



# BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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### Revision History

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### List of Outstanding Issues and Information

Outstanding issue/info.	Section/Paragraph	Responsibility	Action

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# 15. Socio-economics

## 15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 This Chapter reports the preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Socio-economics. In particular it considers the potential for likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on residential properties within the immediate area of the Proposed Development and settlements in the wider surrounding area (e.g., in terms of employment, local procurement, increased exposure to noise, air pollution and traffic, tourism, livelihoods, recreation, influx of workers, physical resettlement and wellbeing) during construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

15.1.2 This Chapter (and its associated figures and appendices) is not intended to be read as a standalone assessment and reference should be made to the front end of this PEIR (Chapters 1 – 5) and particularly to the description of the Proposed Development in Chapter 2 which includes details about the Site, construction schedule, labour requirements, land take and methodology, as well as the final chapter, ‘Summary of Environmental Effects’ (Chapter 17).

15.1.3 This chapter is accompanied by the following Appendices and Figures:

- Appendix 15.1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 15.2 Consultation to Date
- Figure 15.1 Direct Area of Influence
- Figure 15.2 Indirect Area of Influence
- Figure 15.3 Public Rights of Way

15.1.4 As set out within Chapter 1, the information set out within this Chapter is preliminary and intended to inform consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) about the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development, helping to inform their consultation responses.

## 15.2 Legislation and Policy

15.2.1 The legislation and policy considered relevant to the assessment of Socio-economics are listed below, with details provided in Appendix 15.1.

### Legislative Framework

15.2.2 The applicable legislation includes:

- The Planning Act 2008;
- The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017

### Planning Policy

15.2.3 The applicable planning policy includes:

- Emerging Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Published November 2023);

- Emerging National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Published November 2023); and
- Emerging National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Published November 2023).
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023);

15.2.4 Applicable local planning policy includes:

- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted April 2023); and
- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted March 2019).

## 15.3 Consultation & Scope of Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

15.3.1 Consultation will be ongoing throughout the preparation of the DCO application; to date, it can broadly be divided into the following key stages:

- EIA Scoping;
- Early Non-Statutory Consultation; and
- Direct Topic-Specific Consultation.

15.3.2 Table 15.1 provides a summary of the consultation activities undertaken in support of the preparation of this Chapter. Table including Scoping Opinion comments is included in Appendix 15.2.

**Table 15.1 – Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date**

ORGANISATION	DATE	FORM OF CONSULTATION	SUMMARY OF OUTCOME	HOW THIS IS ADDRESSED
<b>EIA Scoping</b>				
Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on behalf of SoS	26/05/2023	Scoping Opinion	Negative side effects of local economic growth remain scoped out.	N/A
			Pressure on local services and infrastructure from population immigration are now scoped in and assumptions on workforce numbers are presented.	Effects from induced immigration are considered in the construction phase. Estimate of direct and indirect employment has been undertaken.
			Physical displacement scoped in due to partial information on the cable route and access route location.	An assessment of potential physical displacement is included for construction phase.
			Cross-referencing provided for environmental mitigation measures where such measures avoid what would otherwise be	Air Quality, Noise, Landscape and Traffic mitigation measures are cross referenced where suitable.

ORGANISATION	DATE	FORM OF CONSULTATION	SUMMARY OF OUTCOME	HOW THIS IS ADDRESSED
			significant socioeconomic effects.	
			Qualitative baseline surveys are to be undertaken of PRowS for including in the ES, in the Socio-economic chapter (Chapter 15). These surveys will include site walkovers and engagement with local walking groups to determine a better understanding of use of PRowS.	A site walkover was carried out for the Solar Array Area. Further consultation with local walking groups and site walkover for cable route corridor is planned for next phase.
(Lincolnshire County Council (LCC))	16/05/2023	Scoping Opinion	No action needed.	N/A
North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)	18/05/2023	Scoping Opinion	<p>The following aspects have been added to this assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net gain of jobs following HCA Additionality guidance to account for loss of agricultural jobs;</li> <li>• Quantification, to the extent possible, of the number of affected farms;</li> <li>• Quantification of local economic opportunities for local businesses, construction workforce and accommodation providers;</li> <li>• Outline of future opportunities in the Local Employment Plan (in preparation);</li> <li>• Assessment for the possibility of continued grazing;</li> </ul> <p>Quantification of socio-economic benefits, to the extent possible, from the change from agricultural use to solar panels.</p>	As required, effects during construction, operation and closure have taken account of land use change, direct and indirect employment, and impacts to local businesses and service providers. Where possible these impacts have been assessed quantitatively using estimates and best practice guidance.

ORGANISATION	DATE	FORM OF CONSULTATION	SUMMARY OF OUTCOME	HOW THIS IS ADDRESSED
NKDC			<p>After removing Beacon Fen South, comparing the Anglian Water Reservoir and the Proposed Development is no longer necessary. Nonetheless, this chapter includes an assessment of potential beneficial and adverse impact on tourism, recognising NKDC's key priority to enhance visitor economy.</p>	<p>An assessment of effects to tourism and recreation is included.</p>
UK Health Security Agency (HSA)	12/05/2023	Scoping Opinion	<p>Agreed and no major change required in terms of including the determinants of health, the socio-economic chapter already scoped in the increased exposure of communities to noise and traffic, as well as the influx of workers causing stress on local services, and restricted access to recreation places. Following draft NPS EN-1 2023, assessing health impacts on identified vulnerable groups will be described in the ES and appropriate mitigation measure proposed.</p> <p>Potential risks in relation to accidents and disasters are considered within the following chapters and reports, which did not identify likely effects of the Proposed Development which could result in an accident or disaster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9: Access &amp; Traffic</li> <li>• Chapter 11: Water Resources &amp; Flood Risk</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Considered in alternative chapters, as stated.</p>

ORGANISATION	DATE	FORM OF CONSULTATION	SUMMARY OF OUTCOME	HOW THIS IS ADDRESSED
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 12: Climate Change</li> <li>Chapter 13: Glint</li> <li>Appendix 1.4: Ground Conditions Desk Study</li> </ul>	
			More focus will be placed on determinants of health, taking into account inequalities in exposure to impacts and maximizing co-benefits in physical exercise when assessing the impact on recreation and designing mitigation measures.	Assessment of effect on recreation / PRow users considered this aspect.
<b>Direct Topic-Specific Consultation</b>				
Solar Array Area Landowner	22/06/2023	In-person meeting on site	Baseline data collection	Consultation used to inform baseline.
Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council	22/06/2023	In-person meeting on site with Michael Scott, Parish Chairman.	The aim of this meeting was primarily to inform the socio-economics baseline. The meeting also suggested the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council is concerned about local traffic impacts during construction and overall visual impacts.	Consultation used to inform baseline.
North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)	28/06/2023	Online meeting with Alan Gray and Michelle Tasker.	NKDC is concerned about accommodation availability due to construction workforce influx, especially in terms of cumulative impacts. NKDC is interested in making the Proposed Development an asset for tourism (e.g. guided renewable energy tours). NKDC is interested in securing community benefits from the Development.	An assessment of the cumulative effects of accommodation pressures during construction was considered.

## Scope of the Assessment

15.3.3 This chapter of the PEIR will describe the socio-economic baseline conditions in the Proposed Development's Area of Influence (AOI) and identify



environmental and social effects resulting from the Proposed Development in relation to the following:

- Population and demography;
- Community health and wellbeing;
- Indices of deprivation;
- Economic activity;
- Local businesses and livelihoods;
- Tourism and recreation; and
- Access to public services.

15.3.4 In response to the Scoping Opinion, this chapter will scope in effects from pressure on local services and infrastructure from population immigration and physical displacement.

### **Effects not considered within the Scope**

15.3.5 The socio-economic chapter of the Scoping Report outlined matters to be scoped out from the assessment. After the review of scoping opinion comments, one matter remains scoped out:

- Negative side-effects of local economic growth (price inflation, economic dependence on the Proposed Development).

### **Limitations & Exclusions**

15.3.6 The information within this Chapter is preliminary and intended to inform consultees. As such, this PEIR has been prepared at a point in the design process when parameters of the design are certain enough for an assessment to be based upon, but there is still sufficient flexibility to incorporate feedback from consultees.

15.3.7 At the current stage of the planning process, the following matters are still in progress by the project team:

- Qualitative surveys of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) uses;
- Final selection of Access Route, meaning assessment here will need to be reviewed once final route is selected but an early assessment based on available data has been undertaken;
- Whether continued fishing will be allowed in the reservoir within site boundary;
- Determining precise number of workers, employment opportunities and local spending estimates for use in additionality assessment;
- Production of the Local Employment Plan; and
- Assessment of accommodation and services capacity in the area.

15.3.8 As these matters are currently ongoing, for the purpose of this assessment certain assumptions and estimates have been made. For example, there is currently ongoing discussion with regards to use of the reservoir for Project purposes, thus it has been assumed that use of this for fishing will cease. The number of workers has been estimated based on comparable developments, see paragraph 15.6.6. Whilst these matters progress, the assessment of effects is conservative in approach to ensure the impacts are not understated.

- 15.3.9 The above matters will be completed in advance of submission and incorporated within the ES, which will be consulted upon as part of the determination process.
- 15.3.10 Some other limitations, outside of control of the applicant and reliant on third parties, undermining a precise assessment of effects on social receptors are:
- Accuracy of ONS 2021 data was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic;
  - Workforce estimates of similar developments in the area used for cumulative impact assessment; and
  - Lack of information on the location of worker's accommodation.

