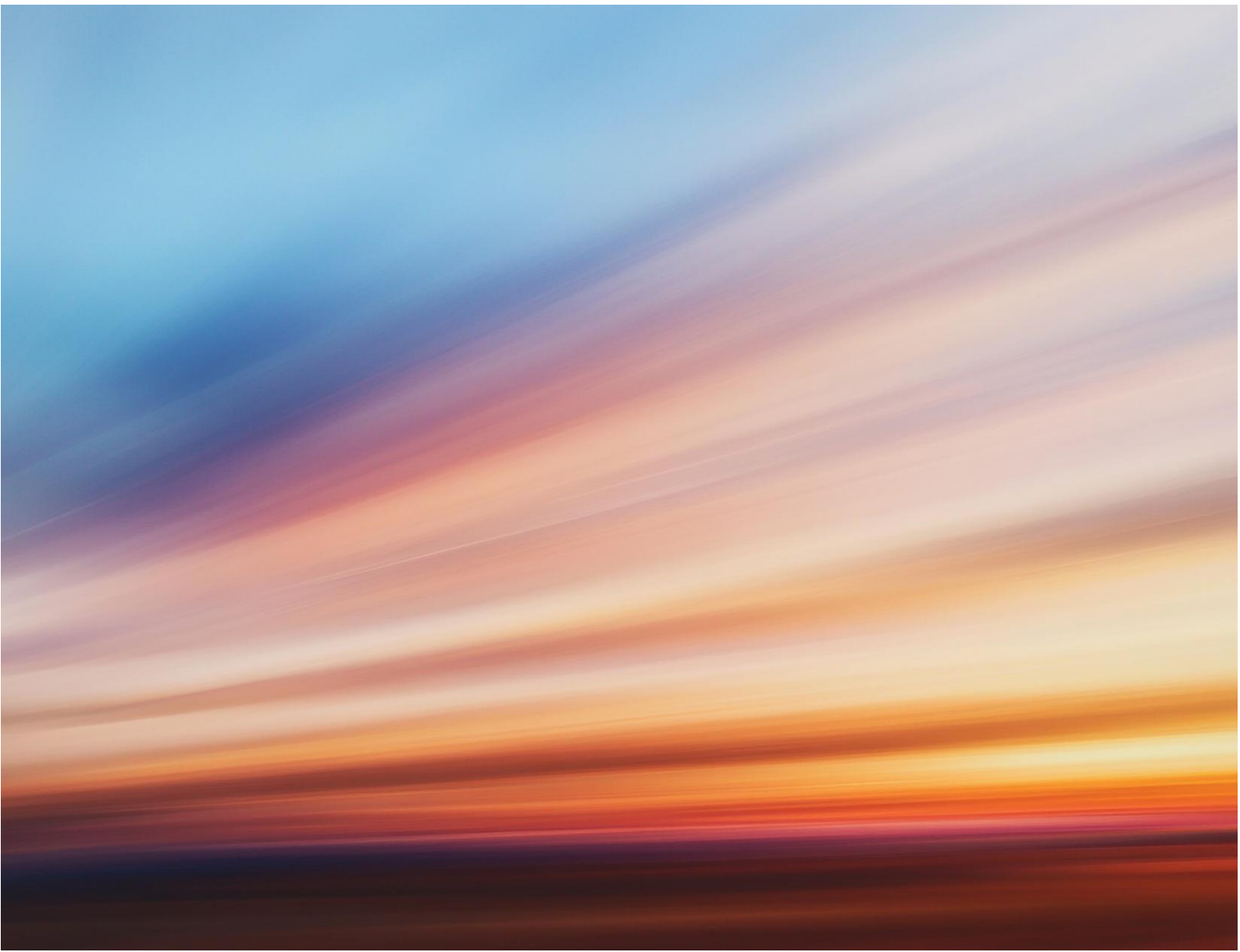


Mysten Leah Solar Farm
Preliminary Environmental
Information Report
Non-Technical Summary

April 2026



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1. Introduction

1.1 What is the context of this non-technical summary?

- 1.1.1 Mylen Leah Solar Limited (also known as the 'Applicant') is a company wholly owned by Statkraft UK Limited.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking to obtain development consent for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, located in the East Riding of Yorkshire Unitary Authority Area.
- 1.1.3 To inform statutory consultation as part of the planning process, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report has been prepared to provide the information reasonably required for interested parties, including the public, to understand the likely significant effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on the surrounding environment and residents, as understood at this stage.

1.2 What is Environmental Impact Assessment?

- 1.2.1 Environmental impact assessment is the process that identifies the key environmental effects resulting from the construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning of a proposed development. It suggests ways that these effects can be avoided, reduced or managed. Environmental impact assessment is a legal requirement in the United Kingdom for certain developments that have the potential to cause significant environmental effects.
- 1.2.2 The design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, as presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, has been informed by the ongoing environmental assessment process and responses to consultation and engagement to date. **It does not represent the final design.** Further survey and design work is currently being undertaken which, along with feedback received from statutory consultation, will inform the further development of the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

1.3 What is the purpose of this document?

- 1.3.1 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report outlines the environmental assessment work undertaken to date, the likely significant environmental effects identified to date, proposed 'embedded' mitigation¹ and 'additional' mitigation², and likely residual significant environmental effects based on the environmental baseline information currently available, and the current design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report is split into four volumes:

- **Volume 1:** Preliminary Environmental Information Report (main text);

¹ Embedded mitigation measures are those that are incorporated in the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

² Additional mitigation measures are to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any significant adverse effects that remain after embedded mitigation has been taken into consideration. Additional mitigation measures will be secured through the Development Consent Order.

- **Volume 2:** Supporting figures;
- **Volume 3:** Supporting reports; and
- **Volume 4:** Landscape visualisations.

1.3.2 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report has been prepared to enable interested parties (including members of the public, local planning authorities and statutory bodies) to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm and to help inform their consultation responses during this statutory consultation stage.

1.3.3 The design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, as presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, has been informed by the ongoing environmental assessment process and responses to consultation and engagement to date. **It does not represent the final design.** Further survey and design work is currently being undertaken which, along with feedback received from statutory consultation, will inform the further development of the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

1.3.4 This document provides a non-technical summary of the environmental assessments presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. Further details can be found in **Volumes 1 to 4** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. **Table 1.1** below provides an overview of where details on each environmental assessment can be found:

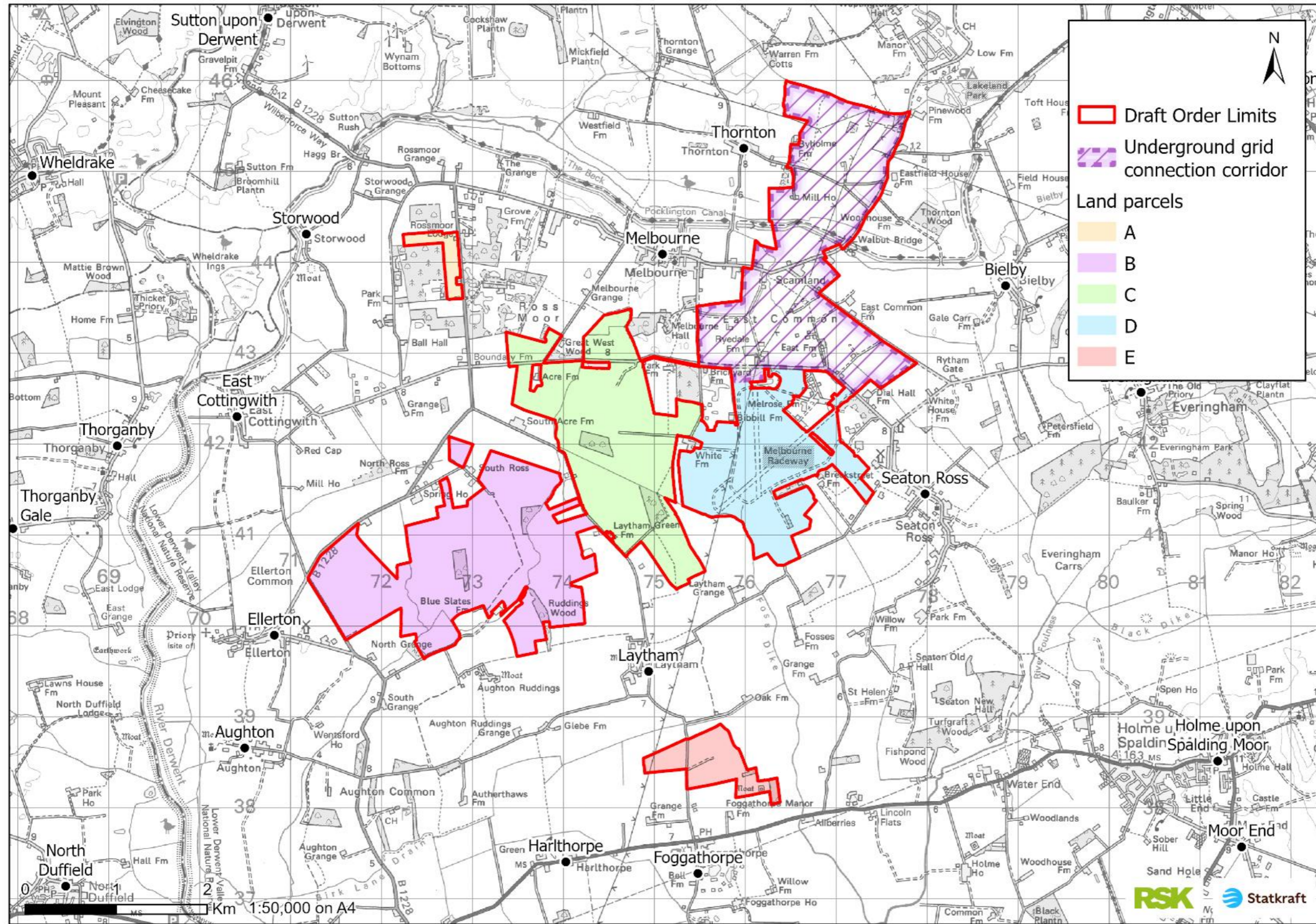
Table 1.1: Location of each environmental assessment in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Chapter of Volume 1 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report	Environmental assessment
Chapter 6	Air Quality
Chapter 7	Biodiversity
Chapter 8	Climate
Chapter 9	Cultural Heritage
Chapter 10	Land and Groundwater
Chapter 11	Landscape and Visual
Chapter 12	Noise and Vibration
Chapter 13	Population
Chapter 14	Transport and Access
Chapter 15	Water
Chapter 16	Glint and Glare
Chapter 17	Soil
Chapter 18	Other Environmental Considerations
Chapter 19	Cumulative Effects

2. What is Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

2.1 Where is Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

- 2.1.1 The location of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is shown on **Figure 1: The Site** presented on **Page 4** of this Non-Technical Summary. Mylen Leah Solar Farm is located within the administrative boundary of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The most northern part of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is located south west of Melbourne, with the remainder of Mylen Leah Solar Farm located on land between the settlements of Laytham, Seaton Ross, Foggathorpe, East Cottingwith, and Ellerton.
- 2.1.2 Mylen Leah Solar Farm comprises several parcels of land (Land Parcels A to E) and an underground grid connection corridor (hereafter collectively referred to as the 'Site'), as outlined on **Figure 1: The Site** on **Page 4** of this Non-Technical Summary.



