

Byers Gill Solar EN010139

1.2 Introduction to the Application

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 1

Deadline 8 – 17 January 2025

Revision 10



Table of Contents

Page

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of this document	1
1.2	Structure of this document	1
2	The Proposed Development	2
2.1	Overview of the Proposed Development	2
2.2	History timeline and future milestones for the Proposed Development	2
2.3	Qualification as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	3
3	The Applicant	4
3.1	RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited	4
4	Application documents	5
4.1	Overview of application	5
4.2	Document referencing	7
5	Volume 1: Application information	8
6	Volume 2: Plans, drawings and sections	9
7	Volume 3: Draft Development Consent Order	10
8	Volume 4: Compulsory acquisition information	12
9	Volume 5: Consultation Report	14
10	Volume 6: Environmental Information	17
11	Volume 7: Other Reports	23
12	Volume 8: Examination Submissions	25
12.2	Deadline 1	25
12.3	Deadline 2	26
12.4	Deadline 3	27
12.5	Change Request Application (18 October 2024)	27
12.6	Deadline 4 (24 October 2024)	27
12.7	Deadline 5 (15 November 2024)	28
12.8	Deadline 6 (6 December 2024)	28
12.9	Deadline 6b (17 December 2024)	29

Table of Tables

Table 2-1	History and future milestones of the Proposed Development	2
Table 4-1	DCO application documents	5
Table 10-1	List of ES figures	18
Table 10-2	List of ES appendices	20

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 RWE (the Applicant) has submitted an application under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) for an order to grant development consent (DCO) for Byers Gill Solar (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is a renewable energy scheme located in the north-east of England comprising ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The application for a DCO is required because the Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to the Act as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).
- 1.1.3 This document provides an accessible guide to the Proposed Development, the Applicant and the application, and it will assist those in reviewing the application documentation.

1.2 Structure of this document

- 1.2.1 This document comprises 12 sections as described below:
- Section 1 – introduces this document
 - Section 2 – provides a high-level description of the Proposed Development
 - Section 3 – introduces the Applicant
 - Section 4 – gives an overview of the application documentation
 - Sections 5 to 11 – explains the purpose of each of the documents submitted as part of the DCO application
 - Section 12 - explains the purpose of each of the documents submitted as part of the DCO examination
- 1.2.2 An Application Document Tracker is provided alongside this document (Document Reference 1.5, Revision 5) in order to help the Examining Authority and interested parties understand the application as it evolves through examination by identifying the latest version of any application document.

2 The Proposed Development

2.1 Overview of the Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development (Byers Gill Solar) is a renewable energy scheme, covering an area of approximately 490 hectares (ha), and comprising of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), associated infrastructure as well as underground cable connections between panel areas and to connect to the existing National Grid Substation at Norton. The Proposed Development will have the capacity to generate over 50 Megawatts (MW) of electricity.
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development is located in the north-east of England, within the administrative boundaries of Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council.
- 2.1.3 The construction time would be 12 to 18 months for a single phase construction, or 18 to 24 months for a phased construction. The Proposed Development would be operational for approximately 40 years. The Proposed Development would be decommissioned at the end of this period and the land would be restored.
- 2.1.4 The Proposed Development would provide new energy infrastructure, in line with national policy targets for decarbonisation, including meeting Net Zero targets, safeguarding energy supply and ensuring affordability.

2.2 History timeline and future milestones for the Proposed Development

- 2.2.1 The history of the Proposed Development and future milestones are summarised in Table 0-1.

Table 0-1 History and future milestones of the Proposed Development

Date	Activity
September 2022	The project was first introduced to local stakeholders and statutory consultees, outlining the proposals and seeking their views and feedback on the viability of the Proposed Development.
November 2022	The Applicant held three collaborative design workshops with local community representatives and key stakeholders during the early stages of the design process to seek early feedback and incorporate local knowledge into the preliminary design.
December 2022 – April 2023	Ongoing engagement and communications between the Applicant and landowners, stakeholders and community representatives about the Proposed Development.
May – June 2023	Statutory consultation took place on the Proposed Development.

Date	Activity
June 2023	The Proposed Development was accepted into the Planning Inspectorate's Early Adopters Programme ¹ .
Summer 2023	Design refinement following statutory consultation was undertaken to take into account the feedback received from stakeholders, landowners and local communities. Feedback from the statutory consultation was reviewed and taken into account prior to finalising the DCO application.
November/December 2023	Targeted statutory consultation with land interests and community engagement to communicate changes to the design of the Proposed Development following statutory consultation.
February 2024	Submission of the application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate.
Early 2025	Decision by the Secretary of State.

2.3 Qualification as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

- 2.3.1 The Proposed Development is classified as a NSIP pursuant to sub-sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Act, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 MW.
- 2.3.2 As an NSIP, the Applicant is required to make an application for DCO before it can lawfully construct or operate the Proposed Development. The Act provides that the Secretary of State (SoS) is responsible for determining the application for development consent. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS), on behalf of the SoS, has responsibility for administering the examination of DCO applications and supporting the examining authority that will be appointed to make a recommendation to the SoS as to whether to grant development consent. If granted by the SoS, the DCO will provide the necessary authorisation to allow the Proposed Development to be constructed and operated.
- 2.3.3 The relevant SoS for the Proposed Development is the SoS for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (formally the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy).
- 2.3.4 The Proposed Development's accordance with national and local policy can be seen in Appendix A: Policy Compliance Document (Document Reference 7.1.1) [APP-164].

