



# Fosse Green Energy

EN010154

## 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

Appendix 7-A: Cultural Heritage Policy and Legislation

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Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Regulation 5(2)(a)

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

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## Planning Act 2008

### The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulation 2009 (as amended)

Fosse Green Energy

Development Consent Order 202[ ]

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### **6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices**

#### **Appendix 7-A: Cultural Heritage Policy and Legislation**

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Regulation Reference	Regulation 5(2)(a)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	EN010154
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) appendix identifies and describes the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Cultural Heritage, as reported in **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** of the ES **[EN010154/APP/6.1]**.
- 1.1.2 Legislation and policy are considered at both national and local levels.
- 1.1.3 This appendix does not assess the Proposed Development against legislation and policy, instead the purpose of considering legislation and policy in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is twofold;
  - a. to identify legislation and policy that could influence the determination of important cultural heritage features (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
  - b. to identify legislation and policy that could influence the methodology presented in the ES. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.4 The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (the assessment) as presented in **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** of the ES **[EN010154/APP/6.1]**.

## 2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

### 2.1 National Legislation

2.1.1 Legislation, policy and guidance relating to Cultural Heritage, and pertinent to the Proposed Development is described below.

#### **The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations (2017)**

2.1.2 Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (Ref 1) sets out that an EIA must identify, describe and assess, in an appropriate manner, the direct and indirect significant effects of the Proposed Development on Cultural Heritage.

#### **The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations (2010)**

2.1.3 The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (Ref 2) set out the duties of the Secretary of State in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process which include having regard to the desirability of:

- a. the preservation of listed buildings, their setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest within which they possess;
- b. the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas; and
- c. the preservation of scheduled monuments and their setting.

#### **The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979**

2.1.4 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Ref 3) (as amended, including by the National Heritage Act 1983 (Ref 4) and 2002 (Ref 5)) defines scheduled monuments as any monument which is assessed to be of national importance, included in the Schedule of Monuments compiled and maintained by the Secretary of State. These sites are afforded statutory protection meaning written consent, known as Scheduled Monument Consent, must be granted by the Secretary of State before any specified works may be carried out. Such works are any works which may result in the demolition, destruction, damage of the monument; any works removing, repairing, altering or adding to a scheduled monument or any part of it; and any flooding or tipping operations on land in, on, or under which there is a scheduled monument.

## The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

2.1.5 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (Ref 6) requires the Secretary of State either compile a list, or approve, with or without modifications a list compiled by Historic England, of listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

2.1.6 Planning authorities are expected to determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest within which preservation or enhancement of character or appearance are considered desirable. These areas shall be designated as conservation areas.

2.1.7 The Act states that *“in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses”* (Section 66(1)).

## Protection of Military Remains Act 1986

2.1.8 The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 (Ref 7) secures the protection of the remains of military aircraft and vessels that have crashed, sunk or been stranded, and associated human remains, from unauthorised interference.

## The Hedgerows Regulations 1997

2.1.9 The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (Ref 8), enacted under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995, make provision for the protection of 'important' hedgerows.

2.1.10 For a hedgerow to be important it must have existed for 30 years or more, and, for archaeological or historical reasons, it satisfies at least one of the criteria in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 summarised below :

- the hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township predating 1850;
- the hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is either included in the schedule of monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or is recorded on the Historic Environment Record at 'the relevant date' (being date the Regulations were made, 24 March 1997);
- the hedgerow is situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site, either scheduled or recorded on the Historic Environment Record, or is on land adjacent to such a site and is associated with any monument or feature on that site;
- the hedgerow marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded at the relevant date or visibly relates to any building or other feature of such an estate or manor;

- e. the hedgerow is recorded in a document held at a Record Office forming an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts or it is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system.

