



**HELIOS** RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
PROJECT

# **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

**Volume 2: Main Text and Figures**

Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects

October 2023

## **15. Cumulative Effects**

### **15.1. Introduction**

15.1.1. This PEIR has considered the potential for likely significant intra-project effects (i.e. the different types of effects resulting from the Proposed Development combining to have effects on the same receptor) and likely significant inter-project cumulative effects on the environment (i.e. those resulting from the Proposed Development combined with other relevant development in the area).

### **15.2. Intra-Project Effects**

15.2.1. There is no published methodology for determining the significance of intra-project effects. Combining effects with respect to one environmental discipline with another has to be qualitative and is necessarily based on judgment.

15.2.2. During the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, users of Public Rights of Way ('PRoWs') within the Site and its vicinity have the potential to experience a combined effect of noise disturbance and the visual effect of construction and decommissioning activities. However, any adverse effects would be short term, temporary and not significant. There is also the potential for soils and agricultural land and water environment (contamination) intra-project effects, in relation to soil quality and structure and its trafficking via construction vehicles. With the measures set out in the Outline Soil Management Plan (refer to Appendix 14.3 of the PEIR) implemented, these effects would not be significant.

15.2.3. Similarly to the construction and decommissioning phases, the operational phase of the Proposed Development has the potential to result in a combined effect of noise disturbance (from plant) and visual impacts on users of PRoWs within the Site and its vicinity, as well from glint and glare. However, with the landscape planting proposals in place, and the noise mitigation incorporated into the Proposed Development's design, significant intra-project effects are not anticipated.

### **15.3. Inter-Project Effects**

15.3.1. Inter-project effects are considered under the 'Cumulative Effects' sub-heading in each topic chapter of this PEIR. A summary of the identified significant inter-project

cumulative effects of the Proposed Development across all topics is provided below.

- 15.3.2. Inter-project effects are defined in paragraph 5(e) of Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations as:

*‘the cumulation of effects with other existing and/ or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources.’*

- 15.3.3. The best practice approach to cumulative schemes requires inclusion of proportionate information relating to projects that are not yet consented, dependent on the level of certainty of them coming forward. In this regard, the Planning Inspectorate’s *Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects*<sup>1</sup> is relevant to this PEIR.