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Figure 1: The Site

2.2 What is the existing use of the Site?

2.2.1 The Site comprises approximately 1,398 hectares of land. The land within the draft Order Limits predominantly consists of a disused airfield (Melbourne Raceway) (presently used for recreational and commercial use (motor racing and commercial motor vehicle use)), agricultural fields (mostly arable, some grassland and some grazing) interspersed with hedgerows, ditches, small woodland blocks and farm access tracks. The hedgerows within the draft Order Limits range from dense tall vegetation (shrub and tree species) to thin lines of vegetation with sporadic shrubs and trees present. The fields are bordered by a mix of hedgerows, wet ditches and some of the many major named drains and dikes in the area.

2.2.2 There is some variation in the features immediately surrounding and within each of the Land Parcels, as presented below:

- **Land Parcel A: Land west of the B1228.** This is the northernmost section of the Site. It is located between East Cottingwith to the west and Melbourne to the east and is surrounded by agricultural fields and small areas of surface water, which will be taken into consideration as part of the design.
- **Land Parcel B: Land east of Ellerton.** This area is the westernmost section of the Site, bounded by the B1228 to the north west. Bottoms Drain and Charity Drain run through the central portion of the area, and there are three separate areas of deciduous woodland located within the Land Parcel boundary. Various ponds and ditches are located to the east of the Site.
- **Land Parcel C: Land southwest of Melbourne.** This area lies between Land Parcels B and D and is approximately 600 metres southwest of Melbourne. The area is bounded by agricultural fields, with the Lord's Drain running directly through the southern portion of the Land Parcel.
- **Land Parcel D: Land west of Seaton Ross.** This is the easternmost section of the Site. It is located approximately 500 metres from Seaton Ross and is bounded by agricultural fields with two areas of surface water to the north. This Land Parcel includes Melbourne Raceway, formerly known as Royal Air Force Melbourne.
- **Land Parcel E: Land north of Foggathorpe.** This is the southernmost section of the Site and is located approximately 550 metres north and east of Foggathorpe at its closest point. The area is bound by agricultural fields and the A163 to the south, as well as Breckstreet Lane to the north. There is a scheduled monument located within the Land Parcel as well as two separate areas of woodland.

2.2.3 Mylen Leah Solar Farm would establish a grid connection via underground cabling to the National Grid Thornton Substation, which would transfer the electricity to the national electricity network. The underground grid connection corridor presented within this Preliminary Environmental Information Report will be further refined ahead of the Environmental Statement, and will be made up of a much smaller area.

2.3 What are the environmental designations associated with Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

2.3.1 The location of key natural and historic statutory and non-statutory designations are summarised below for the relevant environmental factors. These features are also presented on **Figure 2: Overview of Environmental Features** on **Page 9** of this Non-Technical Summary

Biodiversity

2.3.2 There is one statutory designated site within the draft Order Limits; Pocklington Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest located in the underground grid connection corridor.

2.3.3 Surrounding the draft Order Limits to the north lie, Allerthorpe Common Site of Special Scientific Interest, Melbourne and Thornton Ings Site of Special Scientific Interest, White Carr Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest, and Park Wood Ancient Woodland. West of the draft Order Limits is Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar, Special Area of Conservation, and National Nature Reserve, Derwent Ings Site of Special Scientific Interest, and Skipwith Common Special Area of Conservation.

2.3.4 There are various Local Wildlife Sites located in and around the draft Order Limits.

Cultural heritage

2.3.5 There are two designated heritage assets within the draft Order Limits:

- 'Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450 metres north east of Manor Farm' a scheduled monument within Land Parcel E; and
- The grade II listed Pocklington Canal Walbut Bridge within the underground grid connection corridor.

2.3.6 Within two kilometres of the draft Order Limits, there are:

- 54 listed buildings;
- Three scheduled monuments; and
- Two conservation areas

Land and groundwater

2.3.7 There is one historic landfill site, 'Scamland Bridge' located within the draft Order Limits in the underground grid connection corridor. There is another historic landfill site adjacent to the draft Order Limits, in addition to three historic landfill sites north of the draft Order Limits, surrounding Melbourne.

Soil

Soil structure

2.3.8 The soil within the Site comprises the following soil associations:

- Foggathorpe 2: Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged stoneless clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with some coarse loamy over clay soils.
- Kexby: Deep stoneless fine sandy soils affected by groundwater.

- Everingham: Deep stoneless permeable fine sandy soils with some bleached subsurface horizons.
- Sessay: Fine and coarse loamy often stoneless, permeable soils affected by groundwater.
- Fladbury 3: Stoneless clayey, fine silty and fine loamy soils affected by groundwater.

Agricultural land quality

- 2.3.9 Best Most Versatile land is agricultural land classified as Grades 1, 2, and 3a under the Agricultural Land Classification system. These grades are considered 'Best Most Versatile' land and represents the most productive and flexible land for agricultural use within the country.
- 2.3.10 Currently detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey results are available for the north-east section of the Site (west of Seaton Ross and south of Melbourne). This area comprises a total of 310.8 hectares and consists of:
- 14.3 hectares (5%) of Grade 1, excellent quality;
 - 7.7 hectares (2%) of Grade 2, very good quality;
 - 60.1 hectares (19%) of Grade 3a, good quality;
 - 209.9 hectares (68%) of Grade 3b, moderate quality; and
 - 18.8 hectares (6%) of other land consisting of metalled tracks and other hard standings, water bodies and wooded areas (non-agriculture).

Landscape

- 2.3.11 The draft Order Limits are located largely within National Character Area 39 Humberhead Levels, with the northern portion of the underground grid connection corridor being located in National Character Area 28 Vale of York.

Population

- 2.3.12 There is one long distance path (Wilberforce Way), which runs along Pocklington Canal within the underground grid connection corridor, and a network of 23 public rights of way across the draft Order Limits and surrounding area.

Water resources

- 2.3.13 There is one Main River within the draft Order Limits; the Beck/Bielby Beck which is located within the underground grid connection corridor, flowing from east to west and is culverted below Pocklington Canal to cross from south to north of the canal.
- 2.3.14 There are several Internal Drainage Board watercourses within the Site: Lords Drain and Foss Dyke, located in the south/south-eastern Site area and draining southwards; Charity Drain which is located more centrally within the Site and drains south-west/westwards; and Common Drain, Two Spits Goit and Fox Covert Drain which are located in the south-west of the Site, all of which drain south/south-west to Bottoms Drain.
- 2.3.15 The draft Order Limits are predominantly located in Flood Zone 1, with small portions of the draft Order Limits located in Flood Zones 2 and 3.

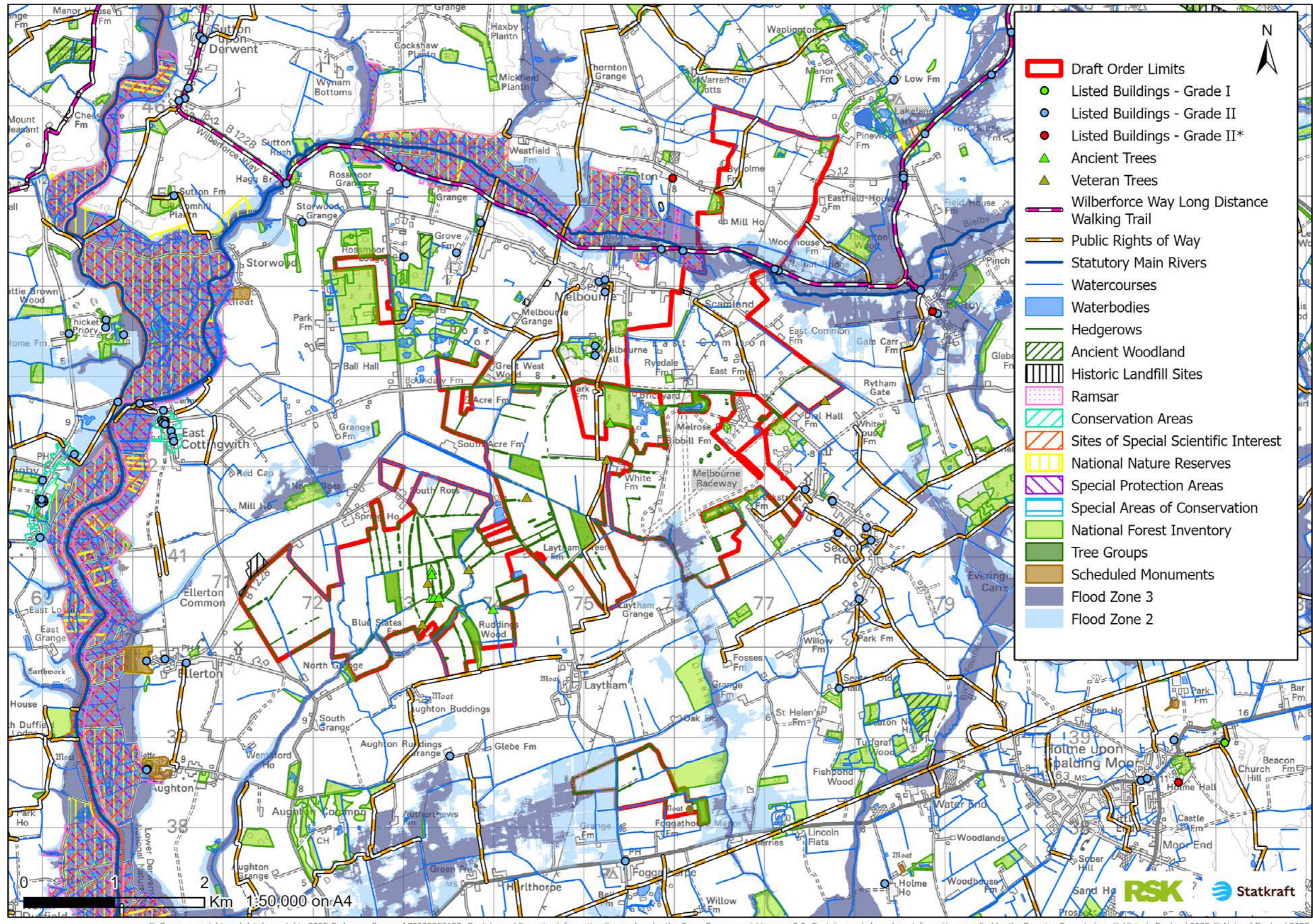


Figure 2: Overview of Environmental Features

2.4 Why is Mylen Leah Solar Farm needed?

- 2.4.1 Mylen Leah Solar Farm would help the United Kingdom build a low-carbon energy system and make an important contribution to meeting the United Kingdom Government's target of net zero carbon emissions and a secure, low carbon United Kingdom energy supply.
- 2.4.2 Low carbon solar generation is essential to enabling the decarbonisation of the United Kingdom's energy system. This is in line with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹ (December 2025, published January 2026), which emphasises the importance of solar in the United Kingdom's future energy mix and the benefits of the rapidity of its deployment in helping the United Kingdom meet net zero and increase energy security of supply.