## 2.2 National Policy Statements

2.2.1 The EIA takes account of the following National Policy Statements (NPSs), which have effect in relation to the Proposed Development and provide a framework for decision making by the Secretary of State:

- a. Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 9);
- b. NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 10); and
- c. NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 11).

2.2.2 The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy infrastructure for delivery of major energy infrastructure, along with the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining applications for Development Consent Orders (DCOs). The NPSs provide specific guidance and criteria that applicants should cover when assessing the effects of their Proposed Development, and how the Secretary of State should consider these impacts and any mitigation measures applied.

2.2.3 The relevant NPS requirements for Cultural Heritage are provided in **Table 1**, along with an indication of where in **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** of the ES **[EN010154/APP/6.1]** this information can be sourced.

**Table 1: Relevant NPS Policy for Cultural Heritage**

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (November 2023)		
Paragraph 5.9.1	The construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure has the potential to result in adverse impacts on the historic environment above, at and below the surface of the ground.	An assessment of potential impacts at these stages of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.2	The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, landscaped and planted or managed flora.	An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] as well as in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment, 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> and <b>7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].
Paragraph 5.9.3	Those elements of the historic environment that hold value to this and future generations because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called 'heritage assets'. Heritage assets may be buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes, or any combination of these. The sum of the heritage interests that a heritage asset holds is referred to as its significance. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.	<b>Appendices 7-B: Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment</b> and <b>7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3] identify relevant designated heritage assets within the DCO Site and wider Study Areas using information from the Historic Environment Record, National Heritage List for England (NHLE) as well as other sources.
Paragraph 5.9.4	Some heritage assets have a level of significance that justifies official designation. Categories of designated	An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	heritage assets are: a World Heritage Site; Scheduled Monument; Protected Wreck Site; Protected Military Remains, Listed Building; Registered Park and Garden; Registered Battlefield; Conservation Area; and Registered Historic Landscape (Wales only).	<b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] as well as in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b> and <b>7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].
Paragraph 5.9.5	<p>There are heritage assets that are not currently designated, but which have been demonstrated to be of equivalent significance to designated heritage assets of the highest significance. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• those that the Secretary of State has recognised as being capable of being designated as a Scheduled Monument or Protected Wreck Site but has decided not to designate</li><li>• those that the Secretary of State has recognised as being of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments or Protected Wreck Sites but are incapable of being designated by virtue of being outside the scope of the related legislation.</li><li>• those that have yet to be formally assessed by the Secretary of State, but which have potential to demonstrate equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments or Protected Wreck Sites.</li></ul>	An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] as well as in <b>Appendix 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b> [EN010154/APP/6.3].
Paragraph 5.9.6	Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments or Protected Wreck Sites should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.	An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] as well as in <b>Appendix 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b> [EN010154/APP/6.3].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	The absence of designation for such heritage assets does not indicate lower significance or necessarily imply that it is not of national importance.	
Paragraph 5.9.7	The Secretary of State should also consider the impacts on other non-designated heritage assets (as identified either through the development plan making process by plan-making bodies, including 'local listing', or through the application, examination and decision making process). This is on the basis of clear evidence that such heritage assets have a significance that merits consideration in that process, even though those assets are of lesser significance than designated heritage assets.	An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of non-designated heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b> as well as in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment, 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment and 7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment</b> of the ES <b>[EN010154/APP/6.3]</b> .