## 15.4 Assessment Methodology & Significance Criteria

### Extent of the Study Area

- 15.4.1 The Proposed Development is located in the North Kesteven District and Boston Borough within the Lincolnshire County. The Solar Array Area is located approximately 6km east from the Town of Sleaford, and approximately 30km south from the City of Lincoln. The Cable Route Corridor reaches the northern border of the Boston Borough. The Proposed Development's Area of Influence (AOI) is defined at two levels: the Direct (AOI) and the Indirect (AOI), as described below.
- 15.4.2 The Direct AOI is limited mostly to the North Kesteven District, although the southern part of the Cable Route Corridor reaches the Boston Borough, and comprises the communities located within the Proposed Development area (i.e., Solar Array Area footprints and the Cable Route Corridor), including a 500m buffer zone, as well as communities that may be affected by land use changes, access to recreation, impact on tourism and any other economic displacement. The Direct AOI is presented in Figure 15.1.
- 15.4.3 The Indirect AOI will comprise communities potentially impacted by labour requirements for the Proposed Development, economic benefits and supply chain impacts, as well as traffic on roads connecting to the Proposed Development. Employment impacts were limited to a 60-minute travel area and the bigger settlements that are well-connected to the Proposed Development area mark an approximate border of the Indirect AOI, as presented in Figure 15.2.
- 15.4.4 Effects on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) users will consider footpaths affected by temporary closure or diversion within the site boundary and footpaths adjacent to the site. The study area includes all PRoW located within the site boundary and the cable corridor and adjacent to the site boundary (likely to be impacted by construction). PRoWs are presented in Figure 15.3.

### Assessment Methodology

- 15.4.5 This section presents the scope and methodology for the socio-economics assessment of the Proposed Development. Currently there is no established methodology or guidance for Socio-economics in the UK, hence the method of baseline data collection and assessment has been carried out in accordance with global industry best practice and guidance:

- IAIA, Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for Assessing and Managing the Social Impacts of Project (2015).
- The additionality assessment followed the Homes & Community Agency (HCA) Additionality Guide Fourth Edition (2014).

15.4.6 The level of effect has been determined via social receptor sensitivity and impact magnitude (see Tables 15.3 to 15.6 below). An effect that is assessed as moderate or above is considered to be 'Significant' (in EIA terms). Following the initial assessment of effects (including any embedded mitigation), the implementation of additional mitigation measures will be considered and residual impacts re-assessed.

15.4.7 The assessment was informed by publicly available data and complimented by a site visit which took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023. Additionally, an initial high-level assessment on site of some PRoWs within the Cable Route Corridor was undertaken in February 2023. The Cable Route Corridor option at the time was larger than the current design, with some PRoW overlapping in both options, therefore some of the data collected in February could be used for this assessment. The aim of the June site visit was to collect data on local livelihoods, services, tourist attractions, and recreational facilities (including PRoWs). The site visit involved a site walkover, general reconnaissance of the Direct and Indirect AOI, meeting with a landowner, PRoW surveys, and a meeting with the chairman of the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 an online meeting was held with the Economic Development Manager and Economic Development Project Manager from North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and the discussion focused mainly on recreation and tourism and the council's priorities in these areas. Finally, there was ongoing conversation with the Solar Array Area landowners to collect baseline data.

15.4.8 Desk-based research sources included:

- 2021 Census data;
- ONS GVA Annual Statistics (2021);
- ONS Labour Force Survey;
- Sustrans National Cycle Network data;
- Natural England data (to confirm absence of nationally designated areas);
- Destination Lincolnshire and Cycle Lincolnshire websites; and
- Public Rights of Way public data.

15.4.9 The economic impact of the Proposed Development has been studied within a 60-minute travel area and measured by considering the net gain of jobs in the area, the level of leakage, job displacements and multiplier effects (supply chain and worker spending). These assumptions are guided by the HCA Additionality Guide 4th Edition.

15.4.10 Table 15.2 summarises the values used to calculate additionality during all phases of development and provides reasoning behind the values presented.

**Table 15.2 – Values to calculate additionality.**

<b>ADDITIONALITY FACTOR</b>	<b>VALUE</b>	<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>
Leakage outside Direct AOI	70%	<p>Analysis of ONS 2021 Census data showed that 55% of North Kesteven workers commute to work more than 10km. This can suggest that around 55% of jobs might be taken by people outside of the direct area of influence and not directly benefit local workforce. According to the HCA guide, leakage value also depends on the availability of skilled workers in the study area.</p> <p>A qualitative study undertaken for this chapter showed that, according to the Economic Development Manager from the NKDC, a majority of construction workers would have to come from outside the study area (mainly Boston and Lincoln). Taking this into account, leakage could increase to a high value of approximately 70%.</p>
Leakage outside Indirect AOI	15%	<p>According to ONS 2021 Census data, 23% of workers in North Kesteven commute to work more than 30km. Some places within the Indirect AOI identified as cities with good transport links to project site, such as Skegness, are beyond the 30km limit (53km in straight line, as measured in the ONS Statistics), but still are considered to be within the Indirect AOI.</p> <p>Therefore, with the informed professional judgement from site visit and interviews with local authorities, this adaptation reduces the leakage beyond the Indirect AOI to 15% as it is assumed that some of that 23% leakage workers come from cities beyond the 30km limit, still within the Indirect AOI.</p>
Displacement	50%	Following the HCA Guide, displacement value is estimated to be medium (50%) due to a number of similar developments planned in the Indirect AOI.
Economic multiplier (further economic activity (jobs, expenditure or income) associated with additional local income and local supplier purchases)	1.5	The HCA Guide provides approximate indicators for composite multipliers (combining effects from indirect jobs creation and jobs created through increased spending). The area of influence is assessed to have average supply linkages.

15.4.11 In contrast with environmental receptors, the degree of sensitivity of social receptors is based on an individual or group’s abilities and capacity to adapt to changes and maintain their quality of life, livelihood and health conditions. Sensitivity can be understood in terms of resilience to change (e.g., capacity to cope with socioeconomic changes) and the individual’s access to resources to adapt to them. Sensitivity can be further determined by several factors such as a receptor’s age, gender, ethnicity, access to employment opportunities, livelihood, education, health, level of marginalisation/deprivation and dependence on natural or common resources. A qualitative definition of these is presented in Table 15.3, below.

**Table 15.3 – Social Receptor sensitivity Scale (also applied to businesses and workers).**

<b>SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF RECEPTOR</b>
Negligible	A receptor with no need to adapt to change or has a high capacity to adapt completely and almost immediately. Receptor has no shortage of access to

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF RECEPTOR
	adequate resources (material, financial, social) and will have no difficulty adapting to changes.
Low	A receptor with capacity and means to adapt to change and maintain/improve current conditions on its own after a certain time. Receptor has a high level of access to resources and has a high capacity to adapt to changes.
Medium	A receptor with limited capacity and means to adapt to change and maintain/improve current conditions. Adaptation may take time and/or may only be partial and can require support from mitigation measures. Receptor has some access to resources and retains capacity to partially adapt to changes.
High	An already vulnerable receptor with very little capacity and means to adapt to change and maintain/improve current conditions. Receptor has very limited access to resources, resulting in multiple levels of vulnerability that limits capacity to adapt to changes.

15.4.12 Magnitude elements and criteria are outlined in Table 15.4.

**Table 15.4 – Elements of Impact Magnitude.**

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Type	Beneficial (positive): An impact that is considered to represent an improvement to socio-economic baseline conditions or the introduction of a new desirable factor. Adverse (negative): An impact that is considered to represent an adverse change from socio-economic baseline conditions, or the introduction of a new undesirable factor.
Duration	Short term: Impacts that are predicted to last for a limited period (construction) or will cease within less than a year. Medium term: Impacts that are predicted to last through construction and the beginning part of operations or for a period of one to five years. Long term: Impacts that are estimated to occur throughout construction and operations or from six years to the end of operations stage. Very long term: Impacts that affect a receptor during the development lifecycle and will remain post-closure.
Reversibility	Reversible: Impacts are predicted to be reversed after the end of the development activities or on application of mitigation. Irreversible: Impacts that cause a permanent change in the affected receptor or resource that endures substantially beyond the development lifetime.
Spatial Extent	Local: Include the Direct and Indirect Area of Influence. Regional: Include counties in East Midlands. National: Encompass most of England.

15.4.13 Following this step, a definition of the overall magnitude level is made considering the combination of elements is presented in Table 15.5, below.

**Table 15.5 – Magnitude of Change Scale (Social).**

MAGNITUDE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Negligible	Potential impact will not result in any measurable or perceivable changes to baseline conditions.
Low	A potential impact that is unlikely to have a measurable effect on the wellbeing of people so that the baseline conditions will not be considerably affected.

MAGNITUDE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Medium	A potential impact that is likely to be short or medium term (less than one year), spatially localised (likely to affect a small number of social receptors) and reversible.
High	Potential impact will result in measurable change on baseline conditions and is likely to affect a moderate number of social receptors, causing livelihood change on a moderate scale. May or may not be reversible depending on specific conditions.

## Significance Criteria

15.4.14 The level of significance is defined through the matrix in Table 15.6, below. An effect that is moderate or higher is considered to be ‘Significant’ (in EIA terms).

**Table 15.6 – Significance Criteria.**

RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE			
	Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Moderate
Low	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Moderate
Medium	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
High	Minor	Moderate	Major	Major

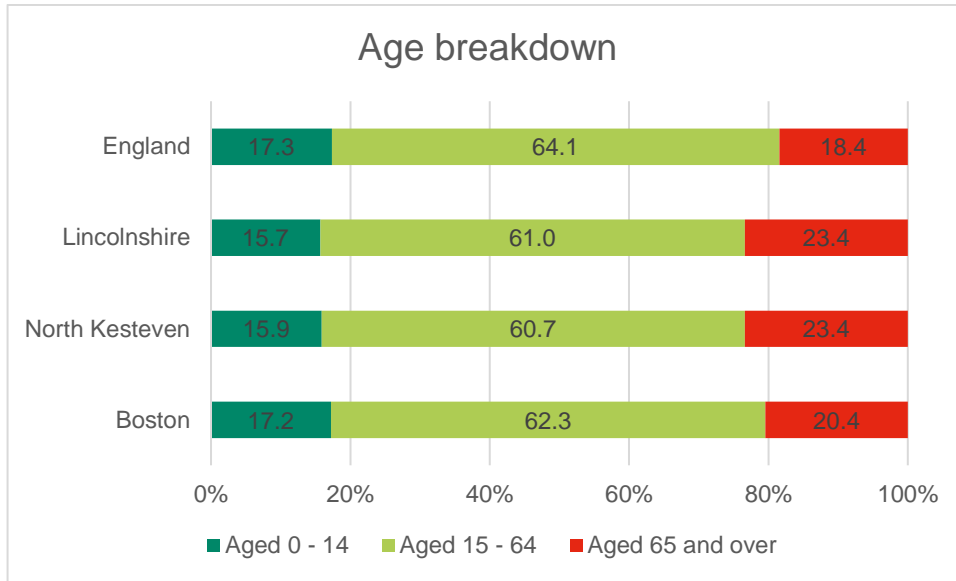
## 15.5 Baseline Conditions

### Current Baseline Conditions

15.5.1 This section presents baseline conditions in the Direct and Indirect AOI, with socio-economic data primarily focusing on North Kesteven District where the Solar Array Area is located, with complimentary data on the Boston Borough where the sub-station is located. Tourism and recreation data was compiled mostly for the Direct AOI.