2.5 What does Mylen Leah Solar Farm comprise?

- 2.5.1 Mylen Leah Solar Farm is a proposed solar photovoltaic electricity generating facility with an export capacity of approximately 500 megawatts (MW) and associated infrastructure, located in the East Riding of Yorkshire administrative area. It is anticipated that Mylen Leah Solar Farm will be operational and maintained for a duration of 50 years.
- 2.5.2 The draft Order Limits are the anticipated maximum area of land that would be required to facilitate the construction, operation, and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The Land Parcels would be connected by a series of interconnecting underground cables. Mylen Leah Solar Farm would establish a grid connection via underground cables to the National Grid Thornton Substation, to transfer the electricity to the national electricity network
- 2.5.3 Mylen Leah Solar Farm will comprise the following elements:
- Ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station, incorporating solar photovoltaic modules, mounting structures, inverters, transformers and switchgear and cabling;
 - Mounting structures to carry the solar photovoltaic modules;
 - Associated equipment with the solar photovoltaic modules to include inverters, transformers and switchgear and cabling;
 - On-Site Substations;
 - Inverters connecting to medium voltage stations;
 - Medium voltage stations connecting to each other and then to Substation(s);
 - Cabling to connect the medium voltage stations to the On-Site Substations, and then onwards to the National Grid Thornton Substation;
 - Ancillary infrastructure works including cables, Closed Circuit Television and security equipment, fencing, landscaping, tracks, vehicle parking, earthworks, surface water management, temporary footpath diversions and any other works identified as necessary to enable Mylen Leah Solar Farm;

- Storage containers;
- Welfare facilities;
- Works to lay electrical cables and associated infrastructure, including cable trenches;
- Temporary construction compounds, with associated parking for construction team, welfare facilities, temporary construction laydown areas and access tracks;
- Areas for habitat management and biodiversity enhancement; and
- Highways works to facilitate access for construction vehicles.

2.5.4 The export capacity of Mylen Leah Solar Farm would exceed 100 megawatts. Therefore, Mylen Leah Solar Farm is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will require a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008².

2.5.5 The indicative operational layout of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is presented on **Figure 3: Indicative Masterplan** on **Page 13** of this Non-Technical Summary.

2.6 How will Mylen Leah Solar Farm be built?

2.6.1 Subject to obtaining development consent, construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is assumed to commence in 2030, with the peak of construction activities also assumed to be occurring in Month 11. The whole construction programme is estimated to last 36 months. The Environmental Statement will provide further details of the proposed construction activities and their assumed duration, along with an assumed programme of each phase of works.

2.6.2 Construction compounds are expected to be established on-site for the storage of materials, plant, and equipment. Any construction areas would be closed to the public throughout the construction phase to ensure public safety.

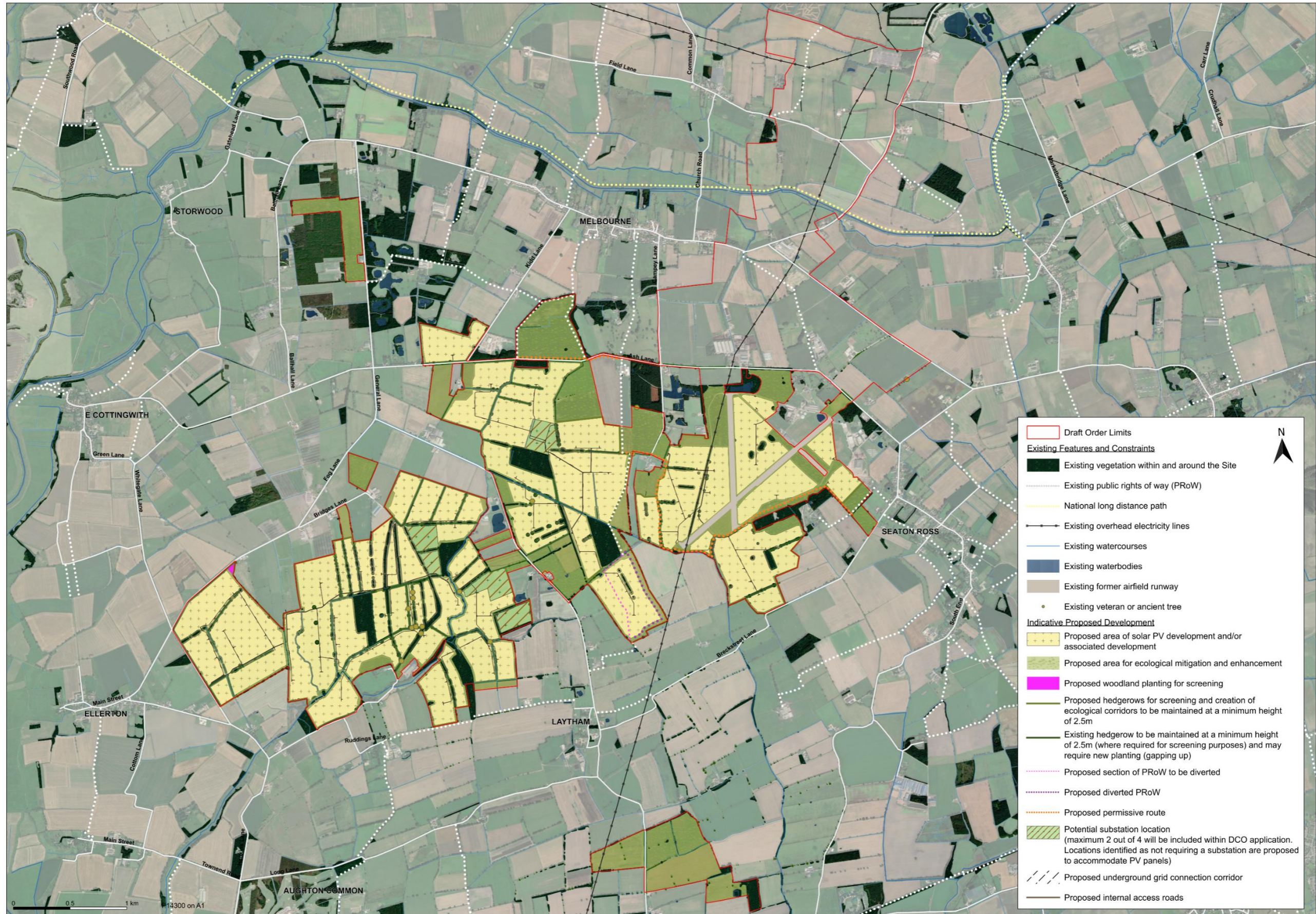


Figure 3: Indicative Masterplan

2.7 How has the design considered environmental constraints and opportunities?

2.7.1 The measures below show examples of the main ways in which the design has responded to environmental constraints and opportunities that have been identified up to this point:

- A minimum 20 metre offset distance from Mylen Leah Solar Farm to non-statutory designated sites;
- The On-Site Substation(s) will not be located within 250 metres of statutory and non-statutory designated sites;
- A minimum 100 metre offset from solar photovoltaic development to residential properties;
- Minimum 200 metre offset between residential properties to any larger infrastructure, for example, On-Site Substation(s);
- Construction storage areas and machinery will be designed to prevent spillages or waste products coming into contact with land and groundwater, in accordance with statutory environmental protection requirements;
- Maintain a minimum 10 metre offset between any public rights of way or proposed permissive path and solar photovoltaic development;
- 10 metre development offset from the banks of Internal Drainage Board watercourses, 5 metre development offset from banks of Ordinary Watercourses; and
- Horizontal Direction Drilling underneath Pocklington Canal which will reduce the impacts on vegetation and ecologically sensitive areas.

2.7.2 Further examples, as well as the overarching project design principles, are presented in **Volume 1** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The design principles are designed to deliver the project objectives in a manner suited to the Site. The project objectives are as follows:

- Climate action: To maximise the potential to generate clean energy and positively contribute to Net Zero;
- Environment: Contribute to the restoration of wildlife and regeneration of landscape on a large scale;
- Place: Recognise the strong sense of local identity and design with respect for our neighbours; and
- Shared value: Bring wider benefits beyond the draft Order Limits.

2.8 What alternatives have been considered?

2.8.1 The proposed Site has been selected following an in-depth site selection process in accordance with the key site selection factors outlined in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)³ (December 2025, published January 2026).

- 2.8.2 The Site is of a large enough scale to deliver sufficient wattage (greater than 100 megawatts), to help deliver as much solar energy as possible to meet United Kingdom Government targets. The Applicant did not consider sites that could only deliver smaller scale projects.
- 2.8.3 The site selection process considered a number of factors including:
- **Irradiance and site topography** – preference was given to sites with a south facing aspect and flatter topography;
 - **Electricity Network connection** – the site selection focused on the area around National Grid Thornton Substation where there was an available electricity connection with preference given to sites in close proximity to the point of connection;
 - **Proximity of site to dwellings** – the site selection sought to avoid sites in close proximity to residential dwellings or where it would not be possible to appropriately mitigate visual amenity and glint and glare;
 - **Agricultural land classification and land type** – the site selection sought to minimise the impact on best and most versatile agricultural land (land classified as Grade 3a and above);
 - **Accessibility** – the site selection considered the suitability of the access routes to the proposed sites, during construction, operation and decommissioning;
 - **Public rights of way** – the site selection process sought to avoid and minimise the visual impact from public rights of way; and
 - **Security and lighting** – the site selection considered the security of the site and sought to minimise the impact on the landscape and the visual impact of security measures.
- 2.8.4 Other considerations for site selection include environmental and spatial constraints (for example avoiding direct impacts on designated ecological and geological sites, historic designations and nationally designated landscapes and planning designations), site size and land assembly (for example identifying sufficient adjoining areas of land for Mylen Leah Solar Farm to be economically viable), and land availability (for example identifying willing landowners with large scale land holdings).
- 2.8.5 Modifications to the design and layout of Mylen Leah Solar Farm up to this point include the removal of solar photovoltaic development and associated infrastructure from certain areas and refinement of the locations of substations and the cable route options in response to the findings of environmental assessments.
- What alternative solar technologies have been considered?**
- 2.8.6 The Applicant is still considering different solar technologies for Mylen Leah Solar Farm. For assessment purposes, a worst-case scenario has been used to ensure impacts are fully evaluated. The choice of technology will be refined further before submission of the Development Consent Order.