Paragraph 5.9.9	The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES (see section 4.3). This should include consideration of heritage assets above, at, and below the surface of the ground. Consideration will also need to be given to the possible impacts, including cumulative, on the wider historic environment. The assessment should include reference to any historic landscape or seascape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing impacts relevant to the proposed project.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b> . The methodology for the assessment is provided in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b> , with reference to both embedded and additional mitigation provided at <b>Sections 7.6 and 7.8 of the Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b> . Cumulative Effects are assessed in <b>Section 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 5.9.10	As part of the ES the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets	An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	<p>affected by the proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the applicant should have consulted the relevant Historic Environment Record (or, where the development is in English or Welsh waters, Historic England or Cadw) and assessed the heritage assets themselves using expertise where necessary according to the proposed development's impact.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] as well as in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment, 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> and <b>7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. Data sources are stated in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] and include the relevant local authority Historic Environment Record.</p>
Paragraph 5.9.11	<p>Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation. Where proposed development will affect the setting of a heritage asset, accurate representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact.</p>	<p>A desk-based assessment is presented in <b>Appendix 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. The results of the geophysical survey (completed between 2023 and 2025) is available in <b>Appendix 7-G: Geophysical Survey Report</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. Trial trench evaluation is currently ongoing and summarised in <b>Appendix 7-I: Trial Trenching Report (Interim)</b> [EN010154/APP/6.3]. The results of the fieldwork surveys will be lodged with the relevant local planning authority Historic Environment Record.</p>
Paragraph 5.9.12	<p>The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will be required on those heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light and indirect impacts, the extent and</p>	<p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	detail of these studies will be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.	
Paragraph 5.9.13	<p>The applicant is encouraged, where opportunities exist, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and to consider how their scheme takes account of the significance of heritage assets affected. This can include, where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhancing, through a range of measures such a sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or setting affected</li> <li>considering where required the development of archive capacity which could deliver significant public benefits</li> <li>considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme.</li> </ul>	<p>Impacts to designated heritage assets will, where possible, be avoided through design, including opportunities for the enhancement of the historic environment (e.g. enhancing historic field boundaries or historic hedgerows) are set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.1</a>].</p>
Paragraph 5.9.14	Careful consideration in preparing the scheme will be required on whether the impacts on the historic environment will be direct or indirect, temporary, or permanent.	<p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.1</a>].</p>
Paragraph 5.9.15	Applicants should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a	<p>Impacts to designated heritage assets and their setting will, where possible, be avoided/preserved through design as set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.1</a>]. Embedded mitigation measures are described in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.1</a>].</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.	
Paragraph 5.9.16	A documentary record of our past is not as valuable as retaining the heritage asset, and therefore the ability to record evidence of the asset should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted, and whether or not consent should be given.	Consideration of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon the cultural heritage resource, including assets which may be lost, is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.17	Where the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, the Secretary of State will require the applicant to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost (wholly or in part). The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the asset's importance and significance and the impact. The applicant should be required to publish this evidence and to deposit copies of the reports with the relevant Historic Environmental Record. They should also be required to deposit the archive generated in a local museum or other public repository willing to receive it.	The proposed approach to the recording of assets before they are lost is presented within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3] as well as in the Draft DCO Schedule 2 requirements document.
Paragraph 5.9.18	Where appropriate, the Secretary of State will impose requirements on the Development Consent Order to ensure that the work is undertaken in a timely manner, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that complies with the policy in this NPS and which has been agreed in writing with the relevant local authority, and to ensure that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.	The proposed approach to the recording of assets before they are lost is presented within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3] and any requirements of the DCO will be complied with.