¹ [Planning Inspectorate launches pre-application trial with 7 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/planning-inspectorate-launches-pre-application-trial-with-7-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects)

3 The Applicant

3.1 RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited

3.1.1 RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (company number: 14539260) is the Applicant for the DCO. The Applicant is a major solar energy developer, and has secured planning permission for over 1GW of solar projects since 2012. The Applicant is committed to delivering large-scale solar farms with co-located battery storage, and a minimum of 50% biodiversity net gain on every project.

3.1.2 The Applicant was previously known as JBM Solar Limited before its acquisition by RWE Renewables UK Solar Holdings Limited (14667469) on 1 March 2023. On 2 January 2024 the Applicant's name change from JBM Solar Limited to RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited, but it remains the same corporate entity (with Company Number 14539260). RWE Renewables UK Solar Holdings Limited and all other RWE subsidiary companies are ultimately owned by RWE AG (District court Essen HRB 14525).

3.1.3 RWE AG is the UK's largest power generator and one of the largest renewables developers, who are committed to the design, build and operation of the Proposed Development. RWE AG's involvement provides certainty that the Proposed Development will be high-quality and well maintained throughout its operation.

3.1.4 The Proposed Development contact details are:

Michael Baker

DCO Project Manager

Michael.Baker2@rwe.com

enquiries@byersgillsolar.com

4 Application documents

4.1 Overview of application

- 4.1.1 A summary list of application documents is provided in Table 4-1 below, whilst a detailed list including all Environmental Statement (ES) appendices and figures is provided in the Application Document Tracker (Document Reference 1.5, Revision 4). Further details on the documents within the application is provided in the remaining sections of this document.

Table 0-1 DCO application documents

Document reference	Document title
Volume 1 – Application Information	
1.1	Application Cover Letter
1.2	Introduction to the Application
1.3	Application Form
1.4	Section 55 Checklist
1.5	Application Document Tracker
Volume 2 - Plans, Drawings and Designations	
2.1	Location Plan
2.2	Works Plans
2.3	Street Works, Rights of Way and Access Plans
2.4	Land Plans
2.5	Environmental Masterplan
Volume 3 - Development Consent Order	
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum
Volume 4 - Compulsory Acquisition Information	
4.1	Statement of Reasons
4.2	Book of Reference

4.3	Funding Statement
Volume 5 - Consultation Report	
5.1	Consultation Report
5.2	Consultation Report Appendices
Volume 6 – Environmental Statement	
6.1.1	Non-Technical Summary
6.2.0	Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations
6.2.1	Chapter 1 Introduction
6.2.2	Chapter 2 The Proposed Development
6.2.3	Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration
6.2.4	Chapter 4 Approach to EIA
6.2.5	Chapter 5 Climate Change
6.2.6	Chapter 6 Biodiversity
6.2.7	Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual
6.2.8	Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
6.2.9	Chapter 9 Land Use and Socioeconomics
6.2.10	Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk
6.2.11	Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration
6.2.12	Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport
6.2.13	Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects
6.2.14	Chapter 14 Summary
Volume 7 - Other Reports	
7.1	Planning Statement
7.2	Design Approach Document
7.3	Other Consents and Licences
7.4	Statement of Statutory Nuisance

7.5	Grid Connection Statement
7.6	Potential Main Issues for Examination (PMIE) with appended Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS)
7.7	Statutory Undertakers Position Statement
7.8	Mitigation Route Map

- 4.1.2 If you require a copy of any of the application documents, or parts of them, please contact the Byers Gill Solar Project Team (contact details in section 3.1). A USB memory stick containing these documents will be provided free of charge; a reasonable charge for printing and distribution of hard copies may be made.

4.2 Document referencing

- 4.2.1 ‘Document References’ are references to those documents forming part of the Applicant’s DCO Application. Documents are numbered in sequence, with a volume number, followed by an individual document number. For example, this document is the second document of Volume 1 of the application and therefore has the Document Reference 1.2.
- 4.2.2 The ES, which is Volume 6 of the application, contains a large number of documents. Therefore, the chapters, figures and appendices of the ES are split into sub-volumes 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 to aid navigation. This results in a three or four digit document reference for each individual document or plan within the ES. A full list of these is provided in Section 10 of this document.
- 4.2.3 All references within the Applicant’s DCO Application to legislation are references to legislation as in force in England on the date of the DCO Application.

5 Volume 1: Application information

- 5.1.1 This volume provides details of the application information required by PINS for the application and how to navigate the documentation.
- 5.1.2 **Document Reference 1.1: Application Covering Letter.** The letter sets out at a high-level detail regarding the DCO Application and compliance with different sections of the Planning Act 2008. Enclosed with the letter is an overview of the application documents.
- 5.1.3 **Document Reference 1.2: Introduction to the Application** (this document). This document acts as a guide to the Applicant's Development Consent Order application, providing a brief description of the volumes and documents that make up the application.
- 5.1.4 **Document Reference 1.3: Application Form.** A completed version of the PINS application form, which provides a high-level summary of the Proposed Development and the documents that have been submitted. It is a form that originates from Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009.
- 5.1.5 **Document Reference 1.4: Section 55 checklist.** A checklist completed by the Applicant to evidence how the application fulfils the conditions for acceptance by the Inspectorate under section 55 of the Act. The Schedule of Compliance with section 55 will also be completed by PINS on receipt of the DCO application.
- 5.1.6 **Document Reference 1.5: Application Document Tracker.** This is a 'live' document which will track document versions as and when documents are updated. The tracker will be updated throughout the examination period and submitted at each deadline.

