



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

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Environmental Statement Volume 2 Appendix 6.1: Landscape and Visual - Policy Context

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Appendix 6.1 - Legislation and Planning Policy Relevant to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

- 1.1.1. This Appendix presents the relevant legislation, planning policy and guidance relevant to the LVIA. Policy compliance is further considered within the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2].

Legislation and National Planning Policy

- 1.1.2. Table 1 (overleaf) presents the Legislation and National Planning Policy which have been considered in carrying out this assessment, which are summarised as follows:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) [Ref 1];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) [Ref 2];
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [Ref 3]; and
- Planning Practice Guidance [Ref 4].

- 1.1.3. In addition to the adopted policy, the following emerging Legislation and National Planning Policy has been considered:

- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (Draft NPS EN-1) [Ref 5]; and
- Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (Draft NPS EN-3) [Ref 6].

Local Planning Policy

- 1.1.4. Table 2 (overleaf) presents the relevant local planning policies that have been considered in carrying out this LVIA, which are summarised as follows:

- Rutland Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (Adopted July 2011) [**Ref 7**];
- Rutland Local Plan Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (Adopted 2014) [**Ref 8**];
- South Kesteven Local Plan 2011- 2036 (January 2020) [**Ref 9**]; and
- Carlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2018 to 2036 (Made 2018) [**Ref 10**].

Guidance

1.1.5. The following guidance has been considered in carrying out this LVIA as further outlined within the assessment methodology

[EN010127/APP/6.2]:

- The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England (2014);
- Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals;
- Landscape Institute, Technical Note 06/17, Townscape Character Assessment;
- Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment; and
- Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Notes 02/21, Assessing landscape value outside national designations

National Planning Policy

Table 1: National Planning Policy Relevant to LVIA

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)		
Paragraph 4.5.1	NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.5.1 notes that <i>“high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations”</i> . It goes on to state that <i>“applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible.”</i>	Aesthetic considerations and the quality of design is further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].
Paragraph 5.9.1	NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9.1 notes that <i>“the landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development.”</i>	The applicant acknowledges that the landscape and visual effects will vary according to the type of development. The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development are further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.8	NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9.8 notes that <i>“virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.”</i>	The applicant acknowledges that virtually all NSIP solar projects will result in landscape and visual effects although these need to be identified and mitigated as far as possible. The siting, layout and design of the Proposed Development is further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The embedded mitigation measures to minimise the landscape and visual effects are identified within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3)		

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
Paragraph 2.4.2	NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.4.2 notes that <i>“proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design in respect of landscape and visual amenity, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology.”</i>	The design of the Proposed Development in response to landscape character and visual amenity is further described within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The embedded mitigation measures are also identified within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)		
Paragraph 2.51.2	Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.2 notes that <i>“whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero.”</i>	The Zone of Visual Influence has been minimised as far as possible by the proposed mitigation measures outlined within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. In reality, it is not possible for the ZVI for a solar farm to be zero as a visual effect would always arise.
Paragraph 2.51.4	Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.4 notes that solar PV developments will be <i>“expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape/visual impact of solar PV arrays. Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact.”</i>	The design and layout of the Proposed Development has sought to minimise the landscape and visual effects as far as possible. For example, the perimeter security fencing has been proposed as 2-metre-high timber deer fencing with a wide-gauge stockproof mesh, and the inverter and transformer units would potentially be painted green to appear muted in colour and visually recessive in more distant views. The Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings have been clustered to the south of Essendine near the existing industrial complex, the East Coast Mainline Railway and the existing Ryhall substation infrastructure in order to co-locate these effects. Whilst the solar farm is of utility NSIP scale, the development would appear subdivided and compartmentalised by the prevailing