What alternative layouts have been considered?

- 2.8.7 The current design and layout of Mylen Leah Solar Farm (shown on **Figure 3: Indicative Masterplan** located on **Page 13** of this Non-Technical Summary) has resulted from an iterative process informed by ongoing environmental assessment and taking into consideration the design principles, non-statutory consultation feedback and stakeholder engagement. The layout will continue to be developed with regard given to statutory consultation responses and further environmental assessments and stakeholder engagement.

3. What is the Environmental Impact Assessment process?

3.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment is a systematic process that examines the likely significant effects (beneficial or adverse) on the environment resulting from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a proposed development. The process is shown on **Plate 1: Main stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment process**. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report is the third stage in this plate.

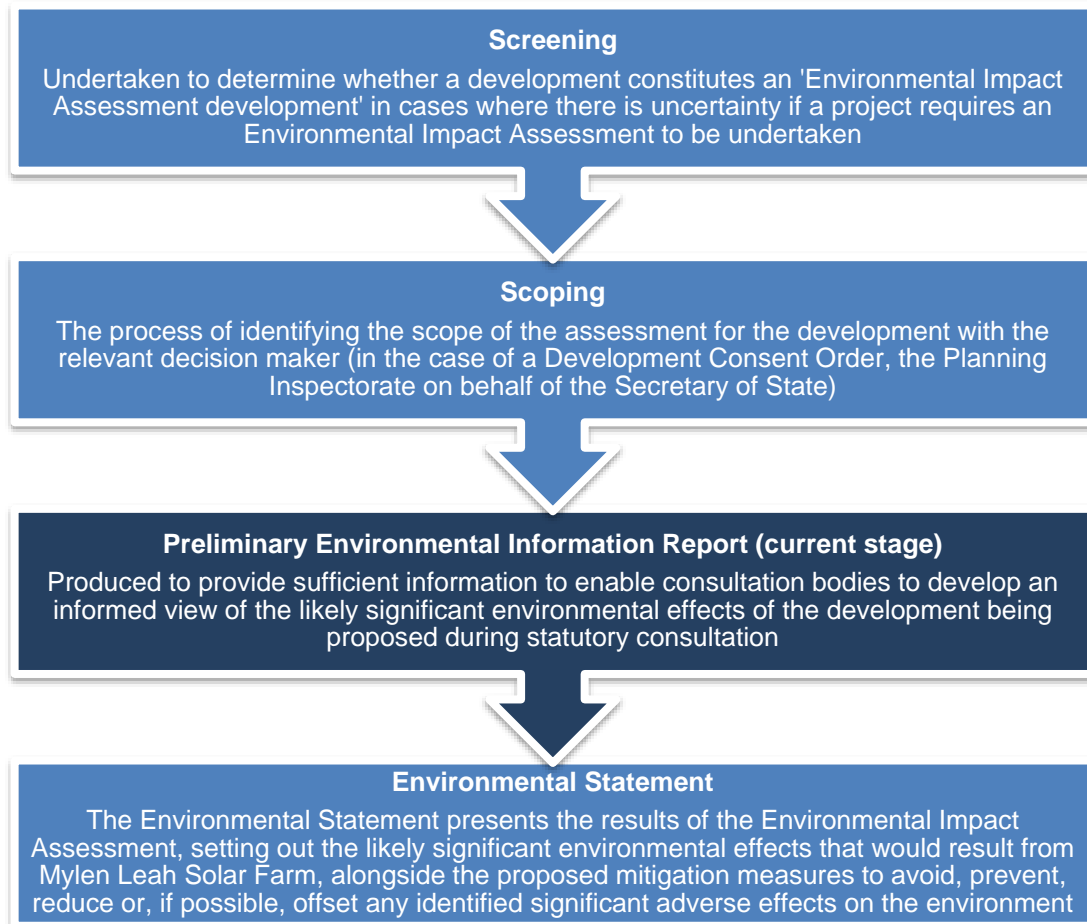


Plate 1: Main stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment process

3.1.2 An Environmental Statement will be submitted in support of the application for this Development Consent Order. An Environmental Statement is used to report to decision makers, consultees and stakeholders on the likely significant environmental effects of a development and helps the decision maker (in the case of a Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State) determine the application for consent.

3.1.3 In order to maintain flexibility in the design, maximum limits have been defined to ensure a reasonable worst case has been assessed. This may vary for each environmental factor and further detail is included in **Volume 1** of the **Preliminary Environmental Information Assessment**. As the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm evolves, more information will become available and key elements of the design will be refined.

4. What are the preliminary assessment findings?

4.1 Air quality

4.1.1 This section considers the likely effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on air quality across its construction and decommissioning phase. Dust and particulate matter from site activities and road traffic in relation to operation have not been considered within this preliminary assessment, as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate.

Would dust and emissions generated by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during construction and decommissioning affect nearby air quality receptors?

4.1.2 During construction, there is potential for dust and emissions to affect local settlements including the villages of Melbourne, Seaton Ross, and Foggathorpe, as well as ecological receptors. Therefore, site-specific mitigation measures have been proposed.

4.1.3 The impacts of road traffic emissions associated with the construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm has the potential to affect existing human and ecological receptors. Impacts on local air quality as a result of road traffic emissions are expected to be confined to this timeframe and therefore be temporary.

4.1.4 Decommissioning is expected to generate lower effects to those anticipated during construction and therefore the mitigation measures proposed for implementation during the construction phase will be appropriate for application during the decommissioning phase. Mitigation measures will be detailed in and secured by an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Would road traffic during construction and decommissioning affect nearby receptors?

4.1.5 No significant effects are expected to occur during the construction and decommissioning phases of as a result of additional road traffic generated by Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects?

4.1.6 The implementation of dust control measures and construction equipment emission controls can greatly reduce any adverse effects during the construction phase. Mitigation measures will be detailed in and secured by an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. Any effects resulting from road traffic emissions will be controlled through the implementation of mitigation measures, which will be detailed in and secured by an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for air quality?

4.1.7 Any effects anticipated to occur on air quality receptors as a result of Mylen Leah Solar Farm are considered to be **not significant** following additional mitigation measures being implemented.

4.2 Biodiversity

- 4.2.1 This section considers the likely effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on designated sites, habitats and protected or notable species - those that are ecologically important due to their rarity, declining populations, or significant role in local biodiversity - during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

Would Mylen Leah Solar Farm affect designated sites and habitats?

Designated sites

- 4.2.2 During construction, there are likely to be effects on designated sites including the Lower Derwent Valley Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, and Ramsar site, the River Derwent Special Area of Conservation, and the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, which are all of international ecological importance. This is in addition to nationally designated sites such as Pocklington Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest and Melbourne and Thornton Ings Site of Special Scientific Interest, as well as Local Wildlife Sites which are of County ecological importance.
- 4.2.3 The preliminary assessment found that even with embedded mitigation, additional mitigation measures are required to address risks such as habitat degradation, loss of land used by protected bird species, disturbance of qualifying species, and potential fish injury during in-channel works. Habitat degradation will be managed through standard environmental protection measures, including dust suppression, pollution prevention measures, biosecurity protocols (measures designed to protect against harmful biological or biochemical substances), security fencing to maintain buffers, and ongoing monitoring. These measures will be secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- 4.2.4 In relation to the potential loss of functionally linked land and supporting bird habitats associated with designated sites, the preliminary mitigation design will be presented in and secured by the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. This will be informed by survey results and developed in consultation with Natural England. Because surveys and final mitigation designs are still in progress, an adverse, long-term, reversible adverse effect at the Local level has been identified on a precautionary basis. The potential for residual effects will be fully assessed in the Environmental Statement, once the survey data is available and the mitigation measures are finalised. In relation to disturbance of qualifying species, noise and vibration controls set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will be implemented, together with preconstruction otter surveys. However, some short-term, temporary, adverse effects during construction may remain. The final assessment of residual effects presented in the Environmental Statement will be informed by the results of ongoing/upcoming surveys, mitigation design and noise modelling which is currently being undertaken. Regarding the risk of fish injury or mortality during in-channel works, measures such as protection of water quality, appropriate timing of works, electrofishing (controlled electric current in water to temporarily stun fish) and relocation of fish where necessary, and supervision of activities like culvert installation will be implemented.

- 4.2.5 During operation, additional mitigation is required to address potential disturbance or displacement of qualifying bird species, possible disruption to bird flight paths caused by glint and glare, and potential reductions in the breeding success of qualifying wetland and aquatic invertebrate species. Maintenance and habitat management will be scheduled to avoid sensitive periods, such as peak migration, wintering, and breeding seasons.
- 4.2.6 Although embedded mitigation will reduce the likelihood of glint and glare affecting bird flight paths, a reversible, long-term adverse residual effect at the local level may still occur over the fifty-year operational life of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The full assessment will be undertaken and presented in the Environmental Statement once non-breeding bird surveys have been completed to review levels of flight activity across the draft Order Limits.
- 4.2.7 For wetland and aquatic invertebrates, impacts are expected to be reduced by retaining/protecting existing aquatic habitats, providing adequate separation between these habitats and the solar photovoltaic modules, and through appropriate spacing of modules. However, a reversible, long-term adverse residual effect at the local level may still remain, with final conclusions to be drawn once habitat assessment surveys have been completed. The results of these assessments will be presented in the Environmental Statement.
- 4.2.8 It is also noted that the loss of functionally linked land (areas outside formally designated nature sites that are essential for supporting the species that the sites were meant to protect), which support non-breeding qualifying bird species, identified during the construction phase, will continue throughout operation.
- 4.2.9 During the decommissioning phase, residual effects are expected to be similar to those experienced during construction. Additional mitigation measures will be secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan. Returning the Site to farmland following decommissioning will provide habitat suitable for breeding and wintering birds.