6 Volume 2: Plans, drawings and sections

- 6.1.1 This volume contains the plans which show where and how the Applicant proposes to undertake the Proposed Development. Each set of plans is accompanied by a key plan and a legend, which shows the symbols used on the plans, to help you understand what they show. For ease of interpretation and in compliance with Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations), a key plan has been provided where the below plans comprises three or more separate sheets.
- 6.1.2 **Document Reference 2.1: Location Plan.** This identifies the location of the Proposed Development in its wider context.
- 6.1.3 **Document Reference 2.2: Works Plans.** These plans show the proposed works and the limits of deviation within which the development and works may be carried out. Most importantly, the plans will show the extent of the individual works.
- 6.1.4 **Document Reference 2.3: Street Works, Rights of Way and Access Plans.** These plans show any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets, roads and any diversions, extinguishment or creation of rights of way.
- 6.1.5 **Document Reference 2.4: Land Plans.** These plans correspond to the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.2) and set out:
- the limits of land to be acquired or used permanently or temporarily for the Proposed Development;
 - any land over which CA powers are proposed to be exercised;
 - -any land where easements, servitudes and other private rights are proposed to be extinguished;
 - where relevant, any special category land and any replacement land;
 - the land to be acquired or used permanently for construction, operation and maintenance works for the Proposed Development;
 - any land over which temporary possession may be taken for the Proposed Development; and;
 - any land to be used temporarily and for rights in the land to be acquired permanently for the Proposed Development.
- 6.1.6 **Document Reference 2.5: Environmental Masterplan.** The landscape masterplan for the Proposed Development, including details of proposed environmental mitigation and enhancement.

7 Volume 3: Draft Development Consent Order

7.1.1 In order to build the proposed development, the Applicant needs consent from the Government in the form of a DCO. The DCO and associated documents outline the legal powers the Applicant is seeking .

7.1.2 **Document Reference 3.1: Draft Development Consent Order.** This sets out the powers that the Applicant is seeking to enable it to construct and maintain the Proposed Development. It sets out the parameters for what development would be permitted. It consists of six parts and is accompanied by twelve schedules. The schedules are as follows:

- **Schedule 1 Part 1 (Authorised Development)** provides the works that would be authorised by the grant of development consent and which are shown on the corresponding Works Plans (Document Reference 2.2).
- **Schedule 2 Part 1 (Requirements)** sets out the requirements that the Applicant must comply with when implementing the development authorised by the DCO.
- **Schedule 2 Part 2 (Procedure for discharge of requirements)** sets out the procedure and timescales for the discharge of requirements listed under Schedule 2, Part 2.
- **Schedule 3 (Streets subject to works)** provides a list of the streets that would be subject to street works in connection with the development authorised by the DCO.
- **Schedule 4 (Alteration of streets)** provides a list of streets subject to a permanent alteration of layout as part of the development authorised by the DCO, splitting this into those to be maintained by the highway authority and those to be maintained by the street authority.
- **Schedule 5 (Public rights of way to be stopped up)** provides a list of public rights of way to be permanently or temporarily stopped up as part of the development authorised by the DCO.
- **Schedule 6 (Access to works)** provides a list of permanent and temporary means of access to works required as part of the development authorised by the DCO.
- **Schedule 7 (Hedgerows)** sets out the extent of hedgerows to be removed as part of the development authorised by the DCO.
- **Schedule 8 (Land in which only new rights etc may be acquired)** sets out the plots of land for which the Applicant is seeking to acquire new land rights only. It should be read in conjunction with the Land Plans (Document Reference 2.4).
- **Schedule 9 (Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for the creation of new rights and imposition of new restrictive covenants)** amends relevant compulsory purchase legislation to ensure that it can apply to the DCO.
- **Schedule 10 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken)** sets out the plots of land for which the Applicant is seeking temporary possession. It should be read in conjunction with the Land Plans (Document Reference 2.4).
- **Schedule 11 (Protective provisions)** provides protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose apparatus may be affected by the authorised development.

- **Schedule 12 (Arbitration rules)** sets out the process for arbitration should any disputes arise in relation to the provisions of the DCO.
- **Schedule 13 (Documents to be certified)** lists the documents to be certified under the relevant article of the DCO if it is made by the Secretary of State.

7.1.3 Document Reference 3.2: Explanatory Memorandum. This explains the purpose and effect of each provision in the draft DCO including why it is considered necessary.

8 Volume 4: Compulsory acquisition information

- 8.1.1 This volume provides evidence of why the Applicant may require powers of compulsory acquisition to deliver the Proposed Development, identifies the land affected, and sets out how the Proposed Scheme will be funded. This volume also provides evidence of why the Applicant requires statutory powers to possess and use land temporarily, which are distinct from powers of compulsory acquisition, and identifies the relevant land.
- 8.1.2 The Applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition powers over land for the proposed off-road cable routes which would connect the Proposed Development to the National Grid Electricity Transmission substation at Norton. The Applicant has been negotiating option agreements for easements for the off-road cable routes with landowners since March 2022 and, if the easements are entered into, the powers of compulsory acquisition sought will not be required.
- 8.1.3 The Applicant is required to provide evidence that the use of compulsory acquisition powers would be justified, proportionate and in the public interest and this evidence is set out in a Statement of Reasons (Document Reference 4.1), Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.2) and Funding Statement (Document Reference 4.3) as explained below.
- 8.1.4 **Document Reference 4.1: Statement of Reasons.** This statement explains that there is a compelling case in the public interest which would justify the Applicant's exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition in order to acquire land and/or rights permanently and to use land temporarily to enable it to construct, operate and maintain the Proposed Development.
- 8.1.5 **Document Reference 4.2: Book of Reference.** This identifies all parties who own or occupy land and/or have an interest in or right over the land affected by the Proposed Development, and/or who may be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as defined in section 57 of the Act. It is structured in five parts in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements. The five parts are:
- Part 1: Names and addresses for service of each person/organisation within Categories 1 and 2 as defined in section 57 of the Act in respect of any land which it is proposed shall be subject to powers of compulsory acquisition; rights to use land; or rights to carry out protective works to buildings;
 - Part 2: Names and addresses for service of each person/organisation within Category 3. These are interests who might be entitled to make a relevant claim if the DCO were consented and implemented, e.g., potential claimants under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 or section 152(3) of the Act;
 - Part 3: Names of all those entitled to enjoy easements or other private rights over land (including private rights of navigation over water) which it is proposed shall be extinguished, suspended or interfered in the draft DCO;