### Socio-economic baseline conditions

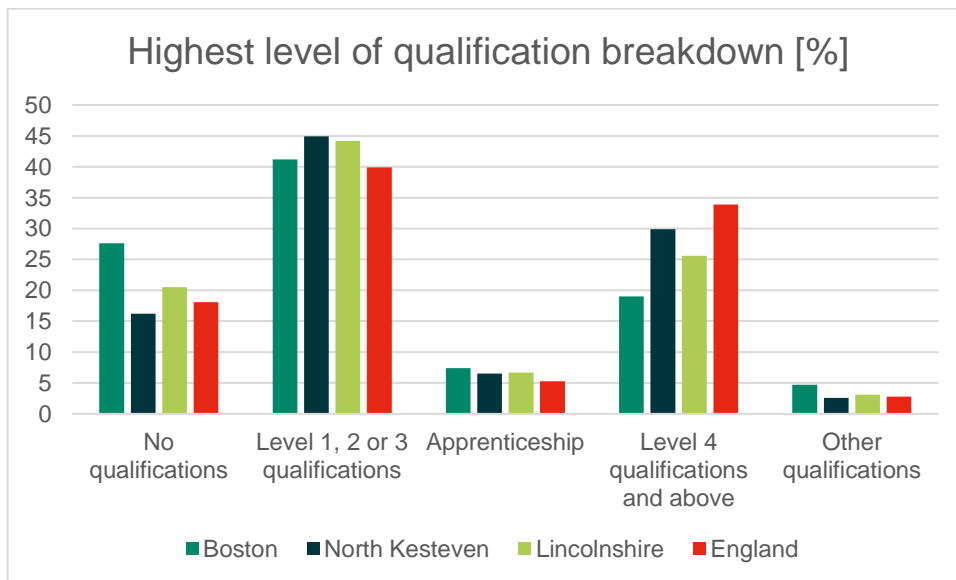
15.5.2 From 2011 to 2021, the population of North Kesteven increased by 9.6%, from around 107,800 in 2011 to around 118,100 in 2021. The population in Boston Borough has risen by 9.1% and was 70,500 in 2021. Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of North Kesteven increased by two years, from 44 to 46 years of age. Age breakdown of the population is shown in Graph 15.1. Working age population (age 15 to 64) in North Kesteven accounts for 60.7% of total population, which is lower than the national population (64.1%) and Boston population (62.3%). North Kesteven has a considerably higher population of residents aged 65 and over (23.4%) than the national population percentage (18.4%). This can suggest a considerable share of vulnerable population in terms of age and health in North Kesteven.



**Graph 15.1 – Age breakdown of residents in the AOI compared to England**

15.5.3 Highest level of qualification data for people aged 16 years and over showed 27.6% of the population of Boston Borough as having ‘no qualification’<sup>1</sup>, which makes Boston Borough the second highest population percentage declaring no qualifications in England<sup>2</sup>, compared to 16.2% in North Kesteven, 20.5% in Lincolnshire and 18.1% in England. Conversely, Boston Borough had the highest percentage of population with ‘Other qualifications’<sup>3</sup> compared to Lincolnshire, North Kesteven and England. <sup>4</sup>.

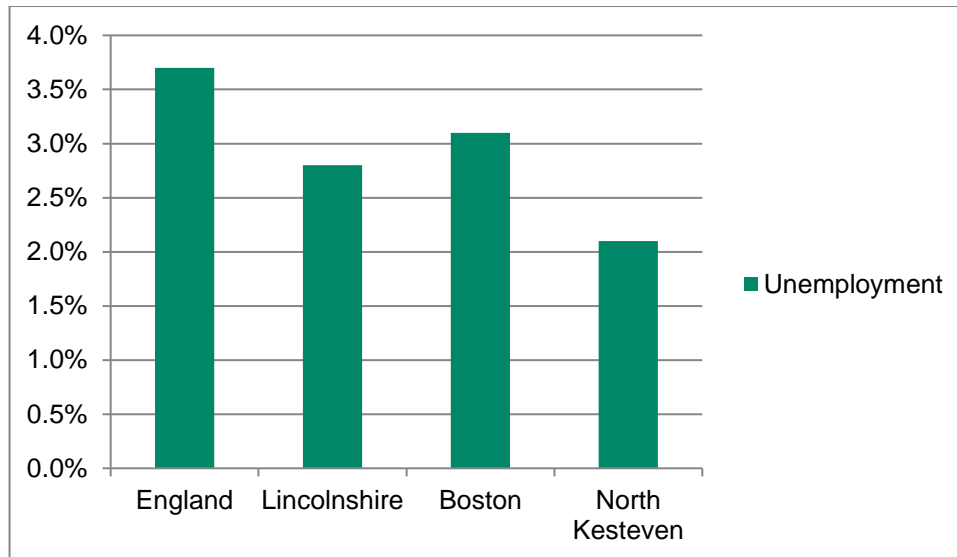
15.5.4 Full details can be found on Graph 15.2.



<sup>1</sup> \*No qualifications refers to anyone who did not attain the following as a minimum - Level 1 and entry level qualifications: 1 to 4 GCSEs grade A\* to C , Any GCSEs at other grades, O levels or CSEs (any grades), 1 AS level, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic or Essential Skills  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/educationandchildcare/bulletins/educationenglandandwales/census2021>  
<sup>3</sup> Other qualification’ is defined by the ONS as: vocational or work-related qualifications, other qualifications achieved in England or Wales, qualifications achieved outside England or Wales (equivalent not stated or unknown)  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS067/editions/2021/versions/1>

**Graph 15.2 – Highest level of qualification in the AOI statistics.**

15.5.5 Unemployment in the Direct and Indirect AOI is lower than the national average (3.7%) as seen on Graph 15.3, with Boston Borough having higher unemployment levels (3.1%) than the Lincolnshire County average (2.8%). The lowest unemployment levels in the AOI were observed in North Kesteven (2.1%).

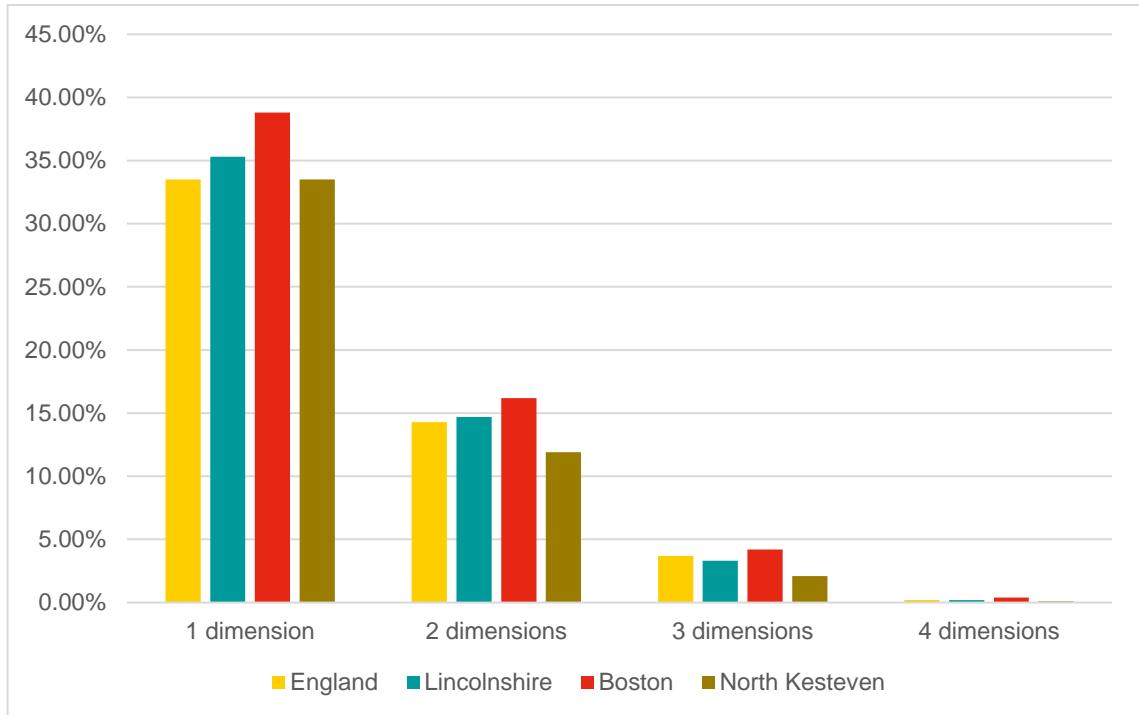


**Graph 15.3 – Unemployment in the AOI compared to national average.**

15.5.6 The deprivation indicators for North Kesteven are equal or below the national average and significantly lower than the county deprivation indicators. In Lincolnshire, 35.3% of households are deprived in one dimension<sup>5</sup>, 14.7% in two, 3.7% in three and 0.2% in four dimensions of deprivation. This means that 53.9% are potentially vulnerable households in terms of their access to resources or services that would enable them to adapt to external changes. The numbers for North Kesteven are 33.5%, 11.9%, 2.1% and 0.1%, respectively. This data shows that North Kesteven could be facing less deprivation challenges than an average household in the Lincolnshire County. Boston Borough’s indicators of deprivation are higher than the country average and North Kesteven, with 38.8%, 16.2%, 4.2% and 0.4% respectively. The comparison is shown in Graph 15.4. Presented data suggest a higher percentage of vulnerable population in the Boston Borough than in North Kesteven.