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
		landform, woodland and hedgerows such that it would not be entirely visible from any given location.
Paragraph 2.51.5	Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.5 regarding hedgerow and tree protection notes that the <i>“applicant should have regard in both the design layout of the solar farm, and future maintenance plans, to the retention of growth of vegetation on boundaries, including the opportunity for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity. The landscape and visual impact should be considered carefully at the pre-application stage. Existing hedges and established vegetation, including mature trees, should be retained wherever possible. Trees and hedges should be protected during construction. The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey or a hedge assessment as appropriate.”</i>	The existing hedgerows and trees would be retained within the site layout as far as possible and would be protected during the construction phases as outlined within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) within ES Chapter 15, Other Matters and the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].
Paragraph 2.51.6	Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.6 regarding mitigation notes that <i>“applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges. Efforts should be made to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible projects should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to screen security fencing and use natural features, such as vegetation planting, to assist in site security. Projects should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive</i>	<p>The embedded mitigation measures identified within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1] and illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) includes a number of proposed treebelts and hedgerow reinforcements to provide additional visual screening from key locations.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. No areas of the Solar</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.”</i>	PV Site would be continuously lit. The lighting of the Onsite Substation would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		
Paragraph 130	<p>Section 12 of the NPPF, Achieving Well-Designed Places, indicates in paragraph 130 that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:</p> <p><i>“c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting...”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been designed to appear sympathetic to local character and distinctiveness as outlined within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3] and within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Paragraph 174	<p>Section 15 of the NPPF, Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment, advises in paragraph 174 that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <p><i>“a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);</i> <i>b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland...”</i></p>	<p>The Order limits are not located within any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, AONB or SLA. An assessment of the landscape value has been undertaken within ES Chapter 6, although the Order limits are not considered to be located within a ‘valued landscape’ in accordance with the interpretation of para 174(a) of the NPPF.</p> <p>The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11 [EN010127/APP/6.3]) would provide a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and include new areas of calcareous wildflower grassland, hedgerows previously lost through arable intensification, and new riparian habitats along the West Glen River corridor.</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
Paragraph 175	<p>Paragraph 175 of the NPPF advises that planning policy and decisions should:</p> <p><i>“Distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.”</i></p>	<p>The Order limits are not located within undesignated countryside with a relatively low requirement for landscape protection in accordance with paragraph 175 of the NPPF.</p> <p>The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) has sought to maintain, enhance and provide key linkages to key habitats in the surroundings of the Order limits.</p>
Planning Practice Guidance, Natural environment (21st July 2019)		
Paragraph 004	<p>Paragraph 004 notes that:</p> <p><i>“Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) would provide multiple benefits in terms of new habitats, outdoor recreation and permissive footpaths as outlined within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>
Paragraph 036	<p>Paragraph 036 notes that:</p> <p><i>“The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes. This can include</i></p>	<p>The intrinsic character and value of the countryside has been considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The cumulative effects have also been assessed. Design principles including additional visual screening has been further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>nationally and locally-designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.</i></p> <p><i>Where landscapes have a particular local value, it is important for policies to identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence. Policies may set out criteria against which proposals for development affecting these areas will be assessed. Plans can also include policies to avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and to set out necessary mitigation measures, such as appropriate design principles and visual screening, where necessary. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully.”</i></p>	
Planning Practice Guidance, Renewable and low carbon energy (18th June 2015)		
Paragraph 023	<p>Paragraph 023 notes that:</p> <p><i>“The deployment of large-scale solar farms can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively.</i></p> <p><i>Particular factors a local planning authority will need to consider include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Encouraging the effective use of land by focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value;</i> 	<p>These particular factors have been further considered within the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2] and the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid agricultural land classification 1 - 3a with some areas retained as arable farmland within the Order limits.</p> <p>Biodiversity improvements would be provided around the PV arrays as shown on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) and oLEMP.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays...</i> <i>That solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use;</i> <i>The proposal's visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare (see guidance on landscape assessment) and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;</i> <i>The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun;</i> <i>The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing;</i> <i>Great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting. As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms on such assets. Depending on their scale, design and prominence, a large scale solar farm within the setting of a heritage asset may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset;</i> <i>The potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges;</i> 	<p>lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings.</p> <p>The potential for additional visual screening has been further considered on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11). The cumulative effects have been assessed within the LVIA.</p> <p>The effects on cultural heritage assets has been separately assessed within ES Chapter 8, Cultural Heritage.</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The energy generating potential, which can vary for a number of reasons including, latitude and aspect.</i> <p><i>The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing the impact of wind turbines. However, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero."</i></p>	
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)		
Paragraph 4.5.1	NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.5.1 notes that <i>"high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations"</i> . It goes on to state that <i>"applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible."</i>	Aesthetic considerations and the quality of design is further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].
Paragraph 5.9.1	NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9.1 notes that <i>"the landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development."</i>	The applicant acknowledges that the landscape and visual effects will according to the type of development. The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development are assessed within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.8	NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9.8 notes that <i>"virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having</i>	The applicant acknowledges that virtually all NSIP projects will result in a landscape and visual effects although these need to be identified and mitigated as far as possible.