- Part 4: Owner of any Crown interest in the land which it is proposed to be used for the purposes of the order for which application is being made [no entries]; and
- Part 5: Land for which the acquisition could be subject to special parliamentary procedure, is special category land, or is replacement land [no entries].

8.1.6 **Document Reference 4.3: Funding Statement.** This explains how the Proposed Development, including any compulsory purchase acquisition, would be funded.

9 Volume 5: Consultation Report

- 9.1.1 This volume details the pre-application consultation that the Applicant has undertaken on the Proposed Development.
- 9.1.2 **Document Reference 5.1: Consultation Report.** This provides an account of the pre-application consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development. The report includes details of the statutory consultation and publicity which the Applicant is required to carry out in accordance with the Act, the informal engagement that has taken place, and how the comments received have been taken into account when developing the Proposed Development. The Consultation Report complies with DCLG's "Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process" (March 2015) and PINS "Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report" (February 2021).
- 9.1.3 **Document Reference 5.2: Consultation Report Appendices.** Supporting documents for the Consultation Report including the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and newspaper notices to publicise the proposed application in accordance with section 48(1) of the Act.
- 9.1.4 The appendices that support the Consultation Report are set out below:
- 2.1 Co:design - stakeholder invite list
 - 2.2 Project launch press release
 - 2.3 Project launch press release - published in industry publications
 - 2.4 Project launch paid article - Northern Echo
 - 2.5 March 2023 presentation to Paul Howell MP
 - 2.6 Co:design - invitation to participate
 - 2.7 Co:design materials
 - 2.8 Co:design follow up email
 - 2.9 Co:design comment register
 - 3.1 Regulation 11 list of consultees
 - 3.2 Section 48 notice
 - 4.1 Draft SoCC issued for LPA consultation
 - 4.2 Letters sent to LPAs for SoCC consultation
 - 4.3 Responses from LPAs on SoCC consultation
 - 4.4 Published SoCC
 - 4.5 Published S47 notices
 - 4.6 Darlington LPA letter re adequacy of SoCC
 - 4.7 SoCC compliance table
 - 5.1 Prescribed consultees
 - 5.2 Example of cover letter sent to Persons with an Interest in Land

- 5.3 Example of Land Interest Questionnaire sent to Persons with an Interest in Land
- 5.4 Letter sent to s42 consultees
- 5.5 Section 46 letter
- 5.6 Acknowledgement receipt by PINS (Regulation 8)
- 5.7 primary consultation zone
- 5.8 Consultation booklet
- 5.9 Consultation launch newsletter
- 5.10 Feedback questionnaire
- 5.11 Non-Technical Summary
- 5.12 Consultation poster
- 5.13 List of recipients of the consultation poster
- 5.14 Exhibition boards
- 5.15 Images from public consultation events
- 5.16 Presentation from virtual consultation events
- 5.17 Consultation launch email
- 5.18 Launch of consultation press release
- 5.19 Northern Echo consultation article
- 5.20' Letters to letters to DBC and SoTBC leaders
- 5.21. Letters to recently elected officials
- 5.22. Section 48 notices - evidence of publication
- 6.1(1) to 6.1(11) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to questions 1 to 11 and the Applicants response
- 6.2 Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and section 42(1)(b) local authorities in response to the 2023 statutory consultation and the Applicants response
- 6.3 Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(d) PILs in response to the 2023 statutory consultation and the Applicants response
- 7.1 Early Adopters Programme - post-consultation engagement
- 7.2 You said, we did – booklet
- 8.1 October 2023 Briefing with Paul Howell MP
- 8.2 Update letter for key political stakeholders
- 8.3 Design change update letter to parish councils
- 8.4 Post-consultation update presentation
- 8.5 Applicant response to Bishopton PC & BVAG
- 8.6 You said, we did newsletter
- 8.7 Northern Echo advert for design changes
- 8.8 Project website update for design changes
- 8.9 Pictures of project team stall - Stockton-on-Tees
- 8.10. Independent community survey report
- 9.1 land stakeholder design changes letter

- 9.2 Additional consultee party letters
- 9.3 Subsoil specific consultation letter
- 9.4 Matters raised by land interests subject to design changes and the Applicant's response
- 9.5 Matters raised by those with sub soil interests and the Applicant's response

10 Volume 6: Environmental Information

- 10.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the scheme to consider what significant effects the Proposed Development is likely to have on the environment. The Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Reference Volume 6) reports the findings of the EIA.
- 10.1.2 The ES also provides general information on the Proposed Development including context, description of the scheme and its construction, main alternatives considered, the consultation process that was part of the EIA and technical information on a range of topics. This chapter provides an overview of the structure of the document to assist with navigation.
- 10.1.3 **Document Reference 6.1.1: Non-Technical Summary.** A summary of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development in non-technical language.
- 10.1.4 **Document References 6.2.0 – 6.2.14: Environmental Statement chapters.** Reports on the likely significant effects on the environment from the Proposed Development.
- 10.1.5 The ES includes the following chapters:
- Chapter 0 Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations
 - Chapter 1 Introduction;
 - Chapter 2 The Proposed Development;
 - Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration;
 - Chapter 4 Approach to the EIA;
 - Chapter 5 Climate Change;
 - Chapter 6 Biodiversity;
 - Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual;
 - Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;
 - Chapter 9 Land Use and Socioeconomics;
 - Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk;
 - Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration;
 - Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport;
 - Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects; and
 - Chapter 14 Summary.
- 10.1.6 **Document Reference 6.3: Environmental Statement Figures.** The diagrams, plans and figures referred to within the ES, as listed below in Table 0-1.