<sup>5</sup> The dimensions of deprivation, according to ONS statistics, refer to the following high-level summaries of deprivation dimensions (for full details see ONS statistics): 1) unemployment or economically inactive, 2) not holding specific education qualifications, 3) adverse health conditions or persons with disabilities, 4) overcrowded or underheated household conditions.



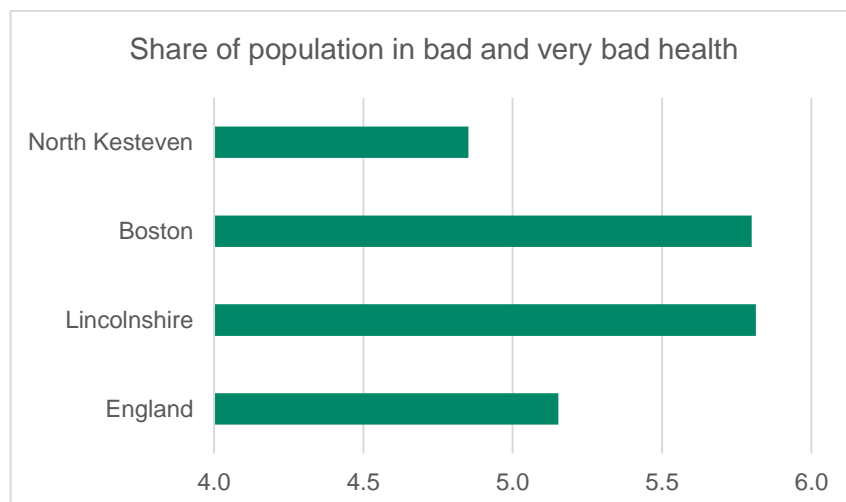


**Graph 15.4 – Levels of deprivation in the AOI compared to national levels of deprivation.**

15.5.7 The indicators of deprivation and educational attainment showed that Boston Borough residents have higher levels of deprivation and lower education levels when compared to North Kesteven and England, therefore it is assumed its residents will be less adaptable to external impacts. On the other hand, Boston Borough has a slightly bigger percentage of working age population than North Kesteven and higher levels of apprenticeship qualifications, which suggest Boston Borough can also be more susceptible to beneficial economic outcomes of the Proposed Development.

### Community health and wellbeing

15.5.8 According to ONS 2021 Census data on health, especially declared health (possible answers range from very good to very bad), North Kesteven’s population is below the national average and Boston is above the national average when comparing declared bad and very bad health. An exact comparison is showed on Graph 15.5.



**Graph 15.4 – Population health in the AOI (Share of population in bad and very bad health).**

- 15.5.9 These health statistics suggest higher percentages of vulnerable population in the Boston Borough, compared to a relatively low percentage of vulnerable population in North Kesteven.

### Local economy

- 15.5.10 Gross Value Added (GVA) is *the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services*<sup>6</sup> and can help in understanding overall economic performance of a region. GVA per head enables to compare economic activity between regions more easily. GVA per head (2021)<sup>7</sup> in North Kesteven (£22,498) is above the regional GVA (£21,285) in Lincolnshire County and local GVA in Boston Borough (£18,667), however lower than average GVA per head in England (£31,138). Of note, GVA per head rose from £16,528 in 2017 to £22,498 in 2021 North Kesteven, but in the same period lowered in Boston Borough from £20,377 to £18,667.
- 15.5.11 The three biggest contributors to local GVA in North Kesteven are: Manufacturing, Public Administration and Defence and Real Estate. In Boston these are: Manufacturing, Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and human health and social work activities.
- 15.5.12 During the meeting with the NKDC, it was confirmed that the food processing industry is an important employer and contributor to GVA locally. In 2021, the total GVA from Manufacture of food, beverages, textiles and clothing was £241 million which makes up around 9% of all industries' GVA.<sup>8</sup>
- 15.5.13 Relevant to the assessment, GVA from construction per construction worker in 2021 was £48,228 in North Kesteven and £26,427 in Boston, giving an average of £37,327, significantly lower than the national average of £83,705 and regional average of £85,372 in East Midlands.
- 15.5.14 In North Kesteven, industries which are the biggest employers are: Human health and social work activities (14.8% of residents aged 16 and over in employment), Public administration and defence (14.3%) and wholesale and retail trade (13.7%). In Boston Borough, 20.2% of residents in employment work in Wholesale and retail trade, 16% in manufacturing and 15.4% in Human health and social work activities. In terms of employment in the construction industry, 7% of Boston residents (2,346 people) and 8.9% of North Kesteven (5,080 people) residents in employment work in the construction industry. Nationally, in 2021, 7% of all people in employment worked in the construction industry, which shows that North Kesteven employment in the construction industry is already above the national level. In 2021, there were 2,100 people working in Crop and animal production, hunting and related activities in Boston Borough (5% of people in employment) and 1,781 in North Kesteven (2.6% of people in employment).
- 15.5.15 During the meeting with NKDC, it was confirmed that manufacturing is a big provider of livelihoods locally, especially engineering (Siemens: Turbine

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva>

<sup>7</sup> ONS Statistics 2021, Regional gross value added (balanced) per head and income components

<sup>8</sup> ONS Statistics, 2023: Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: local authorities by International Territorial Level (ITL) 1 region: TLF East Midlands.

manufacturing) and food manufacturing (Moy Park, Anwick, employing around 2000 people). Retail is significant and concentrated in Sleaford.

15.5.16 The Ewerby and Evedon Parish Chairman provided details of livelihoods close to the Site. Firstly, the interviewee pointed out that there are many retired people moving from the south of England, but later mentioned around four farmers in the parish, a vibrant pub in Ewerby with events, weddings and around 13 guest rooms, food processing in Anwick and some people from Ewerby working for NKDC.

15.5.17 Conversations with the Solar Array Area landowners confirmed employment of around 6 temporary workers during harvest within the Solar Panel Array boundary.

### Tourism and recreation baseline conditions

15.5.18 There are no accessible Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Solar Array Area however there are PRoW crossing the Cable Route Corridor. The location of these PRoWs can be seen on Figure 15.3.

15.5.19 There is one inaccessible footpath crossing the Solar Array Area - LL|Ewer|12/1, the site visit in June 2023 confirmed this lack of access. Photo 15.1 shows that there is no bridge that would make it possible to cross the dyke to the east of the footpath and access the LL|Ewer|12/1 footpath.

15.5.20 A qualitative survey<sup>9</sup> of the bridleway to the west of the site LL|Ewer|10/1 leading to Ewerby, confirmed occasional use by dog walkers.



Photo 15.1 – View of LL|Ewer|12/1 from across the dyke.

15.5.21 The Public Rights of Way within the Cable Route Corridor are as seen in Figure 15.3:

- LL|Heck|12/1;

<sup>9</sup> During a June 2023 site visit and meeting with one of the Site landowners

- LL|Heck|14/1, connecting Courtrow Farm and Star Fen Farm;
- LL|Heck|2/4, connecting Heckington with Heckington Fen;
- LL|GtHa|3/1, connecting Poplar Farm with Great Hale Drove;
- LL|GtHa|2/1, connecting Great Hale with White House and White House Farm through Great Hale Drove;
- LL|GtHa|1/1, circa 30 m from cable corridor border and unlikely to be affected;
- LL|GtHa|1/2, connecting Great Hale with Broadhurst Farm;
- LL|LHal|4/1, sharing 1120 m of a similar connection with LL|GtHa|1/2, but south of river Beck and continuing till the Old Forty Foot Bank (Track), c.2180 m in total;
- LL|Bick|1/1, bridleway, connecting Ferry Farm with Swineshead Bridge and Eau End Farm and River Farm;
- LL|Bick|2/1, connecting Northorpe Farm with Cowbridge Road and Londhedge Drove leading to Bicker Gauntlet, to the south of the Sub-station and unlikely to be affected by the final cable route design;

15.5.22 Those for the access route corridor are as follows:

- LL|KkLT|5/1 connecting two agricultural fields; and
- LL|KkLT|4/2 running between Asgarby and Kirkby la Thorpe.

15.5.23 At the time of writing, LL|Heck|12/1, LL|Heck|2/4, LL|GtHa|1/1 and LL|LHal|4/1 have been surveyed on site. It was found that LL|Heck|12/1, LL|Heck|2/4 were both accessible from the beginning to the end of the path crossing with the cable corridor. A dogwalker was spotted to the south of LL|Heck|2/4. LL|GtHa|1/1 was accessible from Great Hale and a dogwalker was spotted. However, LL|LHal|4/1 which runs to the south of the Beck stopped by Broadhurst Farm even though the official records show it should continue south-east for another c. 990m, this was confirmed in the February 2023 site survey. In general, no other users apart from the two dogwalkers were spotted on the mentioned footpaths during a sunny Friday in February 2023. PRow use may differ seasonally, more users expected in spring and summer months than winter. However, given the remote nature of the area the seasonal difference in PRow users is not expected to be substantial; this will be confirmed through discussion with a local walking group in the next phase of work.

15.5.24 There are at least two local recreation initiatives promoting walks: Stepping Out Walks and Co-op Wellbeing Walks. The Stepping Out initiative organises a walk using LL|Heck|12/1 and LL|Heck|2/4, which lie within the cable corridor. More detail on the frequency of usage of these PRowS will be provided for the ES.

15.5.25 Reportedly<sup>10</sup>, walking is quite popular to the north of the site, in Haverholme, due to a well-developed network of footpaths.

15.5.26 The assessment of PRow users is planned to be complemented for the ES with qualitative interviews with landowners whose land is crossed by the footpaths.