#### **15.4. Cumulative Schemes**

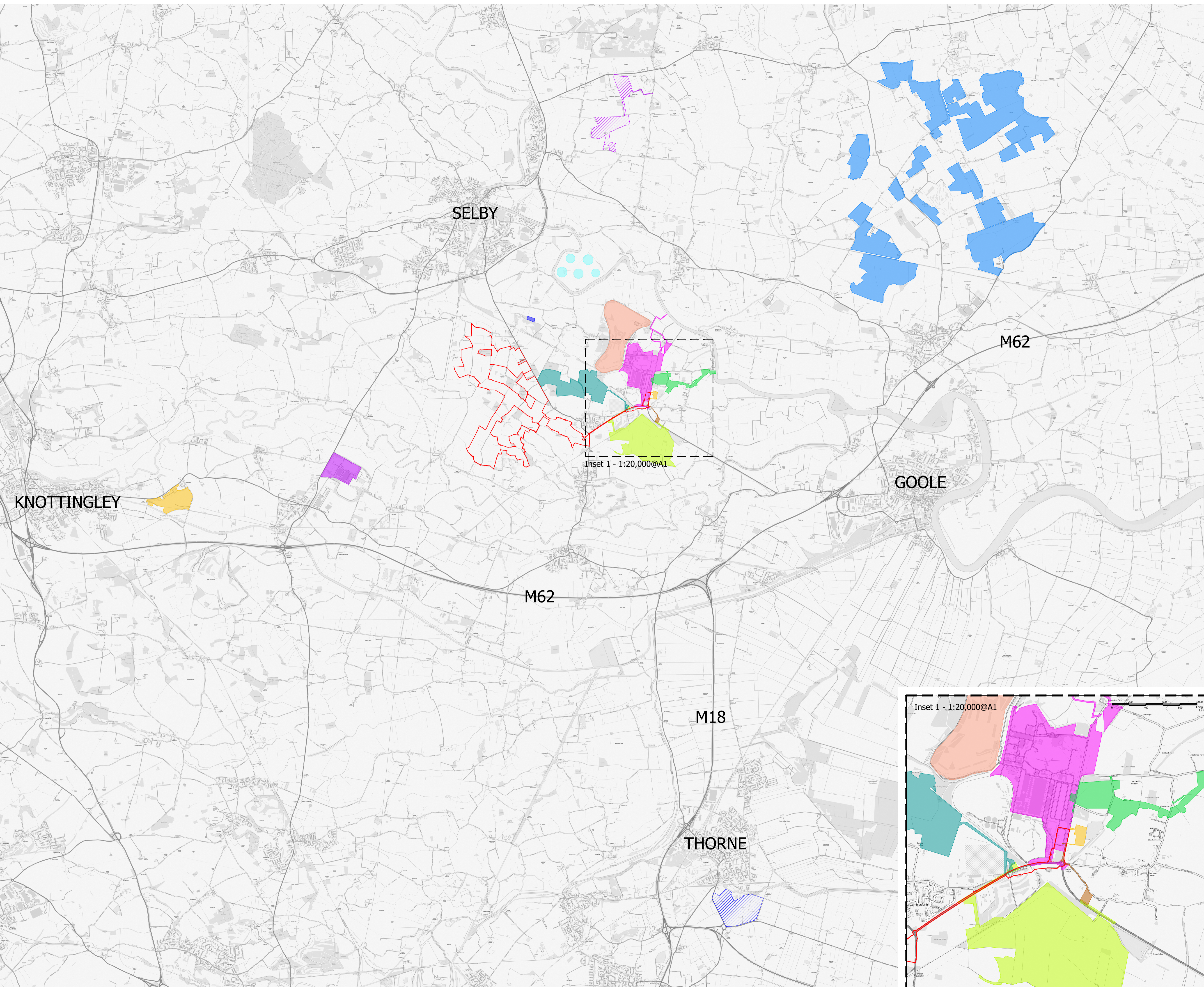
- 15.4.1. Table 15.1 below details the projects that have been identified for the assessment of likely significant cumulative effects on the environment for the purposes of this PEIR. The location of these projects are shown on Figure 15.1 Cumulative Schemes Plan.
- 15.4.2. The information contained within Table 15.1 is based upon information available on Selby District Council’s (‘SDC’) website at the time of writing the Scoping Report (refer to Appendix 2.1 of the PEIR). It was issued to SDC and North Yorkshire County Council (now North Yorkshire Council (‘NYC’)) for agreement in May 2023.