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate."</i>	The siting, layout and design is further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The embedded mitigation measures to minimise the landscape and visual effects are identified within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3)		
Paragraph 2.4.2	NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.4.2 notes that <i>"proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design in respect of landscape and visual amenity, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology."</i>	The design of the Proposed Development in response to landscape character and visual amenity is further described within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The embedded mitigation measures are also identified within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)		
Paragraph 2.51.2	Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.2 notes that <i>"whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero."</i>	The Zone of Visual Influence has been minimised as far as possible by the proposed mitigation measures outlined within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. In reality, it is not possible for the ZVI for a solar PV development to be 'zero' as a visual effect would always arise.
Paragraph 2.51.4	Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.4 notes that solar PV developments will be <i>"expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape/visual impact of solar PV arrays. Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact."</i>	The design and layout of the Proposed Development has sought to minimise the landscape and visual effects wherever possible. For example, the perimeter security fencing has been proposed as 2-metre-high timber deer fencing with a wide-gauge stockproof mesh, and the inverter and transformer units would potentially be painted green to appear muted in colour and visually recessive in more distant views. The Onsite

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		<p>Substation and ancillary buildings have been clustered to the south of Essendine near the existing industrial complex, the East Coast Mainline Railway and the existing Ryhall substation infrastructure in order to co-locate these effects. Whilst the solar farm is of utility NSIP scale, the development would appear subdivided and compartmentalised by the prevailing landform, woodland and hedgerows such that it would not be entirely visible from any given location.</p>
Paragraph 2.51.5	<p>Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.5 regarding hedgerow and tree protection notes that the <i>“applicant should have regard in both the design layout of the solar farm, and future maintenance plans, to the retention of growth of vegetation on boundaries, including the opportunity for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity. The landscape and visual impact should be considered carefully at the pre-application stage. Existing hedges and established vegetation, including mature trees, should be retained wherever possible. Trees and hedges should be protected during construction. The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey or a hedge assessment as appropriate.”</i></p>	<p>The existing hedgerows and trees have been retained within the site layout as far as possible and would be protected during the construction phases as outlined within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) within ES Chapter 15, Other Matters and the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9]. the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) would result in a net gain of native planting within the Order limits.</p>
Paragraph 2.51.6	<p>Draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.51.6 regarding mitigation notes that <i>“applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges. Efforts should be made to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible projects should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to screen security fencing and use natural features, such as vegetation</i></p>	<p>The embedded mitigation measures are illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) and includes a number of proposed treebelts and hedgerow reinforcements to reduce the visual effects from a number of key locations.</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>planting, to assist in site security. Projects should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact."</i>	The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation. No areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		
Paragraph 130	Section 12 of the NPPF, Achieving Well-Designed Places, indicates in paragraph 130 that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments: <i>"c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting..."</i>	The Proposed Development has been designed to appear in keeping with and sympathetic to local character as outlined within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].
Paragraph 174	Section 15 of the NPPF, Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment, advises in paragraph 174 that decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: <i>"a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes...(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland"</i>	The Order limits are not located within any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, AONB or SLA. An assessment of the landscape value has been undertaken within ES Chapter 6, although the Order limits are not considered to be located within a 'valued landscape' in accordance with the interpretation of para 174(a) of the NPPF. The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) would provide a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and include new areas of calcareous wildflower grassland, hedgerows previously lost through arable intensification and new riparian habitats along the West Glen River corridor.