15.5.27 Other recreational amenities within the Solar Panel Array boundary include a reservoir where fishing takes place. It was confirmed by the landowner that

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<sup>10</sup> As confirmed by the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council Chairman

the reservoir is let on an annual basis to a syndicate with about a dozen members.

15.5.28 According to the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council chairman, cycling is popular in the area. There are two National Cycle Network Routes<sup>11</sup> of relevance to this assessment. Closer to the Solar Array Area, there is a traffic-free, on-road route going north of Sleaford to Leasingham through Holdingham, c.6800 m west of the Site boundary. Another National Cycle Network route is approximately 10k in a straight line east from the Solar Array Area boundary. Lincolnshire County Council promotes cycling through the Cycle Lincolnshire initiative, which includes promoting cycling routes and loops around Lincolnshire. There is one route relevant to this study, the Sleaford Spires and Sails route, running parallel to the Solar Array Area's western boundary, through Ewerby, Howell, Heckington, Great Hale, Helpringham, Burton Gorse and Sleaford.<sup>12</sup> The site visit in June 2023 confirmed cycling to be relatively popular in the area.

15.5.29 Moreover, occasional horse riders were reported locally. There is a golf club in South Kyme, which is reportedly popular, a golf society in Ewerby and a golf club in Sleaford.<sup>13</sup>

15.5.30 It was confirmed during a call with the Economic Development Manager of NKDC that visitor economy is a significant council priority for the economic development of the District. NKDC is now in the process of developing a tourism strategy for the District and is supporting bed and breakfast businesses. It was understood during the online meeting with NKDC that the council is interested in exploring visitor economy opportunities that could evolve around the Proposed Development, which could include promotion of renewable energy, guided walks and school visits.

15.5.31 Important tourist and recreational attractions in the area include: the Heckington Village Trust Railway & Heritage Museum, the Heckington Windmill (including a working windmill, tearoom, shop, 8 Sail Brewery and a bakehouse) and the Heckington Parish Church. To the south of the Site, a Swaton Vintage Day and World Egg Throwing Championships is organised every year in the summer. Importantly, the Heckington Show, taking place at the end of July every year, is reportedly the largest village show in England<sup>14</sup>, attracting around 30k spectators, it is reportedly a major event of the year<sup>15</sup>.

15.5.32 The Heckington Windmill shop assistant confirmed on site that locals, mostly the elderly, are coming for lunch on Fridays to the tearoom and it is usually busy. The Windmill is open from Thursday till Monday during summer school holidays and Friday till Sunday outside of the season. Reportedly, some visitors come to the tearoom as a break when passing through the area on the A17 road. It was reported by the NKDC Economic Development Manager that the Windmill has around 10k visitors annually and is run by volunteers.

15.5.33 Interviews with local residents on site and NKDC confirmed other tourist amenities and attractions, such as:

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<sup>11</sup> Sustrans National Cycle Network data

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.heartoflincs.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/VL\\_1-Sleaford-Spires-Route-A3-v4.pdf](https://www.heartoflincs.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/VL_1-Sleaford-Spires-Route-A3-v4.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> As reported by the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council chairman

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.heckingtonshow.org.uk/>

<sup>15</sup> As reported by the NKDC Economic Development Manager

- Holiday lodge in Howell, Tythe Lodge, south of the site, reportedly a very popular lodge;
- South Kyme tower;
- Royal Air Force base in Cranwell; and
- The village of Threekingham, which is outside of the direct AOI, 10km south from Sleaford in a straight line, is reportedly attracting tourists, even international, with fishing lakes operating year-round.

## Local receptors

15.5.34 Local receptors in immediate proximity to the site are: Ewerby Thorpe and Howell. There is one property that whilst being outside of the red line boundary is surrounded by the Solar Array Area. Access to this property will be maintained during all stages of development and the property itself will not be directly affected by land take for the development. The Westmorelands farm lies south of the Solar Panel Array, adjacent to the site. All farms and communities can be seen on Figure 15.1. There are 12 farms located within and adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor.

15.5.35 According to information shared by the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council Chairman, there are eight properties in Ewerby Thorpe and six to seven properties in Howell. Other approximate statistics shared by the council chairman are shown in Table 15.7.

**Table 15.7 – Population statistics for Ewerby and Evedon Parish council.**

VILLAGE	HOUSES	PEOPLE
Evedon	-	40
Ewerby	-	171
Of which 28 residents in Ewerby are at the St. Andrew's Care Home		
Ewerby Thorpe	8	15
Ewerby Waithe	5	10
Haverholme	5	8
Ewerby extension	15	-
Howell	6-7	-
Total	39-40	244

15.5.36 In terms of local services, the Parish Council Chairman reported they were limited in the area. Buses have been introduced recently, although the use was reportedly minimal since people without a car rely on neighbours. There is no village shop in Ewerby and there is one Co-op shop in Heckington. The nearest school is in Kirkby la Thorpe, and although there is no school in Ewerby, there is a school bus to Sleaford. The closest health centre is in Sleaford though there is the Millview Medical Centre<sup>16</sup> and dentist in Heckington.

## Sensitive Receptors

15.5.37 In summary, the key sensitive receptors within the study area and their sensitivity are presented in Table 15.8, below.

<sup>16</sup> <https://millviewmedicalcentre.co.uk/>

**Table 15.8 – Receptor sensitivity summary.**

RECEPTOR	SENSITIVITY	JUSTIFICATION
Local workforce: North Kesteven	Low	Relatively low levels of unemployment and deprivation, good level of education and skills, below average percentage of working population. Relatively high GVA.
Local workforce: Boston	Medium	High levels of unemployment, relatively low levels of high education attainment, high levels of deprivation and relatively high percentage of working population. Low GVA number suggesting lack of many economic opportunities.
Local workforce: Temporary agricultural workers (harvest)	Low	Whilst temporary workers are assumed to have less job and financial stability, the very nature of the work in which they undertake means they are likely able to easily adapt to change, particularly due to the anticipated availability of alternative agricultural work.
Local businesses and economy: North Kesteven	Low	Relatively high GVA and low unemployment.
Local businesses and economy: Boston	Medium	Relatively low GVA and high unemployment.
Farmers and landowners	Low	Agricultural sector is a relatively good employer, which suggests availability of alternative agricultural work.
Local residents: North Kesteven	Low	Relatively low level of deprivation, however a considerable percentage of elderly population makes the receptor less adaptive to changes.
Local residents: Boston	Medium	High level of deprivation point to scarcity of resources making the receptor less capable to adapt to changes.
Tourist attractions	Medium	Limited offer of alternative local attractions and relative low number of visitors resulting in limited resources to adapt to change.
Recreation facilities users (inc. cycle routes and reservoir users)	Low	Good availability of recreation facilities and cycling routes in the AOI.
PRoW users	Low	Large number of footpaths in the region. However, lack of well-developed public transport could limit accessibility to alternative PRoWs.

## Future Baseline Conditions

15.5.38 In the absence of the Proposed Development, the future baseline is likely to remain similar to the existing socio-economic baseline. Population projections for local authorities have been published by the ONS, those relevant to this study are summarised below.

15.5.39 It can be anticipated that the population in the study area would see a degree of increase and a small shift in the demographic structure. According to ONS statistics<sup>17</sup>, the population in Boston is predicted to increase from 73,517 in 2023 to 82,615 in 2043, an increase of 12.4%. The population in North Kesteven is anticipated to increase from 121,529 in 2023 to 133,700 in 2043,

<sup>17</sup> Population projections for local authorities: Table 2  
(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2>)

a 10.0% increase. For comparison, within the same time period, population increase is predicted to be 8.6% for Lincolnshire and 7.3% for England.

15.5.40 Population projections by age group can be seen in Table 15.9. For both the Boston and North Kesteven, the share of 65 and over residents will increase, suggesting a larger population of potentially vulnerable residents in the study area in the future. At the same time, the 0-14 and 15-64 age groups will make up a lower proportion of the total population in Boston and North Kesteven.

**Table 15.9 – Population projections.**

AREA	AGE GROUP	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043
England	0-14	17.7%	16.7%	16.1%	16.0%	16.2%
	15-64	63.1%	62.5%	61.5%	60.4%	60.0%
	65+	19.2%	20.7%	22.4%	23.6%	23.9%
Lincolnshire	0-14	16.1%	15.2%	14.4%	14.2%	14.4%
	15-64	59.3%	58.3%	57.1%	55.8%	55.7%
	65+	24.6%	26.4%	28.5%	29.9%	30.0%
Boston	0-14	18.4%	17.4%	16.5%	16.3%	16.4%
	15-64	60.5%	60.5%	59.9%	59.1%	58.9%
	65+	21.1%	22.1%	23.6%	24.6%	24.7%
North Kesteven	0-14	16.7%	16.0%	15.4%	15.2%	15.3%
	15-64	59.0%	58.0%	56.6%	55.5%	55.6%
	65+	24.3%	26.0%	28.0%	29.3%	29.1%

15.5.41 In terms of local economy, it can be expected that Gross Value Added (GVA) and job opportunities will continue growing together with the population. North Kesteven District Council’s priorities can suggest there will be growth in the Visitor Economy. The use of recreational facilities and PRoWs is not expected to change significantly. None of the outlined changes are considered material for this assessment.

## 15.6 Assessment of Effects

### Embedded Mitigation

15.6.1 At this stage it is assumed the cabling will be installed below ground, minimising the effect on land use within the Cable Route Corridor connecting the Solar Array Area to the Bicker Fen Substation.

15.6.2 It is assumed that no residential properties will require acquisition for the development of the Site and the selected Cable Route will be chosen to ensure this is the case.



15.6.3 Other embedded mitigation relevant to socioeconomic receptors includes that described in Chapter 9 Access and Traffic:

- All construction traffic will be the subject of a comprehensive CTMP and Delivery Management Plan (DMP), which will together set out suitable measures to safely manage and monitor construction traffic, ensuring that highway safety and the free flow of traffic on public highway is maintained;
- The majority of contractor staff are expected to arrive at the Site by minibus. Car trips will be minimised to senior staff. A Construction Staff Travel Plan will be implemented to minimise the impacts of construction staff travel to/from the site and the resultant impact on existing road users.

