
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

Fenwick Solar Farm
EN010152

Environmental Statement

Volume III Appendix 12-1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance (Socio-Economics and Land Use)

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Purpose of this Appendix.....	1
2.	National Legislation, Policy and Guidance.....	2
2.2	Legislation.....	2
2.3	Policy.....	2
2.4	Guidance.....	19
3.	References.....	22

Tables

Table 1: Relevant NPS Requirements for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment.....	3
Table 2: Relevant NPPF (December 2023) Requirements for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment.....	12
Table 3: Relevant Local Policy for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment.....	16
Table 4: Relevant Local Guidance for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment.....	19

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.1.1 This appendix of the Environmental Statement (ES) identifies and describes the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Scheme on Socio-Economics and Land Use.
- 1.1.2 Legislation and policy are considered at national and local levels.
- 1.1.3 This appendix does not assess the Scheme against legislation and policy instead the purpose of considering legislation and policy is twofold:
 - a. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the sensitivity of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
 - b. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the methodology to be used within the assessment and/or within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) presented in this ES. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.4 The relevant legislation and policy will be assessed within the Planning Statement. The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the Socio-Economics and Land Use assessment.

2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1.1 Legislation, planning policy and supporting guidance relevant to socio-economics and land use and pertinent to the Scheme comprises:

2.2 Legislation

National

- 2.2.1 The Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). The Planning Act 2008 is the primary legislation that introduces the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application and the consenting process. Secondary Legislation, including the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 2) (the EIA Regulations), governs various aspects of the Planning Act 2008 process.
- 2.2.2 Regulation 5(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations requires that the EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the likely significant direct and indirect effects of the Scheme on population and human health.

2.3 Policy

National

National Policy Statements

- 2.3.1 In accordance with Section 104(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State is required to have regard to any relevant National Policy Statement (NPS), amongst other matters, when deciding whether or not to grant a DCO. The following Energy NPSs are considered to be matters that will be important and relevant:
- a. Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) (Ref. 3) (November 2023);
 - b. NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref. 4) (November 2023); and
 - c. NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref. 5) (November 2023).
- 2.3.2 The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy, the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining an application for a DCO. The NPSs include specific criteria and issues which should be covered by applicants in their assessments of the effects of their scheme, and how the decision maker should consider these impacts and mitigation measures.
- 2.3.3 Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 (November 2023) sets out policy requirements specific to solar generation. Given that the above NPSs will form the primary policy framework for the determination of the DCO application, the EIA approach takes account of these documents. The relevant NPS requirements, together with an indication of where in the ES information is provided to address these requirements, is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Relevant NPS Requirements for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment

Relevant NPS Paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information Provided to Address This
NPS EN-1 (Ref. 3) (November 2023)		
Paragraph 4.1.5	The decision maker should take into account potential benefits of development proposals including <i>“...contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation, reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits”</i> .	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 4.1.6	The decision maker <i>“should take into account environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels”</i> .	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 4.3.4	To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the <i>“likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for”</i> . This information could include matters such as employment, equality, community cohesion, health and well-being.	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.11.8	<i>“The ES (see Section 4.3) should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development</i>	Existing land uses and development land are considered in Section 12.5 and Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .

**Relevant NPS
Paragraph reference**

Requirement of the NPS

Location of Information Provided to Address This

or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the preferred scheme and its likely impacts on such receptors. For developments on previously developed land, the applicant should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination and how it is proposed to address this.”

Paragraph 5.11.9

“Applicants will need to consult the local community on their proposals to build on existing open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Taking account of the consultations, applicants should consider providing new or additional open space including green and blue infrastructure, sport or recreation facilities, to substitute for any losses as a result of their proposal.”

Impacts on community facilities is considered in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated on the community facilities therefore consultation with the local community in terms of providing new or additional open space is not required.

Paragraph 5.11.12

“Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).”

Considered in Section 12.8 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use**.

Paragraph 5.11.13

“Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed.”