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
Paragraph 175	<p>Paragraph 175 of the NPPF advises that planning policy and decisions should:</p> <p><i>“Distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.”</i></p>	<p>The Order limits are not located within undesignated countryside with a relatively low requirement for landscape protection. The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) has sought to maintain, enhance and provide key linkages to key habitats in the surroundings of the Order limits.</p>
Planning Practice Guidance, Natural Environment (21st July 2019)		
Paragraph 004	<p>Paragraph 004 notes that:</p> <p><i>“Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) would provide multiple benefits in terms of new habitats and permissive footpaths for improved access and recreation.</p>
Paragraph 036	<p>Paragraph 036 notes that:</p> <p><i>“The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes. This can include</i></p>	<p>The intrinsic character and value of the countryside has been further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The cumulative effects are also assessed within the LVIA.</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>nationally and locally-designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.</i></p> <p><i>Where landscapes have a particular local value, it is important for policies to identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence. Policies may set out criteria against which proposals for development affecting these areas will be assessed. Plans can also include policies to avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and to set out necessary mitigation measures, such as appropriate design principles and visual screening, where necessary. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully.”</i></p>	<p>Design principles including visual screening has been further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>
Planning Practice Guidance, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (18th June 2015)		
Paragraph 023	<p>Paragraph 023 notes that:</p> <p><i>“The deployment of large-scale solar farms can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively.</i></p> <p><i>Particular factors a local planning authority will need to consider include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Encouraging the effective use of land by focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value;</i> 	<p>These particular factors have been further considered within the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2] and the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid agricultural land classification 1 - 3a with some areas retained as arable farmland within the Order limits.</p> <p>Biodiversity improvements would be provided around the PV arrays as shown on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) and oLEMP.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays...</i> • <i>That solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use;</i> • <i>The proposal's visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare (see guidance on landscape assessment) and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;</i> • <i>The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun;</i> • <i>The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing;</i> • <i>Great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting. As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms on such assets. Depending on their scale, design and prominence, a large scale solar farm within the setting of a heritage asset may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset;</i> 	<p>lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation.</p> <p>The potential for additional visual screening has been further considered on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11). The cumulative effects have been assessed within the LVIA.</p> <p>The effects on heritage assets have been separately assessed within ES Chapter 8, Cultural Heritage.</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges;</i> • <i>The energy generating potential, which can vary for a number of reasons including, latitude and aspect.</i> <p><i>The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing the impact of wind turbines. However, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero."</i></p>	