Habitats of principal importance and irreplaceable habitats (including ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees and important hedgerows)

- 4.2.10 Within the draft Order Limits, several habitats of principal importance are present, including arable field margins, ponds, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and hedgerows. Desk-based studies also suggest the underground grid connection corridor may contain coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and other priority habitat mosaics. Ancient and veteran trees are also present and are considered irreplaceable habitat. Overall, these habitats are assessed as being of County ecological importance. Hedgerows will be replanted as early as practicable after construction, and where this is not possible, replacement hedgerows using native local species will be provided to compensate for losses. These measures will be secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. Residual effects from temporary habitat loss during construction are expected to be short-term, adverse, and occur at a Local level. Habitat degradation will be minimised through standard environmental protection measures such as dust control, pollution prevention (including a plan for bentonite breakout),

biosecurity measures, and maintaining buffer zones. During decommissioning, residual effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with additional mitigation detailed in and secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Notable plants and plant communities

- 4.2.11 No notable plant species have been recorded within the solar photovoltaic development area to date, although desk-based information suggests they may be present elsewhere within the draft Order Limits. Botanical surveys are yet to be completed, and if notable species are confirmed, they are likely to be of up to County ecological importance.
- 4.2.12 During construction, additional mitigation may be required to avoid direct or indirect loss of notable plants or plant communities, particularly those associated with more diverse habitats such as field margins, hedgerows, woodlands, ponds and watercourses. If rare plants are identified, further steps such as micro-siting infrastructure or translocating plants may be implemented.
- 4.2.13 During operation, habitat beneath and between the solar photovoltaic modules is expected to shift from arable or modified grassland to more diverse, flower-rich grassland or herbal leys, supported by wider habitat creation and enhancement. This is anticipated to have beneficial effects which are **significant** at the Local level.
- 4.2.14 Decommissioning effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with additional mitigation to be secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Would Mylen Leah Solar Farm affect protected and/or notable species?

Invertebrates

- 4.2.15 Aquatic invertebrate habitat surveys have not yet been completed, but due to the presence of several designated sites of importance for aquatic invertebrates within and near the draft Order Limits, habitats in the area may support an aquatic invertebrate assemblage of up to County ecological importance. The draft Order Limits are also likely to support common terrestrial invertebrate species typical of the improved grassland, arable, hedgerow and damp grassland habitats present, which are considered to be of Local ecological importance.
- 4.2.16 During operation, the likely cessation of chemical use, such as fertilisers and pesticides, along with habitat creation and enhancement, is expected to benefit invertebrate populations within the draft Order Limits.

Fish

- 4.2.17 Fish habitat suitability surveys have not yet been completed, but desk-based information indicates that fish populations within the draft Order Limits (excluding qualifying species linked to designated sites already assessed elsewhere) may be of up to County ecological importance.

Amphibians

- 4.2.18 Great crested newts and other amphibians, including common toad and common frog, are considered to be of Local ecological importance within the

draft Order Limits. Environmental DNA surveys have confirmed great crested newt presence in one pond, and suitable habitats across the Site are likely to support other amphibian species.

- 4.2.19 During construction, additional mitigation is required to address potential loss of small areas of terrestrial amphibian habitat and the risk of injury or mortality during vegetation clearance. The majority of suitable habitat will be retained, and any losses are expected to result in short-term, temporary, Local-level effects that are **not significant**. Additional mitigation measures, such as avoiding clearance during the hibernation period and undertaking staged, vegetation removal supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works (a qualified professional who oversees construction sites to ensure environmental compliance and protect biodiversity) will minimise risk to amphibians.
- 4.2.20 During decommissioning, similar types of effects are expected, with additional mitigation to be secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Reptiles

- 4.2.21 Reptile habitat assessments within the draft Order Limits have not yet been completed, but based on existing habitat information and aerial imagery, any reptile populations present are likely to be of Local ecological importance.
- 4.2.22 During construction, additional mitigation may be needed to address potential loss of small areas of reptile habitat and the risk of injury or mortality during vegetation clearance. The majority of most suitable reptile habitat will be retained. Additional mitigation measures, such as avoiding habitat clearance during the reptile hibernation period and using a staged clearance approach, supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works, will minimise harm.
- 4.2.23 During operation, embedded mitigation will ensure that most reptile-suitable habitat is retained and strengthened.
- 4.2.24 During decommissioning, effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with additional mitigation secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Breeding birds

- 4.2.25 Other habitats within the draft Order Limits also have the potential to support a wider range of breeding birds, including species using the area during winter and migration. Although breeding bird surveys for the underground grid connection corridor have not yet been completed, results from the solar photovoltaic development area suggest the overall breeding bird assemblage is likely to be of up to County ecological importance.
- 4.2.26 During construction, additional mitigation in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan is required to mitigate habitat degradation, disturbance, and potential loss of habitat for ground-nesting birds. Standard environmental protection measures and buffer zones are expected to prevent significant habitat degradation. Disturbance from construction activity may also result in short-term, temporary adverse effects of potential Local-level significance, with final outcomes dependent on survey results and noise modelling.

- 4.2.27 During operation, additional mitigation focuses on timing maintenance and habitat management outside the breeding season. The loss of habitat identified during construction, however, will remain throughout the operational phase.
- 4.2.28 During decommissioning, effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with mitigation secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan. Returning the Site to farmland after decommissioning will provide habitats potentially suitable for breeding birds.

Non-breeding birds (wintering and passage birds)

- 4.2.29 In addition to non-breeding bird species that form qualifying features of designated sites, habitats within the draft Order Limits are also capable of supporting a wider range of non-breeding birds during winter and migration periods. Although non-breeding bird surveys are still ongoing, and surveys for the underground grid connection corridor have not yet commenced, the overall non-breeding bird assemblage is considered likely to be of up to County ecological importance.

Bats

- 4.2.30 The solar photovoltaic development area is considered to be of County ecological importance for foraging and roosting bats. During construction, additional mitigation measures may be needed to avoid the loss of bat roosts in trees. These include pre-construction surveys, such as ground-level tree assessments, preliminary roost inspections of affected structures, and further bat surveys to inform any licensing requirements.
- 4.2.31 During operation, there is some evidence that certain bat species may be displaced. On a precautionary basis, this could represent a reversible, long-term adverse effect, **potentially significant** at a Local level. However, the widespread availability of suitable habitat in the wider area, alongside operational benefits such as the cessation of chemical use and habitat creation, could increase invertebrate prey, which would benefit local bat population.
- 4.2.32 Decommissioning effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with further mitigation secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Water voles

- 4.2.33 Water vole surveys have not yet been completed, but based on their conservation status within the East Riding of Yorkshire and the presence of suitable habitat within the draft Order Limits, any water vole population (if confirmed) is likely to be of County ecological importance.
- 4.2.34 During construction, additional mitigation is required to manage risks of habitat degradation, small-scale habitat loss, and potential injury or mortality. Standard environmental protection measures, including pollution prevention, a bentonite breakout plan, and biosecurity measures, will help protect water quality and prevent habitat degradation. Buffers will be maintained and monitored. If water voles are found and works affecting their habitat cannot be avoided, pre-construction surveys would inform the need for a Natural England water vole displacement licence.

- 4.2.35 During operation, the majority of suitable water vole habitat will be retained.
- 4.2.36 During decommissioning, effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with additional mitigation set out in the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Otters

- 4.2.37 Otter surveys have not yet been completed, but given their conservation status in the East Riding of Yorkshire and the presence of suitable habitats within the draft Order Limits, any otters present are likely to be of County ecological importance. The draft Order Limits is also close to, and hydrologically linked with, designated sites where otters are a qualifying feature. Because otters have large home ranges and any individuals present would likely form part of those designated site populations, the assessment of residual effects on otters has been addressed in relation to designated sites.

Badgers

- 4.2.38 Badgers within the draft Order Limits are considered to be of Local ecological importance. With the embedded mitigation measures in place, no adverse effects are expected during construction, operation or decommissioning, and no additional mitigation is currently required.
- 4.2.39 Pre-construction surveys will be undertaken to identify any new badger setts, which would inform the need for additional mitigation if required. During operation, habitat creation and enhancement beneath the solar photovoltaic modules is expected to increase invertebrate prey availability.

Other species of principal importance

- 4.2.40 Other species of principal importance³ within the draft Order Limits are considered to be of Local ecological importance. During construction, additional mitigation is required to reduce the risk of injury or mortality during habitat clearance. Measures include timing vegetation clearance to avoid the hibernation period for small mammals such as hedgehogs, using a two-stage hand-tool clearance approach, and ensuring works are supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works.
- 4.2.41 During operation, the majority of suitable habitat for these species will be retained, so no significant residual effects are anticipated. Habitat creation and enhancement beneath the solar photovoltaic modules is expected to increase invertebrate prey availability and provide undisturbed habitat for species such as hedgehogs and brown hares.
- 4.2.42 During decommissioning, effects are expected to be similar to those during construction, with further mitigation secured through the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Invasive non-native species

- 4.2.43 Invasive species are not of conservation value, but additional mitigation measures are required to prevent their spread during construction, operation

³ A designated list of wildlife species (often called Priority Species) in England and Wales that are rare, threatened, or in rapid decline, requiring conservation action

and decommissioning. These include pre-construction surveys to identify invasive plant species and the implementation of biosecurity control measures, such as procedures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species, secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. Biosecurity control measures will also be applied during operation, and invasive species surveys will be undertaken before any non-standard maintenance works to guide appropriate control actions.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for biodiversity?

- 4.2.44 There are likely be **potentially significant** adverse effects for the loss of functionally linked land and habitat creation during construction for designated sites.
- 4.2.45 **Significant** beneficial effects are anticipated for notable plants and plant communities in terms of habitat creation during operation due to the shift in land use from arable or modified grassland to more diverse, flower-rich grassland or herbal leys. There are also likely to be **significant** beneficial effects during operation for invertebrates due to the likely cessation of chemical use, such as fertilisers and pesticides, along with habitat creation and enhancement, which is expected to benefit invertebrate populations within the draft Order Limits. Badgers will experience a **significant** beneficial effect during operation due to the expected increase in invertebrate prey availability. The availability of prey is also likely to have **significant** beneficial effects for other species of principal importance.
- 4.2.46 All other effects anticipated to occur on biodiversity receptors as a result of Mylen Leah Solar Farm are considered to be **not significant**.

4.3 Climate

- 4.3.1 This section considers the likely effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on greenhouse gas emissions during construction, operation, and decommissioning and its contribution to climate change mitigation.

Would climate be affected by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during the construction, operation, and decommissioning?

- 4.3.2 Mylen Leah Solar Farm has an important role to play in supporting the United Kingdom's transition to a low-carbon economy by helping to decarbonise national electricity generation. Without such renewable energy projects, the United Kingdom would struggle to meet its carbon reduction targets.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.3.3 The design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will include mitigation measures to minimise the use of concrete, steel, aggregates, and other construction materials, secured by the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- 4.3.4 Additional mitigation measures including responsible sourcing of materials, and measures to decrease fuel use by maximising efficiency will be detailed in and secured by the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan,

Outline Operation Environmental Management Plan, Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan, Outline Site Waste Management Plan, and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for climate?

- 4.3.5 The significance of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm's impact on the global climate is assessed over its full lifecycle. Total greenhouse gas emissions from construction, operation and decommissioning amount to approximately 1.39 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. However, when compared with equivalent gas-fired electricity generation, Mylen Leah Solar Farm is expected to deliver more than 9.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in net lifecycle carbon savings.
- 4.3.6 This results in a carbon payback period of six years, after which Mylen Leah Solar Farm continues to deliver net carbon benefits for the remainder of its operational life. Overall, Mylen Leah Solar Farm is anticipated to have a **significant** beneficial effect on the climate during its lifecycle.