Considered in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

Relevant NPS Paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information Provided to Address This
Paragraph 5.11.23	<i>“Although in the case of most energy infrastructure there may be little that can be done to mitigate the direct effects of an energy project on the existing use of the proposed site (assuming that some of that use can still be retained post project construction) applicants should nevertheless seek to minimise these effects and the effects on existing or planned uses near the site by the application of good design principles, including the layout of the project and the protection of soils during construction.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.11.30	<i>“Public Rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Secretary of State should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve or create new access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way, consideration should be given to the use, character, attractiveness, and convenience of the right of way.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 and Section 12.6 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.13.2	<i>“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 ES [...].”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .

Relevant NPS Paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information Provided to Address This
Paragraph 5.13.3	<i>“The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with relevant local authorities during early stages of project development so that the applicant can gain a better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.3 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.13.4	<i>“The applicant’s assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include:</i> <ul data-bbox="483 595 1256 1372" style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the creation of jobs and training opportunities. Applicants may wish to provide information on the sustainability of the jobs created, including where they will help to develop the skills needed for the UK’s transition to Net Zero.</i>• <i>the contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally</i>• <i>the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities</i>• <i>any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation to use of local support services and supply chains</i>• <i>effects (positive and negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted</i>• <i>the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. This could change the local</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .

**Relevant NPS
Paragraph reference**

Requirement of the NPS

Location of Information Provided to Address This

population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development

- *cumulative effects – if development consent were to be granted for a number of projects within a region and these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short-term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region”*

Paragraph 5.13.5

“Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development’s socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.”

Considered in Section 12.2 and Section 12.5 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

Paragraph 5.13.6

“Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example visual impacts considered in Section 5.10 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain.”

Socio-economic impacts are considered in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

Relevant NPS Paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information Provided to Address This
Paragraph 5.13.7	<i>“Applicants should consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.13.8	<i>“The Secretary of State 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.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.6 and Section 12.8 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.13.9	<i>“The Secretary of State should have regard to the potential socio-economic impacts of new energy infrastructure identified by the applicant and from any other sources that the Secretary of State considers to be both relevant and important to its decision.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.13.10	<i>“The Secretary of State may conclude that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence (particularly in view of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in this NPS).”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.13.11	<i>“The Secretary of State should consider any relevant positive provisions the applicant 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</i>	Considered in Section 12.6 and Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .

**Relevant NPS
Paragraph reference**

Requirement of the NPS

Location of Information Provided to Address This

development in relation to the socio-economic impacts.”

Paragraph 5.13.12

“The Secretary of State may wish to include a requirement that specifies the approval by the local authority of an employment and skills plan detailing arrangements to promote local employment and skills development opportunities, including apprenticeships, education, engagement with local schools and colleges and training programmes to be enacted.”

Employment effects are considered in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

NPS EN-3 (Ref. 4) (November 2023)

Paragraphs 2.10.40 to 2.10.42

Proposals should consider effects on provision of local footpaths and public rights of way (PRoW) which may need to be temporarily closed or diverted due to construction or operation. It should also be the applicant’s intention to keep all PRoW open where practicable and safe to do so, and put in place measures to protect users where a PRoW crosses or borders a site. Applicants are encouraged to do so through design of the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreation use of PRoW, particularly during operation of the site.

Considered in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

Relevant NPS Paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information Provided to Address This
Paragraph 2.10.69	<i>“Applicants should set out what would be decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station, considering instances where [...] there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
NPS EN-5 (Ref. 5) (November 2023)		
Paragraph 2.9.19	The applicant’s assessment should consider (amongst other things): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="483 791 1267 863">• <i>“the land use effects of the proposal when planning the siting of substations or extensions”</i><li data-bbox="483 871 1267 1053">• <i>“use space effectively to limit the area required for development consistent with appropriate mitigation measures and to minimise the adverse effects on existing land use and rights of way, whilst also having regard to future extension of the substation.”</i>	Considered in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref. 6) (December 2023) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. Paragraph 5 of the NPPF (December 2023) states that it:
- 2.3.5 *“... does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects. These are determined in accordance with the decision-making framework in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and relevant national policy statements for major infrastructure, as well as any other matters that are relevant (which may include the National Planning Policy Framework)...”*
- 2.3.6 Paragraph 8 of the NPPF (December 2023) defines three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
- a. ***“An economic objective*** – *to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
 - b. ***A social objective*** – *to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*
 - c. ***An environmental objective*** – *to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”*
- 2.3.7 The relevant NPPF (December 2023) paragraphs, together with an indication of where in the ES the information is (or will be) provided to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Relevant NPPF (December 2023) Requirements for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment