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.9.19	<p>Where the loss of significance of any heritage asset has been justified by the applicant on the merits of the new development and the significance of the asset in question, the Secretary of State should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• imposing a requirement in the Development Consent Order</li> <li>• requiring the applicant to enter into an obligation</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed approach to the recording of assets before they are lost is presented within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3] and any requirements of the DCO will be complied with.</p>
Paragraph 5.9.20	<p>That will prevent the loss occurring until the relevant part of the development has commenced, or it is reasonably certain that the relevant part of the development is to proceed.</p>	<p>The proposed approach to the recording of assets before they are lost is presented within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3] and any requirements of the DCO will be complied with.</p>
Paragraph 5.9.21	<p>Where there is a high probability (based on an adequate assessment) that a development site may include, as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Secretary of State will consider requirements to ensure appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and treatment of such assets discovered during construction.</p>	<p>The proposed approach to the recording of assets before they are lost is presented within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3] and any requirements of the DCO will be complied with.</p>
Paragraph 5.9.22	<p>In determining applications, the Secretary of State should seek to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by the proposed development, including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset (including assets whose setting may be affected by the proposed development), taking account of:</p>	<p>An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] as well as in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment, 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment and 7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. Data sources are stated in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>relevant information provided with the application and, where applicable, relevant information submitted during the examination of the application</li><li>any designation records, including those on the National Heritage List for England, or included on Cof Cymru for Wales.</li><li>historic landscape character records</li><li>the relevant Historic Environment Record(s), and similar sources of information</li><li>representations made by interested parties during the examination process</li><li>expert advice, where appropriate, and when the need to understand the significance of the heritage asset demands it</li></ul>	[EN010154/APP/6.1] and include the relevant local authority Historic Environment Record.
Paragraph 5.9.23	The Secretary of State must also comply with the requirements on listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, set out in Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. The methodology for the assessment is provided in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1], with reference to both embedded and additional mitigation provided at <b>Sections 7.6 and 7.8 of the Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. Cumulative Effects are assessed in <b>Section 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.24	In considering the impact of a proposed development on any heritage assets, the Secretary of State should consider the particular nature of the significance of the heritage assets and the value that they hold for this and future generations. This understanding should be used to	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	avoid or minimise conflict between their conservation and any aspect of the proposal.	
Paragraph 5.9.27	When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give great weight to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss, or less than substantial harm to its significance.	The criteria for assessing the significance of heritage assets are provided in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.28	The Secretary of State should give considerable importance and weight to the desirability of preserving all heritage assets. Any harm or loss of significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting) should require clear and convincing justification.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.29	Substantial harm to or loss of significance of a grade II Listed Building or a grade II Registered Park or Garden should be exceptional.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.30	Substantial harm to or loss of significance of assets of the highest significance, including Scheduled Monuments; Protected Wreck Sites; Registered Battlefields; grade I and II* Listed Buildings; grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens; and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.31	Where the proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset the Secretary of State should refuse	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	<p>consent unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm to, or loss of, significance is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site</li><li>• no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation</li><li>• conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible</li><li>• the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use</li></ul>	
Paragraph 5.9.32	Where the proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate securing its optimum viable use.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ].
Paragraph 5.9.33	In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ].
Paragraph 5.9.34	Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.30 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.32, as appropriate, as appropriate considering the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.	
Paragraph 5.9.35	Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the Secretary of State should not take its deteriorated state into account in any decision.	The current condition of heritage assets are described, where appropriate the <b>Section 7.5</b> , and assessed in <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ].
Paragraph 5.9.36	When considering applications for development affecting the setting of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to the desirability of preserving the setting such assets and treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, the Secretary of State should give great weight to any negative effects, when weighing them against the wider benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ], with further information presented in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment and 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.3</b> ].