## Assessment of Effects

### Design Assumptions

15.6.4 In order to calculate additionality, workforce numbers were assumed based on similar developments in the area. For the purpose of this assessment, it is assumed 400 jobs will be created during construction (323 FTE per annum) and 15-17 FTE jobs during operation. Construction is assumed to last between 24 and 36 months.

### Construction Phase

#### Generation of local employment, procurement of goods and services and contribution to economy

15.6.5 Construction is expected to last maximum 36 months, which makes the duration of the effect as short-medium term.

15.6.6 The Proposed Development will require 323 FTE jobs per annum during construction. This is an average estimate and will likely fluctuate during the construction period.

15.6.7 Leakage outside of the Direct AOI was estimated to be 70% and 15% outside of the Indirect AOI, justification can be found in Table 15.1.

15.6.8 Displacement is used to estimate the extent to which the benefits of a development are offset by reductions in output elsewhere. Following the HCA Guide, displacement value is estimated to be medium (50%) as explained in Table 15.1.

15.6.9 In addition to the direct employment generated by the construction of the Proposed Development, there will be an increase in indirect local employment from indirect effects of these works. Indirect employment will likely come from supply chain opportunities and increased spending from part of the income of the construction workers and suppliers in the AOI, generating further employment (in terms of induced or income multipliers).

15.6.10 The HCA Guide provides approximate indicators for composite multipliers (combining effects from indirect job creation and jobs created through increased spending). The AOI was assessed to have average supply linkages and induced effects based on the scale of the local economy. The multiplier value for this assessment is 1.5.

15.6.11 Table 15.10 presents calculations of the net construction employment from the Proposed Development.

**Table 15.10 – Net construction employment (per year) from the Proposed Development.**

EMPLOYMENT	DIRECT AOI	INDIRECT AOI	OUTSIDE AOI	TOTAL
Gross direct employment	97	192	34	323
Net direct employment (- displacement)	48	96	17	161
Indirect employment	25	48	9	81
Total net employment	74	144	26	242

15.6.12 Estimated total net employment gained from the Proposed Development amounts to 218 jobs in the AOI. This number includes indirect employment, so comparing it with the number of construction workers in the AOI is an estimate. There were 7,426 people working in construction in the AOI during 2021. Nonetheless, for the purpose of this assessment it can be assumed that the number was lower than now due to the effects of the Covid pandemic. The magnitude of change will be medium, resulting in minor beneficial effect for North Kesteven workforce and moderate beneficial effect for Boston Borough workforce. The effect will be **Significant** for Boston Borough’s workforce and **Not Significant** for North Kesteven’s workforce.

### Gross Value Added (GVA)

15.6.13 GVA can be calculated by multiplying the average GVA per construction worker by the total number of construction workers for the Proposed Development (See Table 15.11 below). For this assessment, indirect employment will not be included as it is unlikely that all indirect employment will create construction jobs. An estimate of net direct employment numbers will be used for this assessment. The average GVA per construction worker for North Kesteven and Boston Borough<sup>18</sup> is £37,327 GVA, per construction worker. Therefore, total net direct construction workers should generate approximately £6m GVA to the national economy. The breakdown per AOI can be seen in Table 15.11. The area outside the AOI is not precisely defined therefore the numbers of construction workers are not available. For Indirect Aol, it was assumed 70% of jobs outside of Direct Aol will be taken by Boston workers<sup>19</sup>, which gives a significant change in GVA per head of 4.05%. In other scenarios, this would be reduced to 2.89% if 50% of workers were from Boston and 1.74% if 30%.

<sup>18</sup> By taking an average of the two local authorities’ construction GVA per worker

<sup>19</sup> It is assumed that 70% of workers outside the direct AOI will come from the Borough of Boston, as also suggested in an interview with the NKDC that workers will likely come from the Borough of Boston

**Table 15.11 – Calculations of GVA from construction workers per AOI.**

	DIRECT AOI	INDIRECT AOI		ALL AOI	OUTSIDE AOI	TOTAL (NATIONAL)
		BOROUGH OF BOSTON	REST OF INDIRECT AOI <sup>20</sup>			
Net direct Employment	48	67	29	145	17	161
Existing average GVA per worker in AOI (£)	37,328.0					
GVA (£) from construction	1,829,023.0	3,583,392.0	1,076,087.0	5,395,505.0	-	6,009,833.0
Construction workers	5080	2346	3660	11086	-	1255697
GVA added per worker (£)	360	1070	294	487	-	5
GVA per worker (combined existing + gained) (£)	48,584.0	27,498.0	85,666.0	85,859.0	-	83,710.0
% change	<b>0.74%</b>	<b>4.05%</b>	<b>0.34%</b>	<b>0.57%</b>	-	<b>0.01%</b>

15.6.14 The AOI will see an average total rise of £487 per construction worker, which is a 0.57% rise of total GVA per worker. Boston will see the biggest rise of GVA per worker (4.05%) in the Aol in the most beneficial scenario (70% of workers outside Aol coming from Boston), compared to only 0.75% in North Kesteven. If indirect employment would be taken into account, this change would be of slightly larger magnitude.

15.6.15 The impact of GVA generation from construction of the Proposed Development on the economy in the Direct and Indirect AOI has been assessed as medium-term, reversible (temporary) low beneficial, which results in a **temporary minor beneficial** impact. The effect is **Not Significant**.

### Restricted access to recreation (access to PRowS and cycle routes)

15.6.16 Construction will most likely affect accessibility of the footpaths presented in pink in Figure 15.3. The only long-term effect will be on LL|Ewer|12/1, which was found to be inaccessible and having no users. Impact on that footpath is **negligible adverse**. The effect is **Not Significant**.

15.6.17 The following footpaths might be affected temporarily during construction if crossing the Cable Route Corridor and Access Route Corridor:

- LL|Heck|12/1;
- LL|Heck|14/1, connecting Courtrow Farm and Star Fen Farm;
- LL|Heck|2/4, connecting Heckington with Heckington Fen;
- LL|GtHa|3/1, connecting Poplar Farm with Great Hale Drove;

<sup>20</sup> Indirect Aol GVA estimations used an approximate population percentage of the Indirect Aol (11.8% of East Midlands population), using the Build a Custom Area Profile tool from ONS and East Midlands GVA averages and construction numbers

- LL|GtHa|2/1, connecting Great Hale with White House and White House Farm through Great Hale Drove;
- LL|GtHa|1/1, circa 30 m from cable corridor border and unlikely to be affected;
- LL|GtHa|1/2, connecting Great Hale with Broadhurst Farm;
- LL|LHa|4/1, sharing 1120 m of a similar connection with LL|GtHa|1/2, but south of river Beck and continuing till the Old Forty Foot Bank (Track), c.2180 m in total;
- LL|Bick|1/1, bridleway, connecting Ferry Farm with Swineshead Bridge and Eau End Farm and River Farm;
- LL|Bick|2/1, connecting Northorpe Farm with Cowbridge Road and Londhedge Drove leading to Bicker Gauntlet, to the south of the Sub-station and unlikely to be affected by the final cable route design;
- LL|Ewer|10/1;
- LL|KkLT|5/1 connecting two agricultural fields; and
- LL|KkLT|4/2 running between Asgarby and Kirkby la Thorpe.

15.6.18 Surveys of the uses of the footpaths are still ongoing and the definite cable route has not been established. Early surveys showed low usage of the footpaths and a network of alternative routes. Impact will be short-term, reversible, and local, resulting in medium magnitude, receptor sensitivity is low, resulting in a minor adverse effect. The effect is **Not Significant**.

15.6.19 Cycling is popular in the area and construction might affect traffic on cycle network routes (where they align with public roads) currently classed as low traffic, making cycling less attractive and increasing collision and safety risks for cyclists on narrow lanes and roads in the area. Definite access route design will help in defining the effect on cycle routes more precisely in the ES. With data available to date, the impact would be short-term, reversible, and local, resulting in medium magnitude, receptor sensitivity is low, resulting in a minor adverse effect. The effect is **Not Significant**.

### Increased exposure to noise and traffic

15.6.20 Chapter 9 Access and Traffic has not identified significant residual effects in the assessment.

15.6.21 Chapter 10 Noise and Vibration, has found that during construction and decommissioning there may be significant noise effects on the existing receptors before mitigation, however residual effects are deemed **Not Significant**.

### Physical displacement

15.6.22 There is no residential property within the Solar Array Area and so no physical displacement will occur as a result. Whilst the precise configuration of the Cable Route Corridor and access route requirement is still to be confirmed at this stage of the design, no physical resettlement of farm buildings or residential properties is anticipated. For the purposes of this assessment, a conservative approach has been taken, which assumes the six farms currently within the Cable Route corridor and access route corridor may be affected.

15.6.23 The impact will be short-term, reversible and local, resulting in a low to medium magnitude. However, due to lack of precise data on land acquisition, a conservative approach was taken, and the impact is assessed to be medium. Receptor (landowners) sensitivity is low, resulting in a minor adverse effect. The effect is **Not Significant**.

### Restricted access to land and economic displacement of farming activities

15.6.24 Impact on agricultural land of the Solar Array Area and the Cable Route Corridor is assessed separately in Chapter 14 of this PEIR.

15.6.25 In terms of access, it is considered unlikely that access to the finishing reservoir will be maintained however this is not yet confirmed. Access to the property within the Solar Array Area will be maintained. Reservoir user sensitivity is low, and the loss of access to the fishing pond is considered a medium magnitude, giving a minor adverse, **Not Significant** effect.

15.6.26 Within the Solar Array Area, it was reported by the three landowners that they mostly work by themselves. One works with the help of two full-time employees and the land for acquisition is only a fraction of the total land, which gives an approximate employment of 1FTE worker (including temporary works during harvest). The other two landowners also require additional temporary help during harvest, which amounts to 0.3 FTE workers. This amounts to a total economic displacement of 1.3 FTE jobs due to land acquisition. While this might be a negligible impact to full-time workers and landowners who will receive payments for the use of their land for the Proposed Development, temporary workers might be of higher sensitivity, assuming they have lower level of resources and job stability to adapt to change.