Table 0-1 List of ES figures

Document reference	Figure title
6.3.1.1	Figure 1.1 - Location Plan
6.3.2.1	Figure 2.1 - Panel Areas
6.3.2.2	Figure 2.2 – General Arrangement Scheme Wide
6.3.2.3	Figure 2.3 - General Arrangement Panel Area A
6.3.2.4	Figure 2.4 - General Arrangement Panel Area B
6.3.2.5	Figure 2.5 - General Arrangement Panel Area C
6.3.2.6	Figure 2.6 - General Arrangement Panel Area D
6.3.2.7	Figure 2.7 - General Arrangement Panel Area E
6.3.2.8	Figure 2.8 - General Arrangement Panel Area F
6.3.2.9	Figure 2.9 - Cross-section of a typical fixed solar panel (normal and ballasted)
6.3.2.10	Figure 2.10 - Typical Inverter, Transformer and BESS arrangement
6.3.2.11	Figure 2.11 - Typical Access and Supporting Infrastructure Layout
6.3.2.12	Figure 2.12 - Typical Switchgear
6.3.2.13	Figure 2.13 - Underground Cable Routes
6.3.2.14	Figure 2.14 - Typical Substation
6.3.2.15	Figure 2.15 - Typical Fence and Gate
6.3.2.16	Figure 2.16 - Typical CCTV pole
6.3.2.17	Figure 2.17 - Cross-section of a typical access track
6.3.2.18	Figure 2.18 - Typical storage container
6.3.2.19	Figure 2.19 - Environmental Constraints Plan
6.3.2.20	Figure 2.20 - Landscape Concept Masterplan
6.3.2.21	Figure 2.21 - Construction Compounds and Access Routes
6.3.3.1	Figure 3.1 - Sequential Analysis Assessment Plan

6.3.6.1	Figure 6.1 - Designated Sites
6.3.6.2	Figure 6.2 - UK Habitats Survey
6.3.7.1	Figure 7.1 - Landscape Context
6.3.7.2	Figure 7.2 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility Study - Panel Areas
6.3.7.3	Figure 7.3 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility Study - Intensity
6.3.7.4	Figure 7.4 – Topography and Landcover
6.3.7.5	Figure 7.5 – Landscape Receptors
6.3.7.6	Figure 7.6 - Key Settlements
6.3.7.7	Figure 7.7 - Visual Receptors
6.3.7.8	Figure 7.8 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Substation
6.3.7.9	Figure 7.9 - Visualisations
6.3.8.1	Figure 8.1 - Order Limits, location and non-designated heritage assets
6.3.8.2	Figure 8.2 - Site Area and Assets Scoped in for Detailed Assessment
6.3.8.3	Figure 8.3 - Panel Area and Geophysics Areas Concordance
6.3.8.4	Figure 8.4 - Areas of Known and Potential Archaeology
6.3.8.5	Figure 8.5 Mitigation Areas and Type <i>[Submitted at Deadline 2]</i>
6.3.9.1	Figure 9.1 - Study Area
6.3.9.2	Figure 9.2 - Other Land Uses
6.3.9.3	Figure 9.3 - Public Rights of Way
6.3.9.4	Figure 9.4 - Community and Recreational Facilities
6.3.9.5	Figure 9.5 - Agricultural Land Classification
6.3.10.1	Figure 10.1 - Hydrological Features
6.3.10.2	Figure 10.2 - Topography
6.3.10.3	Figure 10.3 - Solid Geology
6.3.10.4	Figure 10.4 - Superficial Geology

6.3.10.5	Figure 10.5 - WFD Waterbodies and Catchments
6.3.10.6	Figure 10.6 - Fluvial Flood Risk
6.3.10.7	Figure 10.7 - Pluvial Flood Risk
6.3.11.1	Figure 11.1 - Sensitive Receptor Location Plan
6.3.11.2	Figure 11.2 - Noise Monitoring Location Plan
6.3.11.3	Figure 11.3 Noise Contours Across Area A
6.3.11.4	Figure 11.4 Noise Contours Across Area B
6.3.11.5	Figure 11.5 Noise Contours Across Area C
6.3.11.6	Figure 11.6 Noise Contours Across Area D
6.3.11.7	Figure 11.7 Noise Contours Across Area E
6.3.11.8	Figure 11.8 Noise Contours Across Area F
6.3.12.1	Figure 12.1 - Proposed Access Routes and Survey Locations
6.3.12.2	Figure 12.2 - Order Limits and Study Area
6.3.12.3	Figure 12.3 - Network Diagram
6.3.13.1	Figure 13.1 - Long List of Committed Developments
6.3.13.2	Figure 13.2 - Short List of Committed Developments

10.1.7 **Document Reference 6.4: Environmental Statement Appendices.** The ES is accompanied by a series of appendices which provide further information and detail to support the EIA.

