



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

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Environmental Statement Volume 2 Appendix 14.1: Socio-Economics - Policy Context

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Appendix 14.1 - Socio-economics Policy Context

- 1.1.1. This Appendix presents the relevant planning policy and guidance relevant to the socio-economics assessment in relation to the Proposed Development.

National Planning Policy

- 1.1.2. Table 1 presents the national planning policies which have been considered in carrying out the socio-economics assessment, which are summarised as follows:
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021) [**Ref 1**];
 - Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (2011) [**Ref 2**];
 - National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2011) [**Ref 3**].
- 1.1.3. In addition to the adopted national policy, the following emerging policy has been considered, and summarised in Table 1:
- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2021) [**Ref 4**]; and
 - Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (Draft NPS EN-3) (2021) [**Ref 5**].

Local Planning Policy

- 1.1.4. Table 2 presents the relevant local planning policies that have been considered in carrying out the socio-economics assessment:
- Rutland County Council (RCC) Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2011) [**Ref 6**]; and

- South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) Local Plan 2011 to 2036 (2020) [Ref 7].

Guidance

- 1.1.5. There is no specific guidance available which establishes a methodology for assessing the socio-economic effects of a Solar Farm. Therefore, the approach to the socio-economic assessment is based on professional experience and draws upon procedural guidance set out in the 2022 'Green Book: Central Government Guidance on Appraisal and Evaluation' [Ref 8] and the 2014 'Additionality Guide' [Ref 9]. It is informed by the planning policy requirements set out within the NPS and local planning policy, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2, below.

Table 1: National Planning Policy Relevant to Socio-economics

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)		
Paragraph 158	States that when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.	The impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development upon socio-economics has been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES. [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1, 2011)		
Paragraph 5.12.2	Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the Environmental Statement.	The impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development upon socio-economics has been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
Paragraph 5.12.3	<p>Sets out the range of impacts that should be considered in the socio-economics assessment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of jobs and training opportunities; • The provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure; • Effects on tourism; • The impact of an influx of workers during the different phases of the development on local services and infrastructure; • The cumulative socio-economic impacts or consenting a number of projects within the area which could be delivered in a similar timeframe. 	<p>The impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development upon socio-economics has been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.</p>
Paragraph 5.12.4	<p>Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how</p>	<p>The socio-economic baseline is presented in Chapter 14 of the ES. The assessment has considered the relevant local planning policy,</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.	which is described in this Appendix (see Table 2, below).
Paragraph 5.12.5	Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example the visual impact of a development is considered in Section 5.9 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses.	Inter-relationships relevant to the socio-economics assessment have been identified and are detailed at Chapter 16 of the ES.
Paragraph 5.12.6	The IPC should have regard to the potential socio-economic impacts of new energy infrastructure identified by the applicant and from any other sources that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) considers to be both relevant and important to its decision.	The impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development upon socio-economics has been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.
Paragraph 5.12.7	The IPC may conclude that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that	The impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p>are not supported by evidence (particularly in view of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in this NPS).</p>	<p>Proposed Development upon socio-economics has been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.</p> <p>The planning context, which sets out the need for the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 1 of the ES.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.12.8</p>	<p>The IPC should consider any relevant positive provisions the developer has made or is proposing to make to mitigate impacts (for example through planning obligations) and any legacy benefits that may arise as well as any options for phasing development in relation to the socio-economic impacts.</p>	<p>The socio-economic assessment, provided at Chapter 14 of the ES, concludes that the Proposed Development will not result in any significant adverse socio-economic adverse; therefore, additional mitigation measures are proposed.</p> <p>The applicant, however, is committed to realising local economic benefits through the delivery of the Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan. The Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared for</p>

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
		the Proposed Development [EN010127/APP/7.10].
Paragraph 5.12.9	The IPC should consider whether mitigation measures are necessary to mitigate any adverse socio-economic impacts of the development. For example, high quality design can improve the visual and environmental experience for visitors and the local community alike.	The socio-economic assessment, provided at Chapter 14 of the ES, concludes that the Proposed Development will not result in any significant adverse socio-economic effects; therefore, no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3 (2011)		
No policy has been identified that is relevant to the socio-economics assessment.		
Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)		
Paragraph 5.13.3	The Government is in the process of updating the National Policy Statements. The draft EN-1 is broadly similar to the current EN-1 Statement on	The impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development upon socio-

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p>socio-economics. The main differences include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally; and • Any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation to use of local support services and supply chains. 	<p>economics has been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.</p>
Paragraph 5.13.6	<p>Applicants should also consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include for the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required.</p>	<p>The socio-economics assessment provided at Chapter 14 of the ES assesses the impact of the construction workers upon accommodation providers, which is assessed as not-significant, as such no temporary accommodation is required as mitigation.</p>
Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3		

National Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
No policy has been identified that is relevant to the socio-economics assessment.		