Relevant NPPF (December 2023) Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF (December 2023)	Location of Information Provided to Address This
Paragraph 85	<i>“Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. This is particularly important where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation, and in areas with high levels of productivity, which should be able to capitalise on their performance and potential.”</i>	Assessment of the economy of the local area, and how the Scheme’s may impact employment and land use are addressed in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 96	<i>“Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and beautiful buildings which: a. promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;</i>	Relevant receptors including cycle routes, PRow, green infrastructure and community facilities and the Scheme’s impact on and interconnection with these are addressed in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .

Relevant NPPF (December 2023) Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF (December 2023)	Location of Information Provided to Address This
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- b. are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of beautiful, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and*
 - c. enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.”*

Paragraph 97

“To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

[...]

- b. take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community; and*
- c. guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs.*

The effect of the Scheme on Private and Community Assets including Community Connectivity is assessed in Section 12.7 of **ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

Relevant NPPF (December 2023) Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF (December 2023)	Location of Information Provided to Address This
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[...]"

Paragraph 104	<i>“Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.”</i>	Assessment of PRow and community connectivity and severance is assessed in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 180	Planning decisions should recognise <i>“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>	Assessment of BMV and agricultural land is assessed in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 181, Footnote 62	<i>“Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality. The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside the other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development.”</i>	Assessment of BMV and agricultural land is assessed in Section 12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 193	<i>“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). Existing businesses and facilities should not</i>	The effect of the Scheme on private and community assets including business premises, community facilities, and visitor attractions is considered Section

**Relevant NPPF
(December 2023)
Paragraph Reference**

Requirement of the NPPF (December 2023)

Location of Information Provided to Address This

have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed."

12.7 of ES Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use [EN010152/APP/6.1].

2.3.8 The Government’s Build Back Better paper (Ref. 7) outlines its plans for growth which focus on three pillars of investment to act as the foundation on which to build the economic recovery and levelling up the country: infrastructure, skills and innovation. As part of the economic growth, the Government plans to drive the transition to Net Zero by investing in current net zero industries and creating new opportunities. A key tenet of the paper is the upgrading of infrastructure to support productivity, and ultimately, economic growth. One of the focuses of upgrading this infrastructure is to provide clean and affordable energy, involving the use of low carbon technologies.

Local

2.3.9 There is no local level legislation relevant to the assessment of the effects of the Scheme on socio-economics and land use.

2.3.10 The following local policy is relevant to the assessment of the effects of the Scheme on socio-economics and land use.

2.3.11 The Scheme lies within the administrative area of City of Doncaster Council. The northern Site Boundary abuts (but is outside) the administrative area of the newly formed Unitary Authority of North Yorkshire Council. Since the Study Area for this assessment extends into North Yorkshire Council, its relevant policies have been taken into account.

2.3.12 North Yorkshire Council was formed on 1 April 2023 by the merger of the administrative areas of North Yorkshire County Council and its six constituent District Councils. It is expected that over time a new Local Plan for North Yorkshire Council will be prepared, however, it is anticipated that this will not be in place (either adopted or at draft review stage) within the timescale of the DCO Application. Therefore, in addition to relevant planning policy of City of Doncaster (the Host Authority) policy for Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council, is taken into account.

Table 3: Relevant Local Policy for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies
Adopted Doncaster Local Plan (2021) (Ref. 8)	Policy 18: Development affecting public rights of way Policy 27: Protecting open space and non-designated open space Policy 51: Protection of education, community and leisure facilities Policy 58: Low carbon and renewable energy Policy 60: Protecting and Enhancing Doncaster’s Soil and Water Resources Policy 61: Providing for and safeguarding mineral resources
Adopted Selby District Core Strategy (2013) (Ref. 9)	Policy SP15: Sustainable Development and Climate Change Policy SP17: Low-Carbon and Renewable Energy

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies
	Policy SP18: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment
Selby District Publication Version Consultation Local Plan (2022) (Ref. 10)	Policy EM3: Economic Development Policy EM4: The Rural Economy Policy IC7: Public Rights of Way Policy NE2: Protecting and Enhancing Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy SG4: Development in the Countryside (Strategic Policy)