10.1.8 The ES is accompanied by a series of appendices as set out in Table 0-2.

Table 0-2 List of ES appendices

Document Reference	Appendix title
6.4.1.1	Appendix 1.1 - Competent Expert Evidence
6.4.2.1	Appendix 2.1 - Phase 1 Geoenvironmental and Geotechnical Desk Study
6.4.2.2	Appendix 2.2 - Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study

6.4.2.3	Appendix 2.3 - Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings
6.4.2.4	Appendix 2.4 - Construction Dust Assessment
6.4.2.5	Appendix 2.5 - Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment
6.4.2.6	Appendix 2.6 - Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
6.4.2.7	Appendix 2.7 - Outline Decommissioning (DEMP)
6.4.2.8	Appendix 2.8 - Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)
6.4.2.9	Appendix 2.9 - Outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan
6.4.2.10	Appendix 2.10 - Outline Materials Management Plan (MMP)
6.4.2.11	Appendix 2.11 - Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)
6.4.2.12	Appendix 2.12 - Outline Soil Resources Management Plan
6.4.2.13	Appendix 2.13 - Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan (oBFSMP)
6.4.2.14	Appendix 2.14 - Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP)
6.4.2.15	Appendix 2.15 -Outline PRow Management Plan
6.4.4.1	Appendix 4.1 - EIA Scoping Report
6.4.4.2	Appendix 4.2 - EIA Scoping Opinion
6.4.4.3	Appendix 4.3 - EIA Scoping Opinion Response Matrix
6.4.5.1	Appendix 5.1 - Greenhouse Gas Assessment
6.4.5.2	Appendix 5.2 - Climate Change Resilience Assessment
6.4.6.1	Appendix 6.1 - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report
6.4.6.1	Appendix 6.1 - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report Confidential Appendix E Badgers
6.4.5.2	Appendix 6.2 - Wintering Bird Survey Report
6.4.6.3	Appendix 6.3 - Breeding Bird Survey Report
6.4.6.4	Appendix 6.4 - Static Detector Bat Survey Report
6.4.6.5	Appendix 6.5 - Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report
6.4.6.6	Appendix 6.6 - Biodiversity Net Gain Report

6.4.7.1	Appendix 7.1 - Methodology
6.4.7.2	Appendix 7.2 - Illustrative Views
6.4.7.3	Appendix 7.3 - Landscape Sensitivity Analysis
6.4.7.4	Appendix 7.4 - Viewpoint Analysis
6.4.7.5	Appendix 7.5 - Non-significant effects
6.4.7.6	Appendix 7.6 - Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
6.4.7.7	Appendix 7.7 - Arboricultural Impact Assessment
6.4.8.1	Appendix 8.1 - Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (HEDBA)
6.4.8.2	Appendix 8.2 - Historic Environment Settings Assessment
6.4.8.3	Appendix 8.3 - Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report
6.4.8.4	Appendix 8.4 - Phase 1 Evaluation Trenching Report
6.4.8.5	Appendix 8.5 - Archaeological Management Strategy
6.4.9.1	Appendix 9.1 - Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources
6.4.9.2	Appendix 9.2 - Agricultural Land Assessment Criteria
6.4.10.1	Appendix 10.1 - Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy
6.4.10.2	Appendix 10.2 - Water Framework Directive Assessment
6.4.11.1	Appendix 11.1 - Noise and Vibration Guidance
6.4.11.2	Appendix 11.2 - Noise Monitoring Data
6.4.11.3	Appendix 11.3 - Details of Noise Model
6.4.11.4	Appendix 11.4 - BS4142 Assessment Calculations
6.4.11.5	Appendix 11.5 - Selection of background levels
6.4.12.1	Appendix 12.1 - Transport Statement
6.4.13.1	Appendix 13.1 - In-Combination Effects Table
6.4.13.2	Appendix 13.2 - Long List of Committed Developments
6.4.13.3	Appendix 13.3 - Short List of Committed Developments

11 Volume 7: Other Reports

- 11.1.1 A range of additional documents have been submitted with the DCO application. These documents are intended to provide useful information on the Proposed Development and aid detailed understanding of the application and its justification.
- 11.1.2 **Document Reference 7.1: Planning Statement.** This Statement details the Proposed Development's compliance with the relevant planning policy framework, at national and local levels, and other matters which the Applicant considers are important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision.
- 11.1.3 **Document Reference 7.1.1: Policy Compliance Document (PCD):** This document sets out in detail the compliance of the Proposed Development with each paragraph or policy in the National Policy Statements (NPSs) and local planning policy. It informs the overall appraisal provided in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1).
- 11.1.4 **Document Reference 7.2: Design Approach Document.** This document provides information regarding the design concept and principles for the proposed design solution.
- 11.1.5 **Document Reference 7.3: Other Consents and Licences.** This sets out the intended strategy for obtaining the consents and associated agreements needed to implement the Proposed Development.
- 11.1.6 **Document Reference 7.4: Statement of Statutory Nuisance.** This identifies the matters set out in section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisances and considers, whether the Proposed Development would engage one or more of those matters. Where any matters may be potentially engaged, this statement sets out its proposals for mitigating or limiting them.
- 11.1.7 **Document Reference 7.5: Grid Connection Statement.** This Statement has been submitted in accordance with Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations. It outlines the details for connecting the Proposed Development to the national grid.
- 11.1.8 **Document Reference 7.6: Potential Main Issues for Examination (PMIE).** This document summarises the principal areas of disagreement from inception to submission to inform the examination of the Proposed Development.
- 11.1.9 **Document Reference 7.7: Statutory Undertakers Position Statement.** This Statement provides a summary of the latest position with relevant statutory undertakers, including draft position statements where they have been developed.
- 11.1.10 **Document Reference 7.8: Mitigation Route Map.** This document provides a comprehensive list of all proposed mitigation and enhancement measures that form

part of the Proposed Development and identifies how they would be secured through the DCO.