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Paragraph 2.10.107	The impacts of solar PV developments on the historic environment will require expert assessment in most	The methodology for the assessment is provided in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ]. An
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Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	cases and may have effect both above and below ground.	assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ].
Paragraph 2.10.108	Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as on Historic Landscape Character.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ], with further information presented in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment, 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment and 7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.3</b> ].
Paragraph 2.10.109	Below ground impacts, although generally limited, may include direct impacts on archaeological deposits through ground disturbance associated with trenching, cabling, foundations, fencing, temporary haul routes etc.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon archaeological deposits is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ].
Paragraph 2.10.110	Equally solar PV developments may have a positive effect, for example archaeological assets may be protected by a solar PV farm as the site is removed from regular ploughing and stones or low-level piling is stipulated.	Impacts to archaeological assets are, where possible, avoided through design, as set out in <b>Section 7.6 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> . An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon archaeological deposits is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ], taking into account potential benefits of removing of areas of the DCO Site from ploughing.
Paragraph 2.10.112	Applicant assessments should be informed by information from Historic Environment Records (HERs) or the local authority.	Data sources are stated in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [ <b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b> ] and include the relevant local authority Historic Environment Record.

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.10.113	Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to, include heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. These should be carried out, using expertise where necessary and in consultation with the local planning authority, and should identify archaeological study areas and propose appropriate schemes of investigation, and design measures, to ensure the protection of relevant heritage assets.	A desk-based assessment is presented in <b>Appendix 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. Consultation undertaken with the local planning authorities is summarised at <b>Section 7.3 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.114	In some instances, field studies may include investigative work (and may include trial trenching beyond the boundary of the proposed site) to assess the impacts of any ground disturbance, such as proposed cabling, substation foundations or mounting supports for solar panels on archaeological assets.	Archaeological surveys and field evaluation are being undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The results of the geophysical survey (completed between 2023 and 2025) are available in <b>Appendix 7-G: Geophysical Survey Report</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]. Trial trench evaluation is currently ongoing and summarised in <b>Appendix 7-I: Trial Trenching Report (Interim)</b> [EN010154/APP/6.3].
Paragraph 2.10.115	The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of proposed ground disturbance in, the associated study area.	Archaeological surveys and field evaluation are being undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The scope of work, designed to ensure the work is proportionate, has been discussed through consultation with the local planning authorities is summarised at <b>Section 7.3 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.116	Applicants should take account of the results of historic environment assessments in their design proposal.	A desk-based assessment is presented in <b>Appendix 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
		Embedded mitigation measures considered in the design of the Proposed Development, are set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.117	Applicants should consider what steps can be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.118	As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms which depending on their scale, design and prominence, may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1], with detailed consideration of the setting presented in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment and 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].
Paragraph 2.10.119	Applicants may need to include visualisations to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets.	<b>Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] presents the findings of an assessment of the likely significant effects from Landscape and Visual Amenity and is supported by photomontages, presented in <b>Figure 10-9: Photomontages</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.2] that consider the setting of heritage assets. The results of the LVIA assessment and any relevant viewpoint photography and photomontages were taken into consideration of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.137	The ability of the applicants to microsite specific elements of the proposed development during the construction phase should be an important consideration	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	by the Secretary of State when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology.	
Paragraph 2.10.138	Where requested by the applicant, the Secretary of State should consider granting consents which allow for the micro siting within a specified tolerance of elements of the permitted infrastructure so that precise locations can be amended during the construction phase if unforeseen circumstances, such as the discovery of previously unknown archaeology, arise.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. Additional archaeological investigation and mitigation measures are considered in <b>Section 7.8 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] and within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].
Paragraph 2.10.160	Solar farms are generally consented on the basis that they will be time-limited in operation. The Secretary of State should therefore consider the length of time for which consent is sought when considering the impacts of any indirect effect on the historic environment, such as effects on the setting of designated heritage assets.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (November 2023)		
Paragraph 2.9.25	In such cases the Secretary of State should only grant development consent for underground or subsea sections of a proposed line over an overhead alternative if they are satisfied that the benefits accruing from the former proposal clearly outweigh any extra economic, social, or environmental impacts that it presents, the mitigation hierarchy has been followed, and that any technical obstacles associated with it are surmountable. In this context it should consider: (...)	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development, including underground cabling, upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Action needed and location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the potentially very disruptive effects of undergrounding on local communities, habitats, archaeological and heritage assets, marine environments, soil (including peat soils), hydrology, geology, and, for a substantial time after construction, landscape and visual amenity. (Undergrounding an overhead line will mean digging a trench along the length of the route, and so such works will often be disruptive – albeit temporarily – to the receptors listed above than would an overhead line of equivalent rating); (...)</li></ul>	

## 2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

2.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 12) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Paragraph 5 outlines that while the NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIPs, the NPPF is still relevant when considering the determination of DCOs. Therefore, the EIA for the Proposed Development has taken the NPPF into account.