4.4 Cultural heritage

- 4.4.1 This section explores the likely effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on cultural heritage within the draft Order Limits during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

Would designated and non-designated heritage assets be affected by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during the construction, operation, and decommissioning?

- 4.4.2 The scheduled monument, Moated Site at Chapelgarth, 450 metres north east of Manor Farm and Pocklington Canal Walbut Bridge may experience some temporary impacts, such as from noise, dust, and lighting, during construction. There are multiple non-designated heritage assets within the Site (including the former Airfield at Melbourne, and Pocklington Canal) which could be affected by the construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.
- 4.4.3 During operation and decommissioning, no additional physical impacts are anticipated on any cultural heritage asset following additional mitigation.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.4.4 Additional mitigation measures such as the creation of grassland so that the setting of the scheduled monument is not negatively impacted, will be secured in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for cultural heritage?

Construction

- 4.4.5 Following additional mitigation, the residual effect of the scheduled monument, Moated Site at Chapelgarth, 450 metres north east of Manor Farm is assessed as **not significant**, on the basis that the site is no longer

within its original medieval setting, and therefore its significance does not derive substantially from its setting.

- 4.4.6 Pocklington Canal Walbut Bridge is anticipated to experience no change in impact, with appropriate additional mitigation measures in place (such as buffer zones or traffic management), resulting in a **not significant** residual effect on this receptor.
- 4.4.7 No other designated heritage assets within the Site or the wider study area are expected to be impacted during construction, and no significant effects on them are anticipated.
- 4.4.8 During construction, temporary changes to tranquillity, such as noise, dust and lighting, may affect non-designated heritage assets within the Site. However, the residual effects are considered to be **not significant**.

Operation

- 4.4.9 During the operational phase, effects on cultural heritage assets will be **not significant** following additional mitigation.

Decommissioning

- 4.4.10 Effects will be **not significant** during the decommissioning phase, including any physical impacts to in situ archaeological remains that may arise from decommissioning activities.

4.5 Land and groundwater

- 4.5.1 This section considers the likely effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on land and groundwater throughout construction, operation, and decommissioning phases.

Would land and groundwater be affected by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during the construction, operation, and decommissioning?

Construction

- 4.5.2 Construction activities could introduce new contamination or encounter existing contamination from past land uses.
- 4.5.3 Construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm has the potential to affect mineral resources by interacting with existing mineral deposits and temporarily restricting access to mineral safeguarding areas for extraction purposes.
- 4.5.4 Construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm could affect groundwater quality and the current groundwater regime, including levels and flow, through potential contamination from construction activities, or by altering drainage patterns and creating new pathways for pollutants. Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems may also be affected by changes to the groundwater regime.

Operation

- 4.5.5 During the 50-year operational life of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, access to mineral safeguarding areas will be restricted because the solar photovoltaic modules and associated infrastructure will cover the land. These mineral resources will become available again after decommissioning.

- 4.5.6 The operational phase of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm could potentially affect groundwater quality and the groundwater regime, which may in turn impact nearby Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems. Of the two Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems identified as receptors, Pocklington Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is located partly within the underground grid connection corridor, is considered of very high importance. White Carr Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest, located 316 metres from the draft Order Limits, is of high importance.
- 4.5.7 It is intended that the potential for thermal effects on the groundwater due to buried high voltage cables will be considered further within the Environmental Statement chapter. Potential effects of temperature changes could include effects of a 'thermal plume' on groundwater flow, bulk thermal conductivity, and potential related changes to water chemistry.

Decommissioning

- 4.5.8 During decommissioning, access to mineral safeguarding areas will be temporarily restricted due to the removal of solar photovoltaic modules and associated infrastructure, but full access to these resources will be restored once decommissioning is complete, meaning there will be only a short-term reduction in access.
- 4.5.9 Decommissioning activities at the Mylen Leah Solar Farm could affect groundwater quality and the groundwater regime through potential contamination (such as spills or refuelling) or alterations to existing drainage, which may also impact Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.5.10 For human health, with additional mitigation measures in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan in place, contaminant levels are expected to remain well below screening thresholds, due to a lack of the presence of pollutants, and no requirement for further control measures to reduce the risks to human health or make the land suitable for its intended use. However, construction activities could still lead to adverse residual effects on the quality or quantity of groundwater even with additional mitigation measures in place. The results of the site investigation would also feed into the piling risk assessment element of a Foundation Works Risk Assessment and would therefore incorporate a geotechnical element alongside contamination assessment works. Intrusive investigation works will be completed in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance documents.
- 4.5.11 Additional mitigation measures relating to groundwater for operation will be detailed in the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan.
- 4.5.12 Following additional mitigation measures set out in the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan for decommissioning there is the potential for residual effects on groundwater quality or quantity.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for land and groundwater?

- 4.5.13 Construction and decommissioning activities are anticipated to result in a **significant** adverse effect on groundwater during construction and decommissioning, due to changes to existing drainage or new preferential contaminant migration routes introduced as a result of construction and decommissioning activities, as well as the potential for Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems to be affected.
- 4.5.14 All other residual effects are anticipated to be **not significant**.

4.6 Landscape and visual

- 4.6.1 This section assesses the likely effect on landscape character and visual amenity as a result of Mylen Leah Solar Farm during construction, operation and decommissioning.

What would be the effect on landscape and visual receptors as a result of Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

Landscape receptors

- 4.6.2 Most of Mylen Leah Solar Farm would lie within Landscape Character Area 6A. Mylen Leah Solar Farm would retain and enhance existing field boundaries, reinstating hedgerows where appropriate, and would seek to maintain the openness of public rights of way by avoiding full enclosure where possible. Although solar farms do not generally create an urban character, a development of this scale would still detract from the rural character of the host Landscape Character Area.

Visual Receptors

- 4.6.3 Visual receptors include local residents, users of public rights of way, and users of the local road network. The varied landform and landcover means that there can be long-distance and panoramic views as well as those foreshortened by topography and woodland.

Settlements

- 4.6.4 There are eight identified settlement visual receptors, which have the potential to be affected by Mylen Leah Solar Farm. For the settlements of Aughton, East Cottingwith, Ellerton, Foggathorpe, and Laytham, there is potential for views of the solar photovoltaic modules from the first floor of properties. For Harlthorpe, Mylen Leah Solar Farm would be fully screened. There is some potential for views of a location for a potential On-Site Substation from Melbourne and Seaton Ross.

Key routes

- 4.6.5 Viewpoints located on or near the A163, have no visibility of the Site.
- 4.6.6 Along the B1228, viewpoints show that parts of the route could have visibility of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, though most of the road benefits from screening provided by field boundaries and roadside vegetation.

Recreational routes

- 4.6.7 There are numerous recreational routes within and surrounding Mylen Leah Solar Farm including Wilberforce Way long distance path, footpaths, and bridleways.

Other recreational receptors

- 4.6.8 Other recreational receptors identified are: Melbourne Raceway, York Model Boat Club, Laytham Park Caravan Site, and Church Hill at Holme on Spalding Moor.

Residential amenity

- 4.6.9 Residential properties have been identified that will be taken forward for detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement. These properties are all classed as high-sensitivity receptors and therefore require a full residential visual amenity assessment within the Environmental Statement.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.6.10 A comprehensive landscape scheme (provided in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) will be developed in accordance with the design principles to integrate Mylen Leah Solar Farm into the landscape and to mitigate visual effects as far as practicable. The landscaping scheme would be complementary to any biodiversity and other environmental receptors.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for landscape and visual?

- 4.6.11 During construction and decommissioning, the residual effect on landscape character within Landscape Character Area 6A would be **not significant**, as the whole Site would not be affected simultaneously. However, during Year 1 and Year 10 of operation, the residual effect on landscape character would be **significant**.
- 4.6.12 The residual effect on surrounding Landscape Character Areas would be **not significant** during construction, operation, and decommissioning, with the implementation of additional mitigation measures, such as those within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.
- 4.6.13 For all settlements the residual effect for construction, decommissioning, and operation would be **not significant**.
- 4.6.14 For key routes, the residual visual effect for the A163 during construction, operation, and decommissioning is **not significant** and the A163 will not be taken forward for detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement.
- 4.6.15 For around 1.35 kilometres on Fog Lane and Long Rampart, Mylen Leah Solar Farm would sit directly beside the road, with only a roadside hedge providing screening. During construction and decommissioning, the residual effect would be **not significant** due to the temporary and transient nature of views.
- 4.6.16 By Year 1 of operation, where the Site is offset from the B1228, visual receptors would experience a **not significant** effect, while the section of

B1228 bordering Mylen Leah Solar Farm would experience **significant** adverse residual effects. By Year 10, maturing roadside and field-edge vegetation would reduce visibility to receptors. At that stage, both the bordering and offset sections would experience reduced, residual visual effects, which are **not significant**.

- 4.6.17 During construction and decommissioning there are likely to be **significant** adverse residual effects to views from Melbourne footpaths number 2 and 3 and Foggathorpe footpath number 11.
- 4.6.18 Post completion at Year 1 of operation, there are likely to be **significant** adverse effects on views from Melbourne bridleway number 5 and Melbourne footpath number 4, Melbourne footpaths number 2 and 3, Foggathorpe footpath number 11, Foggathorpe bridleway number 12 and Ellerton and Aughton bridleway number 7, Seaton Ross footpath number 3. By year 10 of operation there are likely to be **significant** adverse effects on views from Melbourne footpaths number 2 and 3, and Foggathorpe footpath number 11.
- 4.6.19 There are expected to be **significant** adverse residual effects on York Model Boat Club and Laytham Park Caravan Site, for views from these receptors, during construction and decommissioning.
- 4.6.20 Post completion at Year 1 and at Year 10 of operation, there are expected to be **significant** adverse residual effects on visual receptors from Melbourne Raceway, York Model Boat Club, and Laytham Park Caravan Site.

4.7 Noise and vibration

- 4.7.1 This section considers the likely effects of noise and vibration generated by the construction, operation, and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

Would noise generated during construction, operation and decommissioning affect noise receptors?

- 4.7.2 There are five main construction activities/stages for the Mylen Leah Solar Farm. These are trenching/excavation, piling and foundation work (including fencing), frame installation with module fixing, earthmoving and site/road preparation, and vehicle/material movements. Although a detailed construction timetable is not yet available, worst-case noise levels can be estimated for static activities assuming a minimum 100 metre distance from receptors.
- 4.7.3 Modelled construction noise from both fixed and mobile activities is below the best practice thresholds for ambient noise levels. Mitigation options are available to reduce operational noise, but they cannot yet be defined precisely enough to predict noise levels at each noise assessment location. Noise impacts during decommissioning are expected to be the same as, or lower than for construction.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.7.4 Additional mitigation measures in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan, and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan, are

expected to reduce noise levels further, although the reduction and exact mitigation measures cannot be quantified at this stage.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for noise and vibration?