15.6.27 The impact will be long-term, reaching only local levels (1.3 FTE employees) resulting in medium magnitude of change for full-time and temporary agricultural workers. There will be no economic displacement impact for the landowners, due to the change in livelihood and income giving a negligible magnitude of change. The effect is assessed to be negligible (neutral) and hence **Not Significant** for landowners and minor, hence **Not Significant** for full-time and seasonal agricultural workers.

15.6.28 Impact coming from economic displacement of farmers working within the Cable Route Corridor and the Access Route Corridor will be short-term, reversible and local, resulting in low to medium magnitude. Due to lack of precise data on land take location and the number of workers, a conservative approach allows to assess the impact as medium. The impact will be minor adverse for full-time farmers and temporary agricultural workers. The effect is therefore **Not Significant**. Influx of workers causing stress on local shops and hospitality services.

15.6.29 As reported in the baseline section, access to services in the immediate proximity to the Solar Array Area are limited. It is assumed 323 FTE jobs will be created during construction. The community of Ewerby and Evedon, including Howell, in the immediate proximity to the Site has around 244 members<sup>21</sup>. It is assumed construction workers will be accommodated in larger towns and will be transported to site via minibus (with the exception of

<sup>21</sup> Please note this is an approximate value shared by the Ewerby and Evedon Parish Council.

senior management), nonetheless the presence of this many workers in a small community in local shops and hospitality services may be noticed by the local community. The magnitude of change will be medium, resulting in a minor impact for local residents, with the exception of moderate impact on vulnerable groups in the area (especially the elderly). Impact on local vulnerable groups will be **Significant**, but **Not Significant** for other local residents.

### Proposed Development - induced population immigration

15.6.30 GVA was not assessed to be significant for the Proposed Development, which can suggest a low level of Project-induced immigration coming from people seeking economic opportunities in the AOI. It can be expected that workers in Boston Borough will be attracted to direct and indirect employment created by the Proposed Development, because of higher levels of deprivation and unemployment in Boston Borough. An influx of 323 FTE construction workers will be temporary. It was estimated that around 25 jobs will be created indirectly in the Direct AOI and 48 in the Indirect AOI. The population of Sleaford is 18,033<sup>22</sup> and North Kesteven is 118,100. The magnitude of change is therefore assessed to be low, which results in minor adverse impact on North Kesteven residents. The effect is **Not Significant**.

15.6.31 It is uncertain where workers will be accommodated. An impact on a wider AOI will be determined in the ES when more detail is available on worker accommodation.

### Reduction of tourist/recreational attraction (landscape and visual impacts will be detailed in their respective chapter)

15.6.32 The baseline section describes tourist amenities in the area and showed that the direct and Indirect AOI is not a tourist hub in the region. The three biggest tourist / recreational attractions are the Heckington Windmill, the Heckington Village Show and the Swaton Vintage Show (combined with Egg Throwing Championships). Both shows take place in the summer and are over 2km from the site boundary. Depending on the exact construction schedule, there might be some impact from construction traffic, accommodation availability and noise on these events.

15.6.33 Visual impacts on local receptors, including users of PRowWs can be found in Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual.

15.6.34 The Proposed Development is unlikely to have a measurable effect on tourist and recreation baseline conditions, resulting in low magnitude. The impact on tourist attractions will be minor, the effect is therefore **Not Significant**.

### Operational Phase

#### Generation of local employment, procurement of goods and services and contribution to economy

15.6.35 It is assumed that 15-17 FTE jobs will be created during the operational phase. Levels of leakage and displacement remain the same as for the construction phase calculations. The summary of calculations can be found in Table 15.12.

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<sup>22</sup> ONS Census 2021

**Table 15.12 – Net employment during operations.**

	DIRECT AOI	INDIRECT AOI	OUTSIDE AOI	TOTAL
Gross direct employment	5	8-10	2-3	15-18
Net direct employment (- displacement)	2-3	4-5	1	7-9
Indirect employment	3-4	6-7	2	11-14
Total net employment	5-7	10-12	3	18-23

15.6.36 It was assessed that without any enhancement measures, 5 - 7 FTE net jobs will be created in the Direct AOI and between 10 and 12 in the Indirect AOI, 18-23 in total. North Kesteven has 68,498 economically active residents. While the impact can have a bigger magnitude of change locally in the nearby parishes, on the level of the Direct AOI the change will affect a negligible number of residents and will be long term, resulting in a low magnitude of change. The local workforce has a low sensitivity for North Kesteven and medium for Boston Borough, which results in a minor beneficial effect. The effect is **Not Significant**.

### Reduction of tourist/recreational attraction

15.6.37 Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual confirms that the existing woodland and tree groups around residential properties completely screen the views from Howell hamlet, impact on the Howell lodge is therefore assessed to be negligible.

15.6.38 Chapter 6 also found major adverse and significant visual effects on some sections of the PRoW e.g. (LL|Ewer|8/2, LL|Ewer|8/1 and LL|Anwi|2/2) along the River Slea due to the close proximity of the Proposed Development. Major adverse and significant effects have also been identified from the Bridleway LL|Ewer|1103/1, located immediately to the west of Beacon Fen Energy Park, due to the close distance from the Proposed Development. However, the area adjacent to the Site is not a popular destination for tourists, therefore the adverse visual impacts have negligible number of receptors.

15.6.39 The operational phase of the Proposed Development will have a negligible impact on traffic, accommodation and recreation. The three biggest tourist and recreational attractions are the Heckington Windmill, the Heckington Village Show and the Swaton Vintage Show (combined with Egg Throwing Championships). Both shows take place in the summer and are over 2km from the site boundary. Therefore, the Operational phase will have long term effects, but affect a low number of receptors. The impact is negligible adverse, resulting in a **Not Significant** effect.

### Physical displacement and Land Acquisition

15.6.40 There are five farms in the cable corridor and no farms within the Solar Array Area redline boundary. Nonetheless, no physical displacement is planned for the Proposed Development.

15.6.41 At present, there is no anticipated impact from physical displacement, impact from land acquisition will be long-term, reversible and affecting a small number of social receptors, resulting in a medium magnitude. Receptor (landowner)

sensitivity is low, resulting in minor adverse effect. The effect is considered **Not Significant**.

### Restricted access to land and economic displacement of farming activities

15.6.42 Grazing will be permitted during operations. However, it will depend on local farmers whether this activity will be undertaken. There will be loss of temporary jobs (economic displacement of 1,3 FTE jobs) and around 4 FTE jobs of which three are landowners. It is uncertain whether grazing opportunities will be taken locally and whether this will create agricultural jobs and balance economic displacement. A conservative approach has been taken for this assessment and it has been assumed that there would be no jobs created from potential grazing. This leads to a medium impact to full-time workers and temporary workers and negligible for landowners who will receive payments for the use of their land for the Proposed Development.

15.6.43 There will be no economic displacement impact for the landowners, minor for full-time and temporary agricultural workers. The effect is assessed to be **Not Significant** for all receptors.

### Restricted access to recreation (access to PRowS in the panel area)

15.6.44 The only affected PRow during operations, LL|Ewer|12/1, is not accessible nor used. The Solar Array Area will not restrict access to identified recreational facilities apart from the fishing pond used by twelve syndicate members. The impact will be negligible and the effect **Not Significant**.

### Increased exposure to noise

15.6.45 As assessed in Chapter 10, during operation, there is expected to be a significant noise effect at residential receptors located in close proximity to the site. The majority of receptors would experience an increase between 6 and 23dB from background levels, indicating a **Significant** effect. Mitigation proposals will be developed in order to reduce overall noise levels from the Proposed Development to ensure the residual effects reduce below Substantial Adverse and Significant

### Proposed Development-induced population immigration (leading to pressure on local services and infrastructure)

15.6.46 It is estimated that there will be a total of 15-17 FTE direct jobs created during operation and an additional 11-14 indirect jobs. It is unlikely the Proposed Development will create Project Development-induced immigration during operations. The impact is assessed to be negligible and effect **Not Significant**.

### Decommissioning Phase

#### Loss of jobs created during the operational phase

15.6.47 It was estimated that between 18 and 23 FTE direct and indirect jobs will be created during operations. After closure, these jobs will be lost. However, there will be job creation during decommissioning similar to the construction impact.



Decommissioning is currently planned to last 24 to 36 months, which is a similar period to construction. It was estimated that a total of 242 net jobs will be created for construction, which for this assessment will be also assumed for decommissioning impacts. Net employment will be circa 224 jobs (after accounting for operations jobs lost post-closure). Similarly, to the construction impact, the magnitude of change will be medium, resulting in a minor beneficial effect for the North Kesteven workforce and moderate beneficial effect for the Boston Borough workforce, assuming receptor sensitivity will remain unchanged. The effect might be **Significant** for Boston Borough's workforce and **Not Significant** for North Kesteven's workforce.

### Increased exposure to noise and traffic

15.6.48 It is assumed noise and traffic impacts will be similar to construction impacts during decommissioning. Consequently, the magnitude of change is assessed to be low, resulting in a minor effect on residents in North Kesteven and Boston Borough. The effect is **Not Significant**.

### Restricted access to land and economic displacement of farming activities (restricted grazing, cable removal)

15.6.49 Assuming worst case, the cable route would be removed from underground. Impacts associated with this would be similar to those experienced during construction and assessed as minor, **Not Significant**. If grazing will be undertaken during operations, there might be minor economic displacement of agricultural activities in the Solar Array Area. Nonetheless, the land previously taken for solar panels will be returned to arable land, most likely creating agricultural jobs. The impact is assessed to be neutral negligible, **Not Significant**.