2.3.2 Paragraph 8 defines three overarching objectives within the NPPF, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:

- 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;
- 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 well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
- An environmental objective:** to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

2.3.3 Section 16 of the NPPF explains how local planning authorities should determine planning applications with regard to Cultural Heritage, and the national planning policy associated with meeting the challenge of conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Relevant NPPF requirements relating to Cultural Heritage, along with an indication of where this information is located within the PEI Report to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Relevant NPPF (December 2024) Policy for Cultural Heritage**

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Action need and location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 207	<p>In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.</p>	<p>A desk-based assessment is presented in <b>Appendix 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment</b>, of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.3</a>] which identifies relevant designated heritage assets within the DCO Site and wider Study Areas using information from the Historic Environment Record and National Heritage List for England (NHLE). Archaeological surveys and field evaluation are being undertaken to allow the Applicant to enhance the baseline understanding of cultural heritage assets including their potential value. The results of the geophysical survey (completed between 2023 and 2025) are available in <b>Appendix 7-G: Geophysical Survey Report</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.3</a>]. Trial trench evaluation is currently ongoing and summarised in <b>Appendix 7-I: Trial Trenching Report (Interim)</b> [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.3</a>]). A preliminary assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.1</a>].</p>
Paragraph 208	<p>Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid</p>	<p>An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<a href="#">EN010154/APP/6.1</a>] as well as in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment, 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset</b></p>

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Action need and location of information provided to address this
	or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.	<b>Setting Assessment and 7-E Historic Landscape Character Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]
Paragraph 212	When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 213	<p>Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="485 816 1298 879">a. grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;</li> <li data-bbox="485 900 1320 1076">b. assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.</li> </ul>	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 214	Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:	An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Action need and location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;</li> <li>d. no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;</li> <li>e. conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and</li> <li>f. the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.</li> </ul>	
Paragraph 215	<p>Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.</p>	<p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b>].</p>
Paragraph 216	<p>The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.</p>	<p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon non-designated heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [<b>EN010154/APP/6.1</b>].</p>
Paragraph 218	<p>Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.</p>	<p>The proposed approach to the recording of assets before they are lost is presented within <b>Appendix 7-H: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</b> of the ES [<b>EN010154/APP/6.3</b>] and any requirements of the DCO will be complied with.</p>

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Action need and location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 221	<p>Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.</p>	<p>Embedded mitigation measures considered in the design of the Proposed Development, are set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1], and are used to inform the assessment of potential impacts upon archaeological assets and their setting which is presented in <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].</p>

## 3. Guidance

### 3.1 Planning Practice Guidance (2019)

- 3.1.1 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Ref 13) (originally published on 27 March 2012 and revised in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023 and most recently 12 December 2024) and provides national guidance for planning practice, which can reinforce the NPPF. The PPG is referred to in a footnote in NPS EN-1 (Ref 9), therefore it is of relevance and supports development of renewable energy infrastructure. The PPG provides guidance on the Historic Environment, including within Paragraph 013 (Reference ID: 18a-013-20190723) which determines what the 'setting' of a heritage asset is and how this can be taken into account when assessing applications that may affect the setting of a heritage asset.
- 3.1.2 The Historic Environment part of the PPG (Paragraph 018; Reference ID: 18a-018-20190723) also details how the possibility of harm to a heritage asset is assessed. Within this it is stated that when determining substantial harm "It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed". This harm may arise from works to the asset itself or from development within its setting.
- 3.1.3 The NPPF requires any harm to designated heritage assets to be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, and these benefits may deliver social, economic or environmental objectives. The Historic Environment part of the PPG states that these benefits should flow from the proposed development and be of a nature or scale to be of benefit to the public at large, and not just a private benefit. These benefits do not always have to be visible or accessible to the public in order to be genuine public benefits. (Paragraph 020; Reference ID: 18a-020-20190723).