Table 2: Local Planning Policy Relevant to Socio-economics

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
Rutland County Council (RCC) Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2011)		
Policy CS1	'Sustainable development principles' - identifies (amongst other things) that new development will be expected to contribute towards creating a strong, stable and more diverse economy.	The impacts of the Proposed Development upon employment during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases have been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.
Policy CS13	'Employment and economic development' – this outlines a strategy of supporting the provision of a greater range of employment opportunities focussed on high skilled, knowledge based, leisure and tourism industries.	The impacts of the Proposed Development upon employment, GVA and tourism during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases have been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES. The Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared for the Proposed Development.
Policy CS15	'Tourism' – The strategy for tourism is to (amongst other things):	The socio-economics assessment provided at Chapter 14 of the ES assesses the impact of the construction workers upon tourism and accommodation providers, which has been assessed as not-significant, as such no mitigation is required.

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow provision for visitors which is appropriate in use and character to Rutland's settlements and countryside; and • Support the retention and enhancement of existing overnight accommodation and the provision of new overnight accommodation. 	
Policy CS16	<p>'The rural economy' – The strategy for the rural economy is to (among other things) states, <i>"encourage agricultural, horticultural and forestry enterprises and farm diversification projects where this would be consistent with maintaining and enhancing the environment, and contribute to local distinctiveness"</i>.</p>	<p>The impacts of the Proposed Development upon employment, GVA and tourism during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases have been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.</p>
Policy CS20	<p>'Energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation' - <i>"Low carbon energy generating developments will be supported where</i></p>	<p>The impacts of the Proposed Development upon employment, GVA and tourism during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases have been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<p><i>environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily and where they address the following issues:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Landscape and visual impact, informed by the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment and the Rutland Historic Landscape Character assessment;</i> <i>• Effects on the natural and cultural environment including any potential impacts on the internationally designated nature conservation area of Rutland Water;</i> <i>• Effects on the built environment, public and residential amenity;</i> <i>• The number and size of wind turbines and their cumulative impact; and</i> <i>• The contribution to national and international environmental objectives on</i> 	<p>The impact of the Proposed Development upon Landscape and Visual Resources, Ecology and Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage and Climate Change has been assessed in Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 13 of the ES, respectively.</p>

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<i>climate change and national renewable energy targets.”</i>	
South Kesteven Local Plan 2011 – 2036 (2020)		
Policy SD1	‘The principles of sustainable development in South Kesteven’ - <i>“Development proposals in South Kesteven will be expected to minimise the impact on climate change and contribute towards creating a strong, stable and more diverse economy”.</i>	Chapter 14 of the ES identifies that the Proposed Development will result in beneficial (non-significant effects) on employment and GVA during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
Policy RE1	<p>‘Renewable Energy Generation’ - <i>“Proposals for renewable energy generation will be supported subject to meeting the detailed criteria as set out in the accompanying Renewable Energy Appendix 3 and provided that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The proposal does not negatively impact the District’s agricultural land asset;</i> 	The impacts of the Proposed Development upon employment, GVA and tourism during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases have been assessed in Chapter 14 of the ES.

Local Planning Policy	Requirements in Relation to Socio-economics	How/Where has this been addressed in the ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The proposal can demonstrate the support of affected local communities;</i> • <i>The proposal includes details for the transmission of power produced;</i> • <i>The proposal details that an apparatus related to renewable energy production will be removed from the site when power production ceases, and</i> • <i>That the proposal complies with any other relevant Local Plan policies and national planning policy”.</i> 	

References

Ref 1 Ministry of Housing, Communities and local Government (2021)
National Planning Policy Framework .

Ref 2 Department of Energy and Climate Change, (2011). Overarching
National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

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

Ref 4 Department of Energy and Climate Change, (2021). Draft
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

Ref 5 Department of Energy and Climate Change (2021). Draft National
Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

Ref 6 Rutland County Council (2011) Core Strategy Development Plan
Document.

Ref 7 South Kesteven District Council (2020) South Kesteven Local Plan
2011 – 2036.

Ref 8 HM Treasury (2022) Green Book: Central Government Guidance on
Appraisal and Evaluation.

Ref 9 Homes and Communities Agency (2014) Additionality Guide, Fourth
Edition.