- 4.7.5 Residual noise effects during construction, operation, and decommissioning are assessed as **not significant**.

4.8 Population

- 4.8.1 This section considers the likely effects generated by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during construction, operation, and decommissioning in relation to population and the local economy.

What impact will Mylen Leah Solar Farm have on population?

Agricultural land holdings

- 4.8.2 During construction, operation, and decommissioning, agricultural land will gradually be taken out of its current land use, temporarily reducing farmers' ability to work the land and earn income. Both landowners and tenant farmers are highly sensitive to losing access to agricultural land, and are expected to receive financial agreements or compensation from the Applicant.

Agricultural economy

- 4.8.3 Construction, operation, and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will gradually remove land from agricultural use, reducing land available to support the local agricultural economy. Although the agricultural economy in East Riding of Yorkshire will be affected, only a very small proportion of the county's agricultural land (0.5%) will be affected.

Businesses

- 4.8.4 Most businesses in the 500 metre study area (46 out of 58) do not depend on their external surroundings for revenue. These businesses may experience short-term disruption during construction and operation, mainly from increased traffic. The remaining 12 businesses depend on visual amenity to generate revenue, and it is considered that these businesses could be affected by the construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm through impacts to noise or visual change which may reduce customer footfall and business revenue

Use of recreational routes

- 4.8.5 Construction, operation, and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will temporarily affect the amenity of public rights of way. One route will be permanently diverted, adding around 130 metres to the existing travel distance.
- 4.8.6 No other permanent diversions are proposed, though temporary restrictions may occur.
- 4.8.7 Users of the Wilberforce Way long-distance path may experience temporary disruption from construction of the underground grid connection corridor, but the route will remain open.

Employment and gross value added

- 4.8.8 Construction and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will create new employment opportunities, providing economic benefits to the local area. Approximately 306 direct and 372 indirect full-time equivalent jobs are expected, with emphasis on using local and regional supply chains. The construction phase is estimated to contribute around £39 million in gross value added to the regional economy.
- 4.8.9 During operation, Mylen Leah Solar Farm has the potential to create long-term employment opportunities that would benefit the local economy. Mylen Leah Solar Farm is expected to support around six direct full-time equivalent jobs each year in roles such as security and maintenance. The operational phase is estimated to contribute about £290,000 per year in gross value added, assuming the benefits are retained within the region.

Tourism

- 4.8.10 Construction and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm may temporarily affect the tourism economy due to noise and visual disturbance that could negatively affect visitor experience.
- 4.8.11 During operation, visual changes from Mylen Leah Solar Farm may reduce the amenity of nearby tourist assets, potentially affecting tourism providers.

Occupancy rates

- 4.8.12 During construction, an influx of workers will provide a small but steady increase in demand for local accommodation, particularly benefiting providers during quieter winter months. The presence of additional workers could impact accommodation availability for tourists, but the impact of this will be short term.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.8.13 Measures are provided in the Outline Public Rights of Way and Access Management Plan for temporary and permanent diversions of public rights of way. Additional mitigation will also be provided in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, and Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, for tourism and businesses.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for population?

- 4.8.14 During construction, operation, and decommissioning, following additional mitigation, the residual effect of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on agricultural land holdings, agricultural economy, use of recreational routes, tourism, and occupancy rates is **not significant**.
- 4.8.15 During construction, operation, and decommissioning there may be short-term disturbance for customers accessing these businesses as a result of the temporary increase in traffic numbers and Heavy Goods Vehicles as a result of construction activity, which may reduce customer footfall and business revenue. The has the potential to affect holiday accommodation and

equestrian businesses, however the residual effect on these receptors is considered to be **not significant**.

- 4.8.16 For Laytham Park holiday campsite there is the potential for the partial loss of key characteristics, such as rural setting. Therefore the effect on Laytham Park holiday campsite during construction is considered **significant**.
- 4.8.17 The residual effect of employment and gross value added during construction and decommissioning is **significant** beneficial due to the jobs that will be created. For operation the effect is **not significant**.

4.9 Transport and access

- 4.9.1 This section considers the likely effects generated by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during construction, in relation to transport and access.

What existing road links have been assessed?

- 4.9.2 The proposed study area includes the highway links most likely to be impacted by the proposed movements associated with Mylen Leah Solar Farm and includes the following road links:

- A19 between Selby and Escrick;
- A163 between the A19 and Foggathorpe;
- B1228 between Highfield and Melbourne Road;
- Ash Lane/Seaton Common Lane between the B1228 and Seaton Ross;
- Melbourne Road between Seaton Ross and the A1079;
- A1079 between Barmby Moor and Hayton; and
- Main Road, Laytham.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for transport and access?

- 4.9.3 Users of public rights of way, bridleways and paths within the draft Order Limits and users of Seaton Common Lane, were predicted to experience significant adverse effects during construction, such as severance, delays, reduced amenity, fear and intimidation, road safety concerns and issues linked to large construction loads. With the implementation of suitable mitigation measures, particularly the Outline Rights of Way and Access Management Plan for public rights of way, bridleways, and paths, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan for Seaton Common Lane, all residual effects reduce to **not significant**.

4.10 Water

Would Mylen Leah Solar Farm affect Water Protected Areas and Water Framework Directive waterbodies (and hydrologically connected watercourses)?

- 4.10.1 Three Water Framework Directive waterbodies are linked to the Site, ranging from poor to good ecological status, these are:
- Foulness from Black Beck to Market Weighton Canal (poor status): additional mitigation will be provided in the Outline Construction

Environmental Management Plan to prevent silt laden runoff entering the waterbody;

- Pocklington Beck from Bielby Beck to River Derwent (moderate status): Horizontal Directional Drilling and suitable easements will reduce disturbance, and measures will be provided in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan to prevent sediment runoff; and,
- Pocklington Canal (good status): the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will ensure sediment and runoff are contained.

4.10.2 The western part of the 1 kilometre study area lies within a Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface Water) zone which has the potential to be affected.

4.10.3 Pocklington Canal, located within the underground grid connection corridor, is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, while the northern part of the study area surrounding Pocklington Canal and The Beck/Bielby Beck forms part of the Melbourne and Thornton Ings Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar site, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

Would Mylen Leah Solar Farm affect flood risk?

4.10.4 Most of the Site lies within Flood Zone 1, meaning it has a low flood risk. More sensitive electrical components for Mylen Leah Solar Farm will be placed in these low-risk areas and set back from watercourses. Solar photovoltaic modules located in Flood Zones 2 or 3 will be elevated above predicted flood levels, ensuring they stay operational during a design flood event. There are also localised areas of surface water flood risk.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

4.10.5 During construction and decommissioning, the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan, and Outline Soil Management Plan will ensure silt laden sediment and runoff is contained on-site and does not enter Water Framework Directive designated areas or hydrologically connected watercourses.

4.10.6 During Operation, the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will ensure hydrological regimes are not altered for water quality.

4.10.7 A sequential approach will be used to place equipment in lower flood risk areas where possible, and elevating equipment with added freeboard where not possible.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for water?

4.10.8 All effects anticipated to occur on water receptors as a result of Mylen Leah Solar Farm are considered to be **not significant**.

4.11 Glint and glare

Would glint and glare caused by Mylen Leah Solar Farm affect residential dwellings, major roads and aviation infrastructure?

- 4.11.1 Although solar panels are designed to absorb rather than reflect sunlight, they have potential to cause a brief flash of bright light typically received by moving receptors or from moving reflectors ('glint') or a continuous source of bright light typically received by stationary receptors or from large reflectors ('glare').
- 4.11.2 The preliminary glint and glare assessment has considered potential aviation receptors, road receptors, and building receptors. There is potential for glint and glare effects on:
- Seven approaching flight paths;
 - The B1228 (northbound and southbound); and,
 - Building receptors within 1 kilometre of the solar photovoltaic modules.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.11.3 Any likely significant glint and glare effects on ground-based infrastructure (such as houses and roads) are expected to be solved with mitigation strategies, the most common being the provision of screening (for example, hedgerow planting). Mitigation will be informed by the full glint and glare assessment to be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for glint and glare?

Aviation receptors

- 4.11.4 Green glare during aircraft approaches may cause low-level adverse impacts for pilots, but these residual effects are **not significant**.

Road receptors

- 4.11.5 For drivers travelling along the B1228, both northbound and southbound, predicted solar reflections fall within 30 degrees of drivers' line of sight. However, with existing vegetation, and in the southbound case proposed vegetation screening, these reflections will be screened. As a result, any residual effects on drivers are assessed as **not significant**.

Building receptors

- 4.11.6 Potentially moderate glint and glare impacts were identified; however, these will be fully mitigated by the proposed vegetation screening. As a result, residual effects on building receptors are **not significant**.

4.12 Soil

Would soil be affected by Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

Agricultural land quality

- 4.12.1 For Grade 1 and 2 land, which is very sensitive due to the land's biomass production potential, there will be temporary and reversible soil disturbance during construction.
- 4.12.2 During operation, routine maintenance and repair of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will cause only minimal, temporary soil disturbance when following good practice methods. Green Infrastructure areas will cause some permanent loss of agricultural land (estimated between five and 20 hectares), mainly affecting Grades 3a, 3b and 4.
- 4.12.3 Decommissioning will have a negligible impact on agricultural land quality, as land will be returned to agricultural use afterwards.

Soil structure

- 4.12.4 The Site has fewer than 150 field capacity days (the time it takes for soil to drain excess gravitational water after thorough soaking, for example from rain) and contains a mix of heavy, medium, and light textured soils. Any effects on soil structure during construction are considered reversible.
- 4.12.5 During operation, converting arable land to grassland under the solar photovoltaic development areas reduces disturbance, increases soil organic matter and carbon, and improves structure and water infiltration. This results in the overall soil health being slightly improved. In green infrastructure areas, removing land from agricultural use leads to permanent improvements in soil biodiversity, structure, and health.
- 4.12.6 During decommissioning, any soil structure damage will be reversible, and with all infrastructure removed (aside from a small area of permanent green infrastructure and any green infrastructure below 1 metre in depth), there will be no obstruction to cultivation. The same impacts on green infrastructure are expected for decommissioning as operation.

What mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible offset significant adverse effects?

- 4.12.7 An Outline Soil Management Plan will be produced, which will describe the best practice measures for soil handling. This will mitigate potential adverse effects on the agricultural land quality and structure of the soil for construction, operation, and decommissioning.

What are the likely significant effects following additional mitigation for soil?