Local Planning Policy

Table 2: Local Planning Policy Relevant to LVIA

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
Rutland Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (Adopted July 2011)		
Policy CS1, Sustainable Development principles	<p><i>“New development in Rutland will be expected to:</i></p> <p><i>a) minimise the impact on climate change and include measures to take account of future changes in the climate; (see Policy CS19 and 20).</i></p> <p><i>b) maintain and wherever possible enhance the county’s environmental, cultural and heritage assets;(see Policies CS21 and 22).”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would provide a contribution to reduced carbon emissions and would assist with minimising the impacts of climate change through the generation of renewable energy.</p> <p>The existing landscape features or environmental assets within the Order limits would be retained and enhanced as far as possible.</p>
Policy CS19, Promoting Good Design	<p><i>“All new development will be expected to contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place, being appropriate and sympathetic to its setting in terms of scale, height, density, layout, appearance, materials, and its relationship to adjoining buildings and landscape features, and shall not cause unacceptable effects by reason of visual intrusion, overlooking, shading, noise, light pollution or other adverse impact on local character and amenities.</i></p> <p><i>All new developments will be expected to meet high standards of design that:</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be appropriate and sympathetic to its setting in terms of scale, height, density, layout and appearance. Additional offsets have been provided from Essendine to reduce the visual effects on the village. The landscape and visual effects have been further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>a) are sympathetic and make a positive contribution towards the unique character of Rutland's towns, villages and countryside..."</i>	
Policy CS20, Energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation	<p><i>"Wind turbines and other low carbon energy generating developments will be supported where environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily and where they address the following issues:</i></p> <p><i>a) landscape and visual impact, informed by the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment and the Rutland Historic Landscape Character assessment;</i></p> <p><i>b) effects on the natural and cultural environment including any potential impacts on the internationally designated nature conservation area of Rutland Water;</i></p> <p><i>c) effects on the built environment, public and residential amenity, including noise intrusion;</i></p> <p><i>d) the number and size of wind turbines and their cumulative impact;</i></p> <p><i>e) the contribution to national and international environmental objectives on climate change and national renewable energy targets."</i></p>	The LVIA has been informed by Rutland Landscape Character Assessment and the Rutland Historic Landscape Character Assessment. The Proposed Development would not result in any landscape and visual effects on Rutland Water. The effects on residential visual amenity are covered within the Appendix 6.4 of the LVIA.
Policy CS21, The Natural Environment	<p><i>"Development should be appropriate to the landscape character type within which it is situated and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration, or the creation of appropriate new features.</i></p> <p><i>The quality and diversity of the natural environment of Rutland will be conserved and enhanced. Conditions for</i></p>	The Proposed Development has been designed to respect, and where possible enhance the relevant Landscape Character Types (LCT's) as outlined within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3] and ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>biodiversity will be maintained and improved and important geodiversity assets will be protected.</i></p> <p><i>Protected sites and species will be afforded the highest level of protection with priority also given to local aims and targets for the natural environment.</i></p> <p><i>All developments, projects and activities will be expected to:</i></p> <p><i>g) Respect and where appropriate enhance the character of the landscape identified in the Rutland Landscape Character assessment;</i></p> <p><i>h) Maintain and where appropriate enhance green infrastructure."</i></p>	<p>The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) and oLEMP demonstrates how the Proposed Development would maintain, and where possible enhance, green infrastructure within the Order limits.</p>
Rutland Local Plan Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (Adopted 2014)		
Policy SP7, Non-residential development in the Countryside	<p><i>"Sustainable development in the countryside will be supported where it is:</i></p> <p><i>c) essential investment in infrastructure including utilities, renewable energy and road side services required for public safety purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Provided that:</i></p>	<p>The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development are further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The LVIA has assessed that there would be no significant cumulative effects or would reduce the area of intervening land between settlements.</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>iii) the development itself, or cumulatively with other development, would not adversely affect any nature conservation sites or be detrimental to the character and appearance of the landscape, visual amenity and the setting of towns and villages.</i></p> <p><i>iv) the development would not adversely affect the character of, or reduce the intervening open land between settlements so that their individual identity or distinctiveness is undermined."</i></p>	
Policy SP15, Design and Amenity	<p><i>"All new developments will be expected to meet the requirements for good design set out in Core Strategy CS19 – Promoting good design.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals will be assessed to ensure they effectively address the following matters:</i></p> <p><i>a) Siting and layout</i></p> <p><i>The siting and layout must reflect the characteristics of the site in terms of its appearance and function.</i></p> <p><i>b) Relationship to surroundings and to other development</i></p> <p><i>The development must complement the character of the local area and reinforce the distinctiveness of the wider setting. In particular, development should respond to surrounding buildings and the distinctive features or qualities that contribute to the landscape and streetscape</i></p>	<p>The quality of design is further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p> <p>The siting and layout, relationship to its surroundings, density, scale, form and massing, landscaping, trees and hedgerows within the Proposed Development are considered to be appropriate.</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>quality of the local area. Design should also promote permeability and accessibility by making places connect with each other and ensure ease of movement between homes, jobs and services.</i></p> <p>d) Density, scale, form and massing</p> <p><i>The density, scale, form, massing and height of a development must be appropriate to the local context of the site and to the surrounding landscape and/or streetscape character.</i></p> <p>i) Landscaping</p> <p><i>The development will only be acceptable if it provides for adequate landscaping, which preserves visual amenity and is designed as an integral part of the layout. Where development would abut or be within open countryside and be exposed to view, landscaping will be required to help integrate it into the surroundings.</i></p> <p><i>Landscaping will be expected to make use of native and local species of plants which are resilient to climate change. The use of invasive and non-native plants will be discouraged.</i></p> <p><i>For major development an acceptable integrated structural landscaping scheme will need to be submitted.</i></p> <p>j) Trees and hedgerows</p>	