12 Volume 8: Examination Submissions

- 12.1.1 During the Examination of the Proposed Development, the Applicant will submit a range of written documents at relevant Deadlines. These include written evidence, written summaries of any hearings held, and Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with Interested Parties. These are identified as Volume 8 of the DCO application. Where existing DCO application documents under Volumes 1-7 are revised through Examination, these retain their existing document reference and are given a revision number to ensure it is clear that it supersedes the previous document.

12.2 Deadline 1

- 12.2.1 **Document Reference 8.1 Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases as heard on the ISH1, OFH1 and OFH2:** This document provides a written summary of the Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1), and two Open Floor Hearings (OFH) held on 23 July 2024 and 24 July 2024.
- 12.2.2 **Document Reference 8.2 Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs):** This document provides the Applicant's response to Relevant Representations submitted to the ExA by Interested Parties.
- 12.2.3 **Document Reference 8.3 Applicant's draft itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI):** This document provides a suggested itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) to be carried out by the ExA during the Examination of the scheme.
- 12.2.4 **Document Reference 8.3 Statement of Commonality (SoC):** This document provides an overview of the current status of SoCGs with Interested Parties.
- 12.2.5 **Document Reference 8.4.1 Statement of Common Ground with Durham County Council:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Durham County Council.
- 12.2.6 **Document Reference 8.4.3 Statement of Common Ground with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.
- 12.2.7 **Document Reference 8.4.5 Statement of Common Ground with Historic England:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Historic England.
- 12.2.8 **Document Reference 8.4.7 Statement of Common Ground with National Highways:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and National Highways.

- 12.2.9 **Document Reference 8.4.8 Statement of Common Ground with Bishopton Villages Action Group:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Bishopton Villages Action Group.
- 12.2.10 **Document Reference 8.4.9 Statement of Common Ground with Bishopton Parish Council:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Bishopton Parish Council.
- 12.2.11 **Document Reference 8.4.10 Statement of Common Ground with Redmarshall Parish Council:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Redmarshall Parish Council.
- 12.2.12 **Document Reference 8.4.12 Statement of Common Ground with Stillington and Whitton Parish Council:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Stillington and Whitton Parish Council.
- 12.2.13 **Document Reference 8.5 Compulsory Acquisition Schedule:** This document provides a schedule of the ongoing negotiations between the Applicant and each landowner with interests affected by the powers of compulsory acquisition sought by the Applicant.

12.3 Deadline 2

- 12.3.1 **Document Reference 8.4.4 Statement of Common Ground with Tees Valley Combined Authority:** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Tees Valley Combined Authority.
- 12.3.2 **Document Reference 8.6 Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1):** This document provides the Applicant's response to the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) issued on 30 July 2024.
- 12.3.3 **Document Reference 8.7 Comments on Local Impact Reports:** This document provides the Applicant's comments on the Local Impact Reports (LIR) provided by Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council.
- 12.3.4 **Document Reference 8.8 Comments on Deadline 1 Submissions:** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 1 of the Examination.
- 12.3.5 **Document Reference 8.9 Energy Generation and Design Evolution Document:** This document is provided in response to queries raised at Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) and provides further detail on the policy position on alternatives and need; energy generation; site selection; the evolution of the design; and specific design features.

12.3.6 Document Reference 8.10 Community Benefit Fund: This document is provided in response to ISH1 Action Point 10, and provides further information about the proposed Community Benefit Fund including the Applicant's approach to community consultation on proposals for the administration of the fund.

12.3.7 Document Reference 8.11 Environmental Statement (ES) Errata and Management Plans Proposed Updates: This document provides a schedule of errata to the ES submitted with the DCO Application, where points of clarification or minor amendment have been identified. It also provides a schedule of proposed updates to management plans provided with the DCO Application, which will be made in updated versions of the documents later in the Examination timetable.

12.4 Deadline 3

12.4.1 Document Reference 8.12 Comments on Deadline 2 Submissions Including Written Representations and Responses to ExQ1: This document provides the Applicant's comments to Written Representations submitted to the ExA by Interested Parties at Deadline 2 of the Examination, and provides the Applicant's comments on responses to the first written questions (ExQ1) submitted by Interested Parties at Deadline 2.

12.4.2 Document Reference 8.13 Comments on Written Representations REP2-042 (Bishopton Villages Action Group) and REP2-044 (Landscape & Visual Review): This document provides the Applicant's comments to Written Representations submitted by Bishopton Villages Action Group (BVAG) to the ExA at Deadline 2 of the Examination, including the Landscape & Visual Review submitted alongside the BVAG Written Representation.

12.4.3 Document Reference 8.4.2 Statement of Common Ground with Darlington Borough Council: This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Darlington Borough Council.

12.5 Change Request Application (18 October 2024)

12.5.1 Document Reference 8.14 Change Application Summary Report: This document accompanied a request by the Applicant to the ExA for two changes to the DCO application. It sets out a description of the changes and why they are needed, and provides information to the ExA on effects of the change, in relation to procedure and the existing DCO application, should it be accepted into Examination.

12.6 Deadline 4 (24 October 2024)

12.6.1 Document Reference 8.15 Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases as heard at ISH2, ISH3, ISH4 and CAH1: This document provides a written summary of the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2), Issue

Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3), Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4), and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1) held on 15 October 2024 and 16 October 2024.