- 4.12.8 During construction there will be a **significant** adverse residual effect on agricultural land quality for Grade 1 and 2 land, even with soil handling measures in the Outline Soil Management Plan. This is because the land is highly productive. For Grade 3a, 3b and Grade 4 land, the reversible and temporary nature of the land take during construction will be mitigated with soil handling measures documented in the Outline Soil Management Plan, and therefore the residual effect during construction is considered to be **not**

significant. During construction, the impact on soil structure is reversible and therefore the residual effect is considered to be **not significant.**

- 4.12.9 During operation, there will be **significant** adverse effects on agricultural land quality for Grades, 1, 2 and 3a land, due to loss of agricultural production despite potential for some grazing. Green infrastructure is not planned on Grade 1 or 2 land. This is expected to result in **significant** adverse effects for Grade 3a and 3b, and **not significant** effects for Grade 4. During operation, in green infrastructure areas, removing land from agricultural use leads to permanent improvements in soil biodiversity, structure, and health. This results in **significant** beneficial residual effects for heavy and medium textured soils, and **not significant** residual effects for light textured soils.
- 4.12.10 During decommissioning, all land used for the solar photovoltaic modules and temporary facilities will be restored after decommissioning. Soil will be carefully managed to retain its quality and original Agricultural Land Classification wherever possible. The removal of infrastructure will allow the land to return to its previous agricultural condition, where plausible. This will have a **significant** beneficial effect for heavy and medium textured soils, and a **not significant** effect for all other receptors.

4.13 Other environmental considerations

- 4.13.1 This section presents consideration of the following environmental matters that have not been subject to a preliminary assessment and will not be subject to a detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement. Whilst a standalone Environmental Statement chapter for these environmental matters will not be produced, any effects will be considered, where relevant, in the appropriate chapters of the Environmental Statement, and they are therefore considered worthy of mention.
- 4.13.2 Fire is not considered a potential major accident and disaster in relation to Mylen Leah Solar Farm. This is because no Battery Energy Storage Systems are proposed as part of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm design. Battery Energy Storage Systems typically use lithium-ion batteries, which when faults with the batteries occur, can pose a fire risk. As Battery Energy Storage Systems are not present within the Mylen Leah Solar Farm design, the risk of fire is significantly reduced.

Heat and radiation

- 4.13.3 Due to the scale and nature of Mylen Leah Solar Farm as a solar photovoltaic development, it is not anticipated that there would be any significant sources of heat or radiation during construction, operation, or decommissioning and no significant sources of heat or radiation have been identified at this stage. The Environmental Statement will clearly signpost any potential sources of heat or radiation and explain how these have been considered in site selection, layout design and the incorporation of mitigation measures for Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

Electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic fields

- 4.13.4 Mylen Leah Solar Farm will contain electrical infrastructure, such as underground cables, which generate electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic fields. These fields can affect human health and ecological receptors.
- 4.13.5 Mylen Leah Solar Farm will use underground cables operating at up to 400 kilovolts, so an assessment is required. This assessment will set out the cable locations, routes and voltages of any cables above 132 kilovolts⁴, and evaluate risks to nearby human and ecological receptors, for example fish where high-voltage cables pass beneath main watercourses and Pocklington Canal.
- 4.13.6 Instead of a standalone chapter, the Environmental Statement will include a dedicated electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic field assessment report, which will be referenced within relevant factor assessment chapters. Embedded mitigation measures, included in the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, would help avoid the potential for electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic field effects.

Major accidents and disasters

- 4.13.7 The embedded mitigation proposed as part of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm design would be sufficient to manage vulnerabilities to major accidents and/or disasters without the need for additional mitigation in most circumstances. By implementing recognised and approved safety standards and legislation, no likely significant effects in relation to major accidents and disasters are anticipated during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. Possible major accidents and disasters relevant to Mylen Leah Solar Farm are described below.
- **Flooding:** The majority of Mylen Leah Solar Farm lies in Flood Zone 1 and has a low risk of flooding, meaning it is not considered vulnerable to significant river flooding or surface water flood risk. A Flood Risk Assessment, including a drainage strategy, will be provided as part of the Development Consent Order application.
 - **Aircraft disasters:** **Section 4.11** of this Non-Technical Summary provides further information on the potential for glint and glare effects on aircraft.
 - **Plant disease:** New planting could be susceptible to biosecurity issues, such as increased pests, and diseases linked to plant origin and climate change. An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will accompany the Development Consent Order application and will include measures to manage and reduce these biosecurity risks.

⁴ This is to comply with the Planning Inspectorate's Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development, which states "*where proposed cables are over 132 kilovolts, an electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic fields assessment should be provided in an appendix to the Environmental Statement. This should include the location, routing and voltages of any cables over 132 kilovolts and a risk assessment to any human and ecological sensitive receptors within the Zone of Influence.*"

- **High pressure gas pipelines:** High pressure gas mains could be affected during the construction and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The Applicant will work with the relevant statutory undertakers to ensure these assets are mapped and apply appropriate safety standoff distances. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will be secured by the Development Consent Order application and will set out measures to manage and mitigate any associated risks.

Human health

- 4.13.8 Human health effects from Mylen Leah Solar Farm will not be reported in a standalone chapter of the Environmental Statement. Instead, they will be addressed within the relevant topic chapters, including air quality, land and groundwater, landscape and visual, noise and vibration, transport and access, and population.

Material assets and waste

- 4.13.9 Material assets are physical resources used throughout the lifecycle of the development. Waste is any material discarded without reuse or recovery. Consumption of materials can deplete natural resources, while waste disposal can reduce landfill capacity and cause environmental degradation.
- 4.13.10 The indirect impacts of material assets and waste such as greenhouse gas emissions and water use linked to materials and waste, are incorporated in other environmental assessments, which are summarised in **Section 4.3** ('Climate'). Of these assessments, the one with the most direct links to material assets and waste is climate, the preliminary assessment for which concludes **significant** beneficial effects anticipated.
- 4.13.11 The Environmental Statement will describe the streams and volumes of construction materials and waste disposal, including any significant effects related to transport and disposal of waste. An Outline Site Waste Management Plan will be secured by the Development Consent Order application and will set out how construction materials and waste will be managed and recycled. The removal of significant quantities of excavated arisings from the Site during construction is not anticipated, with cut and fill balancing to retain volumes on-site, which will be managed through the Outline Soil Management Plan; only contaminated soils unsuitable for on-site treatment may require removal.
- 4.13.12 During operation, waste generation will be minimal, and material assets would be limited to maintenance and replacement parts. An Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan will set out how materials and waste will be managed on-site during operation. During decommissioning, materials and waste would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time, as described in the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Transboundary effects

- 4.13.13 For the Mylen Leah Solar Farm, transboundary effects are considered highly unlikely due to its nature and location, as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate.

4.14 Cumulative effects

What are the potential intra-project cumulative effects for Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

- 4.14.1 Different environmental effects from Mylen Leah Solar Farm could potentially occur concurrently on the same receptors.
- 4.14.2 Receptors that could experience more than one environmental effect at the same time include local residents and users of public rights of way, ecological receptors, and landscape features. For example, combined effects on human receptors, such as local residents, could arise from visual and noise impacts.
- 4.14.3 A preliminary overview of potential cumulative effects is presented in Table 19.1, in **Chapter 19: Cumulative Effects in Volume 1** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. A full detailed assessment of such effects will be undertaken and detailed within the Environmental Statement.

What are the potential inter-project cumulative effects for Mylen Leah Solar Farm?

- 4.14.4 There is potential for significant environmental effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm to occur cumulatively with those of other existing and/or approved developments.
- 4.14.5 Other existing and/or approved developments included in the preliminary cumulative assessment have been selected based on identifying developments that:
- Have the same Zone of Influence as Mylen Leah Solar Farm for at least one environmental factor;
 - Have temporal crossover in the proposed dates for construction, operation and/or decommissioning; and
 - Are of a scale and nature where a significant effect is likely.
- 4.14.6 Other existing and/or approved developments include consented and proposed solar schemes in proximity to Mylen Leah Solar Farm.
- 4.14.7 A high-level overview of potential cumulative effects based on the short listed other existing and/or approved developments presented in Table 19.3, **Chapter 19: Cumulative Effects in Volume 1** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, has been undertaken. At this stage, it is anticipated that for air quality, biodiversity, cultural heritage, land and groundwater, landscape and visual, noise and vibration, population, water, glint and glare, and soil; there is potential for significant cumulative effects with one or more of the following developments:
- Construction and installation of a Battery Energy Storage Facility;
 - Construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage Facility and 20 metre high telecommunications mast;
 - East Yorkshire Solar Farm;
 - Soay Solar Farm and a Greener Grid Park;

- Allerthorpe Park Golf Club static caravans and associated infrastructure works;
- Light Valley Solar;
- Construction of new roundabout and link road;
- Erection of 380 dwellings with associated access, parking and infrastructure following outline application;
- Construction of sub-surface cable route from Drax Power Station to Fraisthorpe Coastline with associated accesses and temporary construction compounds in association with the Scotland to England Green Link;
- Construction and installation of a Battery Energy Storage Facility with associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and buried cable grid connection route;
- Installation of a solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure including transformer, security fencing, pole mounted Closed Circuit Television, temporary construction access and compound;
- Installation of array of ground mounted solar panels and metering kiosk;
- Erection of 139 dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure;
- Erection of 75 Static Homes;
- Construction of relief road, erection of residential development and associated community facilities;
- Warehousing and distribution with ancillary office and infrastructure;
- Installation of solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure; and,
- Installation of array of ground mounted solar panels.

4.14.8 Further information and engagement is required to inform the detailed assessment of cumulative effects that will be undertaken for the Environmental Statement.

4.14.9 Discussions with East Riding of Yorkshire Council in relation to agreement on study areas and methodology for the assessment of cumulative effects (including agreement on the list of other existing and/or approved developments) will be undertaken as part of the ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment process and will inform the assessment of cumulative effects to be reported within the Environmental Statement. The shortlist of other existing and/or approved developments is subject to continued review to ensure that the list is updated as developments progress.

5. What happens next?

- 5.1.1 The statutory consultation period for Mylen Leah Solar Farm runs from Thursday 16 April until Thursday 28 May 2026. More information can be found at the project website ([Projects | Mylen Leah Solar Farm - Statkraft UK](#))⁵. As previously mentioned, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, to which this Non-Technical Summary relates, is intended to enable interested parties, including members of the public, to understand the likely significant environmental effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm to help inform their consultation responses.
- 5.1.2 There are a number of ways to respond to the consultation:
- By returning a feedback form at the in-person consultation events (see the above website for details).
 - By sending feedback to: FREEPOST MYLEN LEAH (no stamp required).
 - By completing the feedback form on the above website.
 - By email (community@mylenleah.com).
- 5.1.3 Any feedback that is received through the consultation process will be considered alongside further information gained through ongoing technical work to inform the ongoing design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

⁵ <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/mylen-leah-solar-farm/>

¹ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (December 2025, published January 2026) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), 2025. Available online: [Overarching National Policy Statement for energy \(EN-1\), 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

² Planning Act 2008. Available online:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/14>

³ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (December 2025, published January 2026) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), 2025. Available online: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](#)