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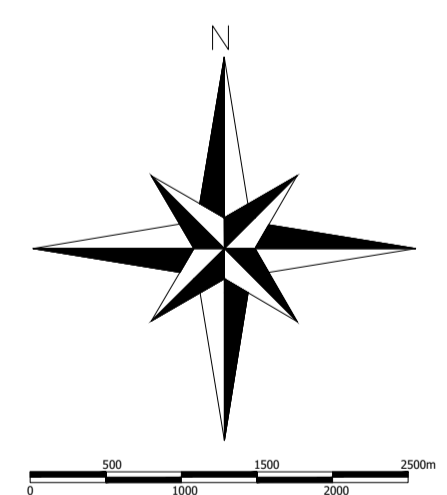
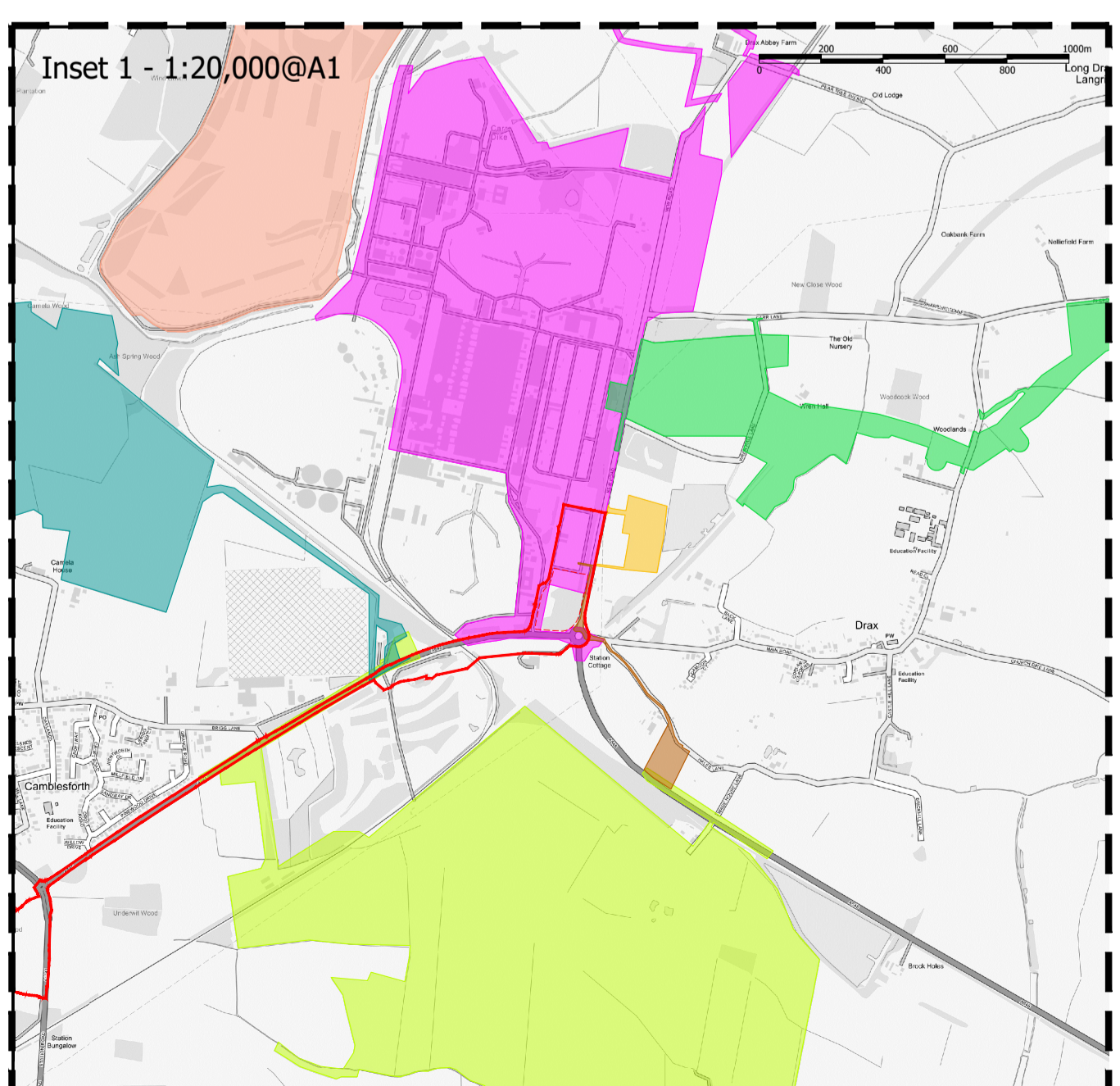
<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-17/>