- 12.6.2 **Document Reference 8.16 Comments on Deadline 3 Submissions:** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 3 of the Examination.
- 12.6.3 **Document Reference 8.17 ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration Addendum – Construction Noise:** This document provides detail of further noise modelling undertaken in relation to construction noise, in response to queries and concerns raised by Interested Parties. It provides an addendum to the assessment reported in ES Chapter 11 [APP-034].
- 12.6.4 **Document Reference 8.18 Little Stainton Beck Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note:** This document provides detail of further flood modelling undertaken following engagement with the Environment Agency.

12.7 Deadline 5 (15 November 2024)

- 12.7.1 **Document Reference 2.6 Special Category Land Plans:** These plans depict Special Category Land within the Order Limits.
- 12.7.2 **Document Reference 8.19 Response to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2):** This document provides the Applicant's response to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) issued on 1 November 2024.
- 12.7.3 **Document Reference 8.20 Response to Hearing Action Points:** This document provides the Applicant's response to Action Points arising from hearings held on 15 and 16 October 2024.
- 12.7.4 **Document Reference 8.21 Comments on Deadline 4 Submissions:** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 4 of the Examination.
- 12.7.5 **Document Reference 8.22 Environmental Masterplans with Viewpoints:** This document provides a copy of the environmental masterplans with landscape and visual assessment viewpoints overlaid, in response to question LSV 2.3 of ExQ2.

12.8 Deadline 6 (6 December 2024)

- 12.8.1 **Document Reference 8.23 Post-hearing submissions including written submissions including written submissions of oral cases as heard at ISH5, OFH3, OFH4 ISH6 & ISH6:** This document provides a written summary of the Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5), Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3), Open Floor Hearing 4

(OFH4), Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6), Issue Specific Hearing 7 (ISH7) held on 26 November 2024 and 27 November 2024.

- 12.8.2 **Document Reference 8.24 Comments on Deadline 5 Submissions:** This document provides the Applicant's response to information/submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 5 of the Examination.
- 12.8.3 **Document Reference 8.25 Applicant's comments on Darlington Borough Council ISH4 Action Points submission:** This document provides a response to the submission by Darlington Borough Council at Deadline 5 relating to action points arising from ISH4 [REP5-036].
- 12.8.4 **Document Reference 8.26 Applicant's Response to Matters Raised at OFH3, OFH4, ISH6, ISH7 and ISH6:** This document provides the Applicant's response to matters raised by Interested Parties at hearings held on 26 and 27 November 2024.
- 12.8.5 **Document Reference 8.27 Landscape and Visual Assessment - Cumulative Effects Technical Note:** This document provides further information on how cumulative effects were considered in relation to landscape and visual impacts, following discussion at ISH7.
- 12.8.6 **Document Reference 8.28 Applicant's Response to ExA's Commentary on draft DCO:** This document provides the Applicant's response to the ExA's commentary on the draft DCO as published on 1 November 2024, and as discussed at ISH5.

12.9 Deadline 6b (17 December 2024)

- 12.9.1 **Document Reference 8.29 Consultation Report relating to change application:** This document reports on the consultation undertaken in respect of the change application made on 18 October 2024 and reports on the response to that consultation.
- 12.9.2 **Document Reference 8.5.1 Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (Change Application only):** This document provides a schedule of the ongoing negotiations between the Applicant and each landowner with interests affected by the powers of compulsory acquisition sought by the Applicant, in relation to those plots affected by the Change Application only. This document is therefore supplementary to document 8.5 Compulsory Acquisition Schedule.

12.10 Rule 17 Request (20 December 2024)

- 12.10.1 **Document Reference 8.30 Applicant's Response to Rule 17 Request:** This document provides an overarching response to the Rule 17 Request issued by the ExA [PD-012].
- 12.10.2 **Document Reference 8.31 ES Appendix 7.4 Viewpoint Analysis – Addendum:** This document provides an addendum to the viewpoint analysis provided with the ES, in response to the Rule 17 Request issued by the ExA [PD-012].
- 12.10.3 **Document Reference 6.4.7.8 ES Appendix 7.8 Effects of Settings of Settlements:** This document provides a separate summary of the assessment of effects on settings of settlements to that provided with the ES, in response to the Rule 17 Request issued by the ExA [PD-012].

12.11 Deadline 7 (10 January 2024)

- 12.11.1 **Document Reference 8.32 Response to the Examining Authority's Third Written Questions (ExQ2):** This document provides the Applicant's response to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) issued on 20 December 2025.
- 12.11.2 **Document Reference 8.33 Comments on Deadline 6 Submissions:** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 6 of the Examination.
- 12.11.3 **Document Reference 8.4.13 Landscape Statement of Common Ground with Bishopton Villages Action Group (BVAG):** This document provides the latest position on matters between the Applicant and Bishopton Villages Action Group regarding landscape matters.

12.12 Deadline 8 (17 January 2024)

- 12.12.1 **Document Reference 8.34 Comments on Deadline 7 Submissions:** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 7 of the Examination.
- 12.12.2 **Document Reference 8.35 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Technical Note:** This document provides further clarification on the approach to residential visual amenity assessment following discussion at Issue Specific Hearing 8 (ISH8) on 14 and 16 January 2025.
- 12.12.3 **Document Reference 8.36 ISH8 Post-Hearing Cumulative Assessment Clarification Note:** This document provides further clarification on the approach to

cumulative assessment following discussion at Issue Specific Hearing 8 (ISH8) on 14 and 16 January 2025.