Adopted Doncaster Local Plan (2021)

- 2.3.13 Doncaster’s Local Plan adopted in 2021 (Ref. 8) make reference to socio-economics and land use in the following policies:
- a. Policy 18: Development affecting public rights of way: which sets out that the Council will support proposals which improve the number and quality of opportunities for walking, cycling and riding and create multi-user routes through development sites, particularly in areas where such opportunities are currently deficient. This includes retaining public rights of way (PRoW) and where a development leads to the diversion or closure of an existing PRoW, a suitable alternative must be established;
 - b. Policy 27: Protecting open space and non-designated open space: which sets out that the Council will protect open spaces which provide important opportunities for formal and informal recreation as well as those which provide a social, cultural and ecological role;
 - c. Policy 51: Protection of education, community and leisure facilities: which sets out land and buildings currently used or last used for education (including school playing fields), community and leisure facilities, will be retained or developed for such purposes. Development resulting in the loss of an existing education, community or leisure facility, or land allocated for such purpose, will be assessed on merit and only be permitted where it meets the assessment criteria set out in the policy;
 - d. Policy 58: Low carbon and renewable energy: which sets out the Council’s aim to increase the supply of low carbon and renewable energy generated in the Council’s administrative area. Therefore, the Council will support low carbon and renewable energy proposals which meet the criteria set out in the policy. Although this policy does not include solar as one of the specific renewable projects the Council supports, the Scheme would meet the general provision of this policy;
 - e. Policy 60: Protecting and Enhancing Doncaster’s Soil and Water Resources: which sets out proposals which affect land and water resources will be expected to comply with the criteria set out in the policy including developers demonstrating through an on-site assessment the actual grading where significant development takes place on agricultural land; and

- f. Policy 61: Providing for and safeguarding mineral resources: which sets out that proposals for non-mineral development within Mineral Safeguarding Areas and the 250m buffer zone will be supported where it can be demonstrated that it complies with the criteria set out in the policy including the proposal not preventing the economically viable mineral resource from being extracted in the future.

Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013)

2.3.14 Selby's Core Strategy Policies adopted in 2013 (Ref. 9) make reference to socio-economics and land use in the following policies:

- a. Policy SP15: Sustainable Development and Climate Change: the Council will direct developments to sustainable locations, incorporate sustainable design, improve resource efficiency and incorporate renewable and low-carbon forms of energy generation;
- b. Policy SP17: Low-Carbon and Renewable Energy: this states that the Council will support low carbon energy resources and supporting infrastructure where it can meet the following criteria: it is designed and located to protect the environment and local amenity, it can demonstrate that wider environmental, economic and social benefits outweigh any harm caused to the environment and local amenity and it can ensure that impacts on local communities are minimised; and
- c. Policy SP18: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment: this states that developments should identify, protect and enhance locally distinctive landscapes, areas of tranquillity, PRow access, open spaces and playing fields, where possible.

Selby District Publication Version Consultation Local Plan (2022)

2.3.15 Selby's draft Publication Local Plan (Ref. 10), published for consultation in October 2022, makes reference to socio-economics and land use in the following policies:

- a. Policy EM3: Economic Development: new economic development will be supported where possible, provided the criteria within the policy are being met. These include that the development is of an appropriate scale to the settlement in which it is proposed and that the development would not cause undue harm to local amenity or landscape;
- b. Policy EM4: The Rural Economy: a prosperous rural economy will be supported by allowing development in the District's smaller villages and countryside, including diversification, provided it is of a scale reasonably required for a new use and must successfully mitigate any harmful impacts on the countryside, biodiversity, landscape or local and rural character of the area;
- c. Policy IC7: Public Rights of Way: development which may have an impact on PRow will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that satisfactory and alternative routes are provided and all reasonable enhancement opportunities have been taken up, including new or improved links to existing PRow network and the provision of improved facilities to make routes more accessible or attractive;

- d. Policy NE2: Protecting and Enhancing Green and Blue Infrastructure: the Council will seek to protect, maintain, enhance and restore Selby’s green and blue infrastructure assets for the benefit of nature, people’s health and well-being and the economy; and
- e. Policy SG4: Development in the Countryside (Strategic Policy): Development in the countryside as defined in Policy SG2 (Spatial Approach) will be limited to activities which have an essential need to be located in the countryside as set out in National Policy will not adversely harm the character, appearance and environmental qualities of the area.