**Figure 15.1 Cumulative Schemes Plan**

- Site boundary
- Land South of A645, Wade House Lane, Drax (Ref:2023/0128/EIA)
- East Yorkshire Solar Farm NSIP (PINS Ref: EN010143)
- Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project NSIP (Pins Ref: EN010120)
- Land Off New Road, Drax (Ref: 2020/1357/FULM)
- Land Off Hales Lane, Drax (Ref: 2021/1089/FULM)
- Land North and south of Camela Lane, Camblesforth (Ref: 2021/0788/EIA)
- Drax Power Station, Drax (Ref: 2022/0107/NYSCO)
- Land to the East of New Road, Drax (Ref: 2022/0711/EIA)
- Land Adjacent to Barlow Common Road, Barlow, Selby (Ref: 2022/0287/SCN)
- Newlands Farm, Turnham Lane, Cliffe, Selby (Ref: 2021/0348/SCN)
- Eggborough Power Station, Selby Road, Eggborough (Ref: 2019/1343/EIA)
- Land Near Osgodby Grange, South Duffield Road, Osgodby, Selby (Ref: 2021/0978/FULM)
- Former Kellingley Colliery, Turvers Lane, Kellingley, Kottingley (Ref: 2016/1343/OUTM)
- Bradholme Farm, High Levels Bank, Thorne, Doncaster (Ref: 21/005000/OUTA)



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**Project Title:**  
Helios Renewable Energy Project

**Drawing Title:**  
Cumulative Schemes Plan

DRWG No: BL-M-12	Rev: A	Sht no: -
Drawn by: SM	Checked by: RJP	
Scale: 1:50,000@A1	Date: 14.07.2023	

**Table 15.1: Schemes for the Assessment of Potential Cumulative Environmental Effects with the Proposed Development**

Scheme Address and Reference Number	Description	Status	Distance and Direction from the Site
Land South of A645, Wade House Lane, Drax (Ref: 2023/0128/EIA)	Development of a ground-mounted solar farm including associated infrastructure.	Awaiting decision (validated in February 2023).	Application's site boundary overlaps with the Proposed Development's Underground Cable Corridor to the grid connection.
East Yorkshire Solar Farm (PINS Ref: EN010143)	The installation of solar photovoltaic generating panels, associated electrical equipment, cabling and on-site energy storage facilities together with grid connection infrastructure. The point of connection will be at Drax Substation, situated approximately 6.2km to the south-west of the PV site. The generating capacity of the Scheme will exceed 50MW and its maximum capacity is anticipated to be 400MW.	Application for Development Consent at Pre-Examination stage.	Application's grid connection corridor boundary immediately to the east of the Proposed Development's Underground Cable Corridor to the grid connection.
Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project NSIP (PINS Ref: EN010120)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon capture infrastructure at the Drax Power Station;</li> <li>• Compression and treatment of carbon dioxide at the Drax Power Station to allow connection to a National Grid carbon dioxide transport system;</li> <li>• Potential Upgraded Drax Jetty and Road Improvements to facilitate the transport of abnormal indivisible loads; and</li> <li>• Potential Environmental Mitigation Area to the north of the Drax Power Station.</li> </ul>	Application for Development Consent at Examination stage.	Adjacent to the eastern part of the Site boundary.
Land Off New Road, Drax (Ref: 2020/1357/FULM)	Development of an energy storage facility including battery storage containers; substations; power conversion systems; transformers and associated switchgear; HVAC equipment; communications and grid compliance equipment; temporary construction compound; CCTV;	Consented in May 2021. Not yet under construction.	Adjacent to the eastern part of the Site boundary.

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<b>Scheme Address and Reference Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Distance and Direction from the Site</b>
	fencing; infrared lighting; access, drainage and landscaping works and associated development.		
Land Off Hales Lane, Drax (Ref: 2021/1089/FULM)	Development of a battery storage facility, associated infrastructure, access and grid connection.	Consented in May 2022. Not yet under construction.	Adjacent to the eastern part of the Site boundary.
Land North and South of Camela Lane, Camblesforth (Ref: 2021/0788/EIA)	Development of a ground mounted solar farm including associated infrastructure.	Consented in July 2022. Not yet under construction.	Adjacent to the eastern part of the Site boundary.
Drax Power Station, Drax (Ref: 2022/0107/NYSCO)	Recovery of ash resource from Barlow Ash Mound, North West of Drax Power Station.	Request for EIA Scoping Opinion submitted. Planning application not yet submitted.	Adjacent to the eastern part of the Site boundary.
Land to the East of New Road, Drax (Ref: 2022/0711/EIA)	Hybrid Planning Application comprising two parts: (i) outline planning application (all matters reserved) for the construction of a converter station at Drax, Selby; and (ii) full planning application for the installation of high voltage direct current underground cables from the River Ouse to the converter station and high voltage alternating current underground cables from the converter station to the existing Drax Substation, as well as all associated temporary works including compounds, accesses and bellmouths as part of the construction of Scotland-England Green Link 2 (SEGL2), a two gigawatt reinforcement of the electricity transmission system between Peterhead,	Awaiting decision (validated in August 2022).	Approximately 150m to the north of the Site boundary, at its closest point.