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	<p><i>Development that would result in the loss of trees and hedgerows will only be acceptable where it would not detract from visual amenity in the area (see also Policy SP19 - Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation)."</i></p>	
<p>Policy SP17, Outdoor Lighting</p>	<p><i>"Outdoor lighting and developments incorporating outdoor lighting will only be acceptable where it would not have an adverse effect on the environment, character and amenity of an area. In particular:</i></p> <p><i>a) the proposed lighting should not detract from the character of the countryside at night and should avoid pollution of the night sky;</i></p> <p><i>b) it should be the minimum necessary for the intended purpose;</i></p> <p><i>c) in the countryside it should be essential for the operational requirements of a development or facility, including sports facilities;</i></p> <p><i>d) the lighting equipment should be located and designed to focus on the intended target for illumination, with any light spillage and glare minimised;</i></p> <p><i>e) landscaping measures should where appropriate be proposed to minimise any light pollution;</i></p> <p><i>f) the proposed lighting should not harm areas for nature conservation;</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The night time effects have been further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>g) the proposed lighting should be consistent with highway safety;</i></p> <p><i>h) the lighting equipment should not detract from visual amenity.</i></p> <p><i>There may be circumstances where a light pollution study will be required to satisfactorily resolve the above policy considerations."</i></p>	
Policy SP18, Wind Turbines and Low Carbon Energy Developments	<p><i>"Proposals for wind turbines and other low carbon energy developments will be supported where environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS20 (Energy efficiency and low carbon energy developments).</i></p> <p><i>2. Other low carbon energy generating developments</i> <i>Proposals for other low carbon energy developments will be supported where they are acceptable in terms of:</i></p> <p><i>a) impact on residential amenity;</i> <i>b) landscape and visual effects;</i> <i>c) the natural environment;</i> <i>d) the historic and cultural environment;</i> <i>e) noise;</i> <i>f) emissions to ground, watercourses and air;</i> <i>g) odour;</i> <i>h) vehicular access and traffic;</i></p>	<p>The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development are further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The effects on residential visual amenity have been assessed within Appendix 6.4 of the LVIA.</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>i) proximity of generating plants to the renewable energy source; j) grid connection; k) form and siting; l) mitigation; m) the decommissioning of the development and reinstatement of land at the end of its operational life.”</i>	
Policy SP23, Landscape Character in the Countryside	<p><i>“New development in and adjoining the countryside will only be acceptable where it is designed so as to be sensitive to its landscape setting. Development will be expected to enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape character types in which it would be situated, including the distinctive elements, features, and other spatial characteristics as identified in the Council’s current Rutland Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals will be expected to respond to the recommended landscape objectives for the character area within which it is situated.”</i></p>	The Proposed Development has been designed to appear sensitive to its landscape setting and the key characteristics of the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment. The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development are further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven Local Plan 2011- 2036 (January 2020)		
Policy EN1, Landscape Character	<p><i>“Development must be appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration. In assessing the impact of proposed development on the Landscape, relevant Landscape Character Appraisals</i></p>	The LVIA has assessed the Proposed Development against the relevant Landscape Character Assessments (LCA’s) with the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development are further considered within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>should be considered, including those produced to inform the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.”</i>	
Policy EN3, Green Infrastructure	<p><i>“The Council will maintain and improve the green infrastructure network in the District by enhancing, creating and managing green space within and around settlements that are well connected to each other and the wider countryside.</i></p> <p><i>Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design, taking opportunities to enrich biodiversity habitats, enable greater connectivity and provide sustainable access for all. Proposals which may result in recreational and visitor pressure on designated biodiversity sites will be particularly expected to provide such green infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals that cause loss or harm to this network will not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts on green infrastructure are unavoidable, development will only be permitted if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided.”</i></p>	The Proposed Development would maintain and improve the green infrastructure network within the District as shown on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11) and the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].