2.4 Guidance

National

2.4.1 The assessment has also considered the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Ref. 11), which provides guidance on planning and the economy and considers the existing and potential future needs of the population in terms of economic development, jobs and employment opportunities. The PPG does not contain specific policies for NSIPs, however, it states that applications in relation to NSIPs are to be determined in accordance with the decision-making framework set out in the Planning Act 2008 and relevant NPSs, as well as any other matters that are considered both important and relevant. The contents of the guidance are not materially relevant to the assessment of socio-economic and land use effects as the content does not influence the assessment of effects relevant to the Scheme.

Local

2.4.2 The following other local policy guidance is relevant to the assessment of the effects of the Scheme on socio-economics and land use.

Table 4: Relevant Local Guidance for the Socio-Economics and Land Use Assessment

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies
Yorkshire and the Humber Climate Action Plan (2021) (Ref. 12)	Proposed Action 32: Support the greatly accelerated decarbonisation of energy supply
Selby District Economic Development Framework: 2017-2022... and beyond (Ref. 13)	Priority 1: Making Selby District a Great Place for Enterprise and Business Growth Priority 2: Making Selby District a Great Place to Live and Work Priority 3: Making Selby District a Great Place to Achieve Your Potential
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Our Strategic Economic Plan 2021-2041 (2021) (Ref. 14)	Skills, Education and Employment section Clean Energy and Net Zero section

Yorkshire and The Humber Climate Action Plan (2021)

- 2.4.3 The Yorkshire and The Humber Climate Action Plan (2021) (Ref. 12) makes reference to socio-economics and land use in the following proposed actions:
- a. Proposed Action 32: Support the greatly accelerated decarbonisation of the energy supply: this states that renewable energy should make an increasingly significant contribution to energy supply in the area; and

Selby District Economic Development Framework: 2017-2022... and Beyond

- 2.4.4 The Selby District Economic Development Framework (Ref. 13) sets out three key priorities:
- a. Priority 1: Making Selby District a Great Place for Enterprise and Business Growth: This sets out the objective to attract new business investments to create employment opportunities in priority growth sectors (including energy), to engage with local businesses to support growth and resilience and to develop infrastructure to unlock economic growth;
 - b. Priority 2: Making Selby District a Great Place to Live and Work: this sets out objectives including protecting and promoting green infrastructure and understanding the ongoing impacts of climate change and sustainable development to foster business resilience and assurance; and
 - c. Priority 3: Making Selby District a Great Place to Achieve Your Potential: this sets out objectives to increase apprenticeship and vocational training opportunities to meet current and future workforce development needs, support unemployed adults to gain suitable skills and achieve sustainable work and to identify and seek to address existing health and transport barriers to learning and employment.

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Our Strategic Economic Plan 2021-2041 (2021)

- 2.4.5 The SYMCA Strategic Economic Plan (Ref. 14) sets out the key visions for the area (which comprises Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield). The following sections are of relevance to socio-economics and land use:
- a. Skills, Education and Employment: this set outs the aim of improving the qualification levels, productivity and the employment rate within South Yorkshire. This includes through creating good jobs and securing commitment from the wider South Yorkshire business base to invest in the development of technical skills across South Yorkshire; and
 - b. Clean Energy and Net Zero: this set outs the aim for South Yorkshire to achieve a net zero carbon economy by 2041. The Plan highlights that only 20% of electricity consumed in South Yorkshire is generated in the region. This provides an opportunity to vastly increase the amount of renewable energy generation and storage capacity in the region and become more resilient. Therefore, the SYMCA will focus on promoting and enabling investment and innovation in low carbon energy generation, distribution, and storage, such as wind or solar offer

significant opportunities and developments in these areas should continue to be promoted and invested in.

3. References

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An aerial photograph of a vast solar farm at sunset. The rows of solar panels stretch across the landscape, creating a strong sense of perspective. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue, with the sun low on the horizon, casting long shadows and a warm glow over the scene.

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