### 3.2 Historic England Guidance

- 3.2.1 Historic England published a number of guidance documents, which set out how the planning system works to protect historic places and contains a number of Good Practice Advice (GPA) notes and Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs) that address plan-making and decision-taking along with other issues that are important in good decision-making and assessment and consideration of the historic environment resource as part of the planning process.
- 3.2.2 GPA Note 2 (Ref 14) reiterates that understanding the nature of the significance, the extent of that significance and the level of significance, of heritage assets is important to understanding the best means of conservation and how adaptable the asset may be. The applicant will be required to undertake an assessment of significance to inform the application process to understand as necessary the potential impacts of the proposal on heritage assets.

- 3.2.3 GPA Note 3 (Ref 15) provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, along with advice on how views contribute to setting. The document outlines a number of steps to undertaking a proportionate assessment of the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal.
- 3.2.4 Historic England Advice Note 12 (Ref 16) explores the significance of heritage assets as part of a staged approach to decision-making, within which assessing the significance precedes the designing of the proposal. The relationship with archaeological desk-based assessments and field evaluations, along with design and access statements are also described within this Advice Note. Interpretations of the various forms of heritage interest that an asset can possess, i.e., its archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest are also provided.
- 3.2.5 Historic England Advice Note 15 (Ref 17), explains how the historic environment should be taken fully into account during the planning and delivery of commercial renewable energy developments, in line with national policy. It reiterates the content of other advice notes in terms of understanding the significance of assets and the contribution that their setting makes to significance in order to assess impact and consider ways to minimise harm. It encourages the use of photomontages to inform assessments of potential impact on the setting of heritage assets, but also notes how a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is different from an assessment of setting. In relation to proposed solar farm developments the guidance highlights the potential for impacts to below ground archaeological assets and impacts through change to the setting of heritage assets. It notes that mitigation measures such as consideration of different foundation designs and technologies, and the use of tree and hedge planting to screen the development should be considered.
- 3.2.6 Historic England Conservation Principles (Ref 21) contains guidance for assessing heritage significance, with reference to contributing heritage values, in particular: evidential (archaeological), historical (illustrative and associative), aesthetic, and communal.
- 3.2.7 Additional guidance with regard to the assessment and understanding of potential of archaeological remains and deposits, as well as preservation of archaeological remains is presented within topic-specific guidance documents in relation to geoarchaeology (Ref 22), deposit-modelling (Ref 24), planning system, piling (0) and preserving archaeological remains (Ref 23).

### **3.3 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Historic Environmental Desk Based Assessment (2020)**

- 3.3.1 The baseline assessment undertaken within the ES has been carried out in accordance with guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), specifically the Standard and Guidance for Historic

Environmental Desk-Based Assessment (Ref 18) and in compliance with Code of Conduct which promotes the standards of conduct of CfA members and Registered Organisations (Ref 19). Further surveys which informed the ES were undertaken in accordance with further CfA guidance: Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey (Ref 36), Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (Ref 37) and Standard for archaeological field evaluation (Ref 38).

## 3.4 Principles of Cultural Heritage Assessment in the UK (2021)

3.4.1 Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (Ref 20) is a guide to good practice in cultural heritage impact assessment published jointly by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and the CfA. The document provides guidance in regard to understating cultural heritage assets and evaluating the consequences of change.

## 3.5 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook (2024)

3.5.1 The Archaeology Handbook, published by Lincolnshire County Council and revised in 2024, sets practical guidelines for consistent approach to the historic environment within the planning process, detailing aspects of relevance to the resource within Lincolnshire (Ref 25).

## 4. Local Planning Policy

4.1.1 Local planning policy documents concerning Cultural Heritage that are relevant to the Proposed Development, have been outlined below and policy relevant to these documents further considered within **Table 3**.