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Policy DE1, Promoting Good Quality Design	<p><i>“To ensure high quality design is achieved throughout the District, all development proposals will be expected to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness, vernacular and character of the area. Proposals should reinforce local identity and not have an adverse impact on the streetscene, settlement pattern or the landscape / townscape character of the surrounding area. Proposals should be of an appropriate scale, density, massing, height and material, given the context of the area.”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been designed to respect local distinctiveness and the landscape character of the surrounding area. The quality of design is further considered within the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>
Appendix 3, Renewable Energy	<p><i>Solar Energy Criterion 1</i></p> <p><i>“The Council requires a LVIA is required as part of an EIA for large solar farm energy developments. The required study area for the LVIA may vary depending on the size of development proposed (see Scottish Heritage Visual Representations of Windfarms and the Landscape Institute’s Advice Note 01/11 (Photography and Photomontage in Landscape Visual Impact Assessment as a guide)). The LVIA shall cover all the points above. Information on landscape and visual impacts shall also be provided for non-EIA development. Visualisations should be based on photography with a 70/75 mm lens. The Council welcomes pre-application discussions with developers to agree the scope of LVIA required.”</i></p>	<p>The DCO application is accompanied by an LVIA in accordance with best practice guidance within ES Chapter 6 [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The LVIA methodology is provided in Appendix 6.1. The visualisations which are intended to aid the LVIA have been produced in accordance with the Landscape Institute’s Technical Guidance Note 06/19, <i>Visual Representation of Development Proposals</i>.</p>

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	<p><i>Solar Energy Criterion 2</i></p> <p><i>“The Council requires that a residential visual amenity assessment, covering a study area of at least 2km from any proposed solar farm shall be undertaken. The study area should be agreed with the Planning Authority.”</i></p>	<p>The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been provided within Appendix 6.4 of the LVIA. The RVAA has considered the properties within 100 metres of the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development which is of relatively low vertical elevation it is considered that there would be no overbearing visual effects that would result in unacceptable living conditions within the surrounding properties within 100 metres. It was therefore not considered necessary to provide a 2km study area.</p>
	<p><i>Solar Energy Criterion 3</i></p> <p><i>“The Council requires that a cumulative impact assessment...shall be undertaken. This shall consider solar farm developments that are under construction, consented or the subject of a valid planning application, or formally notified at the scoping stage. The study area for the cumulative assessment shall be proportionate to the size of the development and enable the assessment to focus on significant cumulative effects as required by the EIA Regulations. The study area will need to be agreed with the Planning Authority.”</i></p>	<p>There are no other in planning, consented or operational solar PV developments within the 2km study area. There would be no significant cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development as outlined within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Carlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2018 to 2036 (Made 2018)		
Policy V.0, Village rural character and appearance	<p>V.1. All proposed development, including conversions, extensions and new development, should ensure that the scale of buildings does not unacceptably impact on the character or appearance of the village.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would not result in significant landscape and visual effects on Carlby village as outlined within ES Chapter 6, LVIA [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The Proposed Development would not impede views to the west of the village along the High Street. The Proposed Development would not affect any drystone walls and would safeguard and incorporate</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in relation to LVIA	How / Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p>V.2. Development which would have a negative impact, which impedes or changes the views and green spaces on the entrance to the west of the village will not be supported.</p> <p>V.3. Developments which would affect 'Carlby Rag' dry stone and dressed wall features will be supported where they retain, repair and/or reinstate these vernacular materials as appropriate to the particular proposal.</p> <p>V.4. Developments should safeguard and where appropriate incorporate traditional hedgerows and trees both in general, and on the approaches into the village in particular. Development that results in the loss of such features will not be supported.</p>	<p>traditional hedgerows and trees within the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11).</p>

References

Ref 1 Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

Ref 2 Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

Ref 3 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Ref 4 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance. Natural Environment.

Ref 5 Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (Draft NPS EN-1).

Ref 6 Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021) Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (Draft NPS EN-3).

Ref 7 Rutland County Council (2011/10) Rutland Local Development Framework: Core Strategy.

Ref 8 Rutland County Council (2014). Rutland Local Plan Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document.

Ref 9 South Kesteven District Council (2020). South Kesteven Local Plan 2011- 2036.

Ref 10 Carlby Parish Council (2018). Carlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2018 to 2036.