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<b>Scheme Address and Reference Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Distance and Direction from the Site</b>
	Scotland and Drax, England. [Installation of underground high voltage direct current cables from Mean Low Water Springs at Fraisthorpe, East Riding to the River Ouse and associated temporary works relating to land in an adjoining authority].		
Land Adjacent to Barlow Common Road, Barlow, Selby (Ref: 2022/0287/SCN)	EIA Screening Opinion request for a 50MW battery storage system (BESS) on land off Barlow Common Road.	EIA Screening stage – EIA not required (April 2022) Application not yet submitted.	Approximately 875m to the north of the Site boundary.
Newlands Farm, Turnham Lane, Cliffe, Selby (Ref: 2021/0348/SCN)	EIA Screening Opinion request for five wind turbines.	EIA Screening stage – EIA required (June 2021). Application not yet submitted.	Approximately 2.5km to the north of the Site boundary.
Eggborough Power Station, Selby Road, Eggborough (Ref: 2019/1343/EIA)	Hybrid application for demolition of part of the former power station and ancillary buildings and its redevelopment, comprising: (i) access into the site, internal roads, employment units, car parking, drainage infrastructure and landscaping; and (ii) outline for the scale of redevelopment of the remainder of the site for employment floorspace, proposed buildings with ridge being between 9.5 metres and 24.5 metres, car parking, drainage infrastructure and strategic landscaping.	Consented in October 2020. Under construction.	Approximately 2.9km to the west of the Site boundary.
Land near Osgodby Grange, South Duffield Road,	Installation of renewable energy generating station comprising ground mounted PV solar arrays together with substation, transformer stations, site accesses, internal	Consented in July 2022. Not yet under	Approximately 7km to the north east of the Site boundary.



Scheme Address and Reference Number	Description	Status	Distance and Direction from the Site
Osgodby, Selby (Ref: 2021/0978/FULM)	access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements	construction.	
Former Kellingley Colliery, Turvers Lane, Kellingley, Knottingley (Ref: 2016/1343/OUTM)	Outline application including means of access (all other matters reserved) for the construction of an employment park up to 1.45 million square feet ('sq ft') (135,500 square metres) gross internal area of floorspace, comprising B2, B8 and ancillary B1 uses, ancillary non-residential institution (Use Class D1) and retail uses (Use Classes A1 – A5) and related ancillary infrastructure.	Consented in February 2019. Under construction.	Approximately 10km to the west of the Site boundary.
Bradholme Farm, High Levels Bank, Thorne, Doncaster (Ref: 21/00500/OUTA)	Outline planning application for the demolition of an existing bungalow and associated buildings/ structures and all hardstanding and erection of up to 2,900,000 sq ft of employment space (Class E(g), B2 and B8 uses) with all matters reserved apart from access.	Awaiting decision.	Approximately 10km south east of the Site boundary.

## 15.5. Summary of the Proposed Development's Significant Inter-Project Cumulative Effects

15.5.1. No significant (beneficial or adverse) cumulative effects were identified for the following technical disciplines:

- Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Views;
- Water Environment;
- Transport and Access;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Socio-Economics; and
- Soils and Agricultural Land.

Biodiversity:

15.5.2. The solar developments identified from the list of cumulative developments for assessment make clear commitments to achieve measurable biodiversity gains; therefore, a major beneficial (significant) cumulative effect to habitats has been identified at the local level.

Climate Change:

15.5.3. Moderate beneficial (significant) effect at the local level identified to a reduction in carbon emissions associated with the cumulative operation of several schemes related to the generation or storage of renewable energy.