### Restricted access to recreational areas and mobility options through footpaths (access to PRowS)

15.6.50 As mentioned above, assuming worst case scenario, the cable would be removed during decommissioning. A number of PRow with low usage would be affected and there might be limited impact on cyclists on public roads because of slightly increased traffic during decommissioning. Overall, the magnitude of change will be low for recreational areas, resulting in a minor adverse impact, and the effect will be **Not Significant**.

## 15.7 Mitigation

15.7.1 Mitigation measures relevant to socio-economic impacts linked to noise and vibration and visual impact are listed in detail in the following chapters:

Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual:

- Mitigation planting to form a visual barrier to Solar Array Area; Implementation of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan and subsequent detailed plan;

Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration:

- Noise minimising measures, to be laid out in the CEMP;

- Stakeholder engagement activities to ensure all residential neighbours are aware of periods of potentially noisy activity;
- Avoidance of noisier activities or multiple noisy activities in close proximity to residential receptors, as far as possible; and
- Operational noise will be reduced through one or a combination of measures including adjustment to equipment location and numbers, placement of noise barriers, sourcing of silenced or quieter equipment and use of alternative equipment.

15.7.2 The Local Employment Plan (currently being produced and will be provided as part of the DCO application) will mitigate impacts related to loss of employment and enhances beneficial impacts from employment creation. This plan is proposed to include measures such as:

- Prioritising local employment;
- Reskilling of temporary farm workers to avoid economic displacement or support in finding alternative agricultural work;
- Reskilling of workers after operational phase; and
- Potential upskilling of local residents through apprenticeships.

15.7.3 Impacts related to physical displacement are not expected, this should be assured through the avoidance of settlements during final cable route design.

15.7.4 To mitigate impact on the PRowS, the cable route will be designed so as to avoid PRowS to the extent possible. Signs or posters will be installed and local walking groups will be notified about any footpath closures.

15.7.5 Planning of construction activities around important cultural and tourist events in the AOI, most importantly, the Heckington Village Show and the Swaton Vintage Show (Combined with the Egg Throwing Championship) will be included in the CTMP.

15.7.6 Impact from Influx of workers during construction and decommissioning will be managed by the Local Employment Plan (through measures to target employment of people locally and reducing immigration), avoidance of clustering together the location of worker's accommodation, and engagement with local authorities about potential concerns in terms of pressure on services. Health infrastructure capacity will be monitored during construction and its increased use by local workforce discussed with local authorities. Engagement with local authorities should be implemented to monitor impacts of worker influx on local vulnerable population (especially the elderly).

## 15.8 Residual Effects

15.8.1 After implementing mitigation measures outlined in section 15.8, no residual adverse Significant effects are expected.

15.8.2 The implementation of the Local Employment Plan is expected to enhance but not increase the already significant beneficial effect on the workforce of Boston Borough.

### Monitoring

15.8.3 There is no requirement for monitoring identified at this stage.

## 15.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

### Intra-Cumulative Effects

15.9.1 Intra-cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, including Traffic, Air Quality and Landscape and Visual impacts, have been assessed within the Assessment of Effects section of this chapter.

### Inter-Cumulative Effects

15.9.2 As there are no residual significant impacts expected in regard to socioeconomics, the cumulative impact assessment focuses only on key shared receptors with other operational or planned projects in the AOI. The only potentially identified cumulative effect is the demand on local accommodation during the construction phase, due to an influx of construction workers.

15.9.3 A full list of projects considered here is provided in Section 4.6 Scope and Methodology of the PEIR report. As the only impact being considered is that of effect on current accommodation only projects within 25km have been considered. The determination of effects from each of the sites within 25km is provided below:

**Table 15.13 – Developments considered in the assessment.**

PROJECT	DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCOPED IN/OUT - POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS
Heckington Fen Solar Park <sup>23</sup>	ES completed in February 2023	Scoped in - The ES for Heckington Fen <sup>24</sup> has estimated 200 workers requiring accommodation (400 construction workers in total), which might affect accommodation demand.
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (Generating Station)	Pre-Application: Expected to be submitted – Q4 2023	Scoped out - No anticipated impact on A17 and likely time frame for construction does not overlap.
Lincolnshire Reservoir <sup>25</sup>	The application is expected to be submitted to PINS in 2025.	Scoped out - Unlikely that construction will commence within the timescales of this project. No anticipated cumulative effects.
Springwell Solar Farm <sup>26</sup>	Scoping Report prepared in March 2023, construction planned for 2026 and last 48 months in two phases.	Scoped in - Cumulative traffic impact not identified. Potential impact from accommodation demand.
Boston Alternative Energy Facility (BAEF)	Permission granted 06/07/2023.	Scoped in – The ES for BAEF estimates up to 131 direct local

<sup>23</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010123/EN010123-000135-6.1.14%20-%20Chapter%2014%20-%20Transport%20and%20Access.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010123/EN010123-000132-6.1.11%20-%20Chapter%2011%20-%20Socio-Economics.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/lincolnshire-reservoir/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/springwell-solar-farm/>

PROJECT	DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCOPED IN/OUT - POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS
		construction jobs, with Boston being the primary employment resource. An additional 169 jobs would be undertaken by suppliers and contractors, it is assumed these 169 workers will require accommodation.
Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park <sup>27</sup>	Scoping Report submitted in July 2022	Scoped in - No identified impacts on the A17. Taking a conservative approach it can be estimated that around 126 FTE workers will be needed for construction which can have impact on accommodation availability.

15.9.4 The Access and Traffic chapter has not identified significant cumulative impacts coming from the above developments. From a socio-economic perspective, the Heckington Fen Solar Farm, the Springwell Solar Farm and the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park might create cumulative impacts on accommodation availability during construction.

15.9.5 To calculate approximate worker numbers requiring accommodation, relevant ES information was used. When that information was not available, a conservative approach of 1 worker per 1MW was taken as an assumption for solar projects. Due to lack of established guidance on that matter, this assumption comes from an internal review of other Solar Farm projects in the UK. It was assumed that due to local employment, only half of the total workers will require accommodation, the same assumption was also used in the Heckington Fen ES<sup>28</sup>.

**Table 15.14 – Estimates of construction workers requiring accommodation.**

DEVELOPMENT	TOTAL	REQUIRING ACCOMMODATION
Beacon Fen	323	162
Heckington Fen	400	200
Springwell Solar Farm <sup>29</sup>	800	400
Boston Alternative Energy Facility	300	169
Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park	126	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>994</b>

15.9.6 This worst case scenario shows that 994 workers might require accommodation at the same time. In reality this will likely vary because of varied flows of workforce, lower workers demand and successful local

<sup>27</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010130/EN010130-000037-EN010130-Scoping-Report.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010123/EN010123-000132-6.1.11%20-%20Chapter%2011%20-%20Socio-Economics.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Number of workers not yet available in the scoping report, assumption of 1 construction worker per 1MW was made.

employment. Note specifically that using this approach the expected number of construction workers for Springwell is likely an over-estimate.

- 15.9.7 Exact accommodation capacity and room occupancy has not yet been calculated and will be prepared for the ES, but consultation with the NKDC has flagged that accommodation availability is a concern for the council, especially from a cumulative effects perspective.
- 15.9.8 Without exact information on accommodation occupancy and capacity, a conservative approach has been taken. Receptor sensitivity is Medium to High and Magnitude of Change Medium resulting in a Moderate to Major Cumulative Effect on accommodation. The Effect is considered **Significant** and further investigation will be done to determine capacity of accommodation and provide suitable mitigation measures, if required.
- 15.9.9 Mitigation should include implementation of the Local Employment Plan, coordination of construction timescales with other developments and cooperation with NKDC. The residual effect could then be reduced to **Not Significant**.
- 15.9.10 No other significant cumulative impacts are expected. However, it is noteworthy that, as discussed, this combination of Projects will result in job creation across numerous sectors in the region. Ultimately this will have a beneficial impact both in the Direct and Indirect AOI and further afield.

## 15.10 Summary

- 15.10.1 The assessment of baseline conditions showed that the study area has a lower share of the working-age population and a higher share of the elderly population than the national average.
- 15.10.2 In terms of local economy, there is relatively low unemployment in North Kesteven and relatively high unemployment in Boston. GVA per head is significantly lower in Boston and North Kesteven compared to average national GVA per head. On average, Boston has higher levels of deprivation compared to the national average and North Kesteven, while North Kesteven has lower levels of deprivation compared to the national average.
- 15.10.3 Baseline data collection showed that there is a network of footpaths and recreational facilities around the Site, used mainly by local residents. Touristic attractions rarely attract visitors from outside of the region. Consequently, the visitor economy is not a significant contributor to GVA in the study area.
- 15.10.4 The Proposed Development will result in beneficial effects in terms of employment and economic contribution, mostly during construction and operation. During construction, effect from employment generation was assessed to be Significant Beneficial for Boston.
- 15.10.5 The Proposed Development would lead to no residual adverse significant effects from a socio-economic perspective. There is however, a potential significant adverse effect resulting from noise on nearby residential receptors, during the operational phase. This is further described in Chapter 10.
- 15.10.6 The Local Employment Plan will design a monitoring programme covering local employment levels and positive upskilling impacts.

- 15.10.7 Assessment of Cumulative Effects, after taking a conservative approach, have suggested a Significant Effect on accommodation capacity before mitigation. No other significant cumulative impacts are expected.
- 15.10.8 The only identified significant effect is the beneficial impact of construction employment on Boston Borough's workforce, as shown in Table 15.15 below.

**Table 15.15: Discipline - Summary Assessment Matrix (Significant Residual effects)**

Issue	Description of Impact	Geographical Significance							Impact	Nature	Significance	Mitigation Measures
		I	N	R	C	D	P	L				
<b>Socio-economic</b>												
Boston Borough workforce	Construction: Generation of local employment					X	X	X	Moderate Beneficial	St, R	Significant	Enhancement measures: LEP
<b>Key:</b> Geographical Significance: I = International N = National R = Regional C = County D = District P = Parish L = Low to Local Nature: St = Short Term Mt = Medium Term Lt = Long Term R = Reversible Ir = Irreversible												

# BFEP Appendices