### 4.2 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

4.2.1 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref 26) was adopted in April 2023 and is an update to the previous Central Lincolnshire Plan that was adopted in 2017. The Local Plan was revised to ensure it remains current and consistent with latest national guidelines and local circumstances. The Local Plan contains planning policies and allocations for the growth and regeneration of Central Lincolnshire over the next 20 years.

### 4.3 Neighbourhood Plans

#### **The Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2036)**

4.3.1 The Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2036) (Ref 27) sets out its policies relating to the continuing development of the parish of Bassingham.

#### **Coleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2018-2036)**

4.3.2 Coleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2018-2036) (Ref 28) sets out Coleby Parish's commitment to protecting its local heritage. The Neighbourhood Plan highlights the need to preserve the historic character of the parish, whilst allowing for an appropriate level of development.

#### **Thorpe on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2036)**

4.3.3 Thorpe on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan (2018-2036) (Ref 29) sets out the Thorpe on the Hill Parish's commitment to protecting its local heritage, whilst allowing for an appropriate level of development.

### 4.4 Conservation Area Appraisals

4.4.1 North Kesteven District Council adopted Conservation Area Appraisals for the following Conservation Areas which fall within the Study Areas for the DCO Site:

- a. Bassingham Conservation Area Appraisal (Ref 30);
- b. Coleby Conservation Area Appraisal (Ref 31);
- c. Harmston Conservation Area Appraisal (Ref 32);
- d. Navenby Conservation Area Appraisal (Ref 33);
- e. Waddington Conservation Area Appraisal (Ref 34).

**Table 3: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Cultural Heritage**

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of Information provided to address this
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)	<p>Policy S57: The Historic Environment states that development proposals should protect, conserve and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment of Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The policy sets out the criteria for development that proposals must adhere to if they affect the significance of a heritage asset; alter or change heritage assets; result in substantial harm to assets.</p> <p>Where a development proposal would result in less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, permission will only be granted where the public benefits outweigh the harm.</p> <p>The policy also sets out how development proposals will be determined where they affect Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Archaeology.</p>	<p>Impacts to heritage assets and their setting will, where possible, be avoided through design, as set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].</p> <p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].</p>
Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2036)	<p>ES3: Heritage Assets states heritage assets and their settings will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced, to maintain the quality of Bassingham's built heritage and historic environment. Any development proposal affecting a heritage asset, or its setting should contribute positively to conserving and enhancing the asset. Where a Design and Access Statement is required it should provide sufficient detail for proposals to be properly understood and a Heritage Statement may be necessary depending on the scale and significance of the impacts of the proposal. Requirements for information supporting such proposals may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawings showing the proposal in relation to surroundings including elevations and sections;</li> <li>• Three-dimensional drawings from single multiple viewpoints; and</li> <li>• Rendered elevations to demonstrate the proposed palette of materials.</li> <li>• Design and Access Statements should include detail of how the proposal has taken account of the content of the latest Conservation Area appraisal.</li> </ul>	<p>Impacts to heritage assets in Bassingham and their settings will, where possible, be avoided through design, as set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].</p> <p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets is made within <b>Section 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1] and detailed settings assessment is included in <b>Appendices 7-B Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment and 7-D Detailed Heritage Asset Setting Assessment</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3].</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of Information provided to address this
Coleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2018-2036)	Policy 1 highlights that development proposals must demonstrate that they can be carried out without negatively impacting upon the setting of the village, the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, the character, extent, setting or usage of any heritage asset, and the landscape character.	Impacts to heritage assets in Coleby and their settings will, where possible, be avoided through design, as set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].
Thorpe on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2036)	Policy 6: Design and Character of Development states that development should complement the established character of Thorpe on the Hill. The document also states, under Objective 4, the heritage of the village should be cherished and respected by ensuring that new buildings complement their built and natural surroundings.	Impacts to heritage assets in Thorpe on the Hill and their settings will, where possible, be avoided through design, as set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

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