

# **Dean Moor** Solar Farm

# Environmental Statement: Chapter 1 – Introduction

on behalf of FVS Dean Moor Limited

March 2025 Prepared by: Stantec UK Ltd PINS Ref: EN010155 Document Ref: 6.1 Revision: 1







## DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE EN010155 PREPARED ON BEHALF OF FVS DEAN MOOR LIMITED

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, Regulation 5(2)(a)

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## 1 Environmental Statement Chapter 1: Introduction

#### 1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement ('ES') has been prepared on behalf of FVS Dean Moor Limited (the 'Applicant') in relation to an application to be made to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ('PA 2008'), seeking a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Dean Moor Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 This ES provides the findings of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects resulting from the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, including measures where necessary, to mitigate significant adverse environmental effects.
- 1.1.3 This ES represents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') undertaken for the Proposed Development and has been compiled in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations')<sup>1</sup>, including Regulation 14 and Schedule 4, discussed as follows in this chapter.
- 1.1.4 The ES has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations, the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements'<sup>2</sup> and the Planning Inspectorate's 'Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development'<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> HM Government (2020). Planning Inspectorate Guidance Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> HM Government (2024). Planning Inspectorate Guidance Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development



#### 1.2 Overview

- 1.2.1 This chapter is supported by the following appendix:
  - Appendix 1.1: Statement of Expertise [REF: 6.3].
- 1.2.2 This chapter is supported by the following figure. Where an insert of a figure is included in the text, the figure is provided separately:
  - Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan [REF: 6.2].

#### **1.3 The Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

- 1.3.1 The requirement for EIA of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('NSIPs') is transposed into law through the EIA Regulations. The EIA Regulations set out the statutory process and minimum requirements for the provision of adequate environmental information to enable the EIA process.
- 1.3.2 The EIA Regulations specify which developments are required to undergo EIA, and schemes relevant to the NSIP planning process are listed under either 'Schedule 1' or 'Schedule 2'. The developments listed in Schedule 1 must be subject to EIA, while developments listed in 'Schedule 2' are only subject to EIA if they are considered *'likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as their nature, size or location'* (Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations). The selection criteria for Schedule 2 development are set out in Schedule 3. The Proposed Development is a 'Schedule 2' development under paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, as it constitutes *'industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water'*, and is not a project listed in Schedule 1.

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## Table 1.1: Location of Information Required by Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 ofthe EIA Regulations

Specified Information		Location within the ES	
'Reg	'Regulation 14 (2) An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least -		
(a)	A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;	Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description <b>[REF:</b> 6.1]	
(b)	A description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	Technical Chapters 6 – 10 <b>[REF: 6.1]</b>	
(c)	A description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;	Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description, Chapter 5 Construction and Decommissioning Phasing and Methodology, Technical Chapters 6 – 10, and Commitments Register (Appendix 11.1) <b>[REF: 6.3]</b>	
(d)	A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution <b>[REF: 6.1]</b>	
(e)	A non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and	Separate Standalone Non- Technical Summary <b>[REF: 6.4]</b>	
(f)	Any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.'	Technical Chapters 6 – 10.	
Reg	ulation 14 (3) The environmental statement referred to in parag	raph (1) must -	
(a)	'Where a scoping opinion has been adopted, be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion);	Chapter 2 EIA Methodology [REF: 6.1]	
(b)	Include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and	Technical Chapters 6 – 10.	
(c)	Be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which is reasonably available to the applicant with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.'	Appendix 8.7 Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment <b>[REF:</b> <b>6.3]</b>	
Reg	ulation 14 (4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality o	of the environmental statement -	
(a)	'The applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and	A 'Statement of Expertise' is provided in Appendix 1.1.	

Sno	Specified Information		
Spe			
(b)	The environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.'		
Sch	edule 4: 1. A description of the development, including in particu	ular -	
(a)	'A description of the location of the development;	Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description.	
(b)	A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;	Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description and Chapter 5 Construction and Decommissioning Phasing and Methodology.	
(c)	A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used;	Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description.	
(d)	An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.'	Technical Chapters 6 – 10.	
'Scl exa size prop of th con	'Schedule 4: 2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.'		
'Scl stat like as f ass env	'Schedule 4: 3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.'		
'Scl 5(2) pop flora mat hyd (for ada arch	<ul> <li>'Schedule 4: 4. A description of the factors specified in regulation</li> <li>5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development:</li> <li>population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and</li> <li>flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic</li> <li>matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example</li> <li>hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate</li> <li>(for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to</li> <li>adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including</li> <li>architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape'</li> </ul>		
Sch resi	edule 4: 5. A description of the likely significant effects of the de ulting from, inter alia -	evelopment on the environment	
(a)	'The construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;	Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description, Chapter 5 Construction and Decommissioning Phasing and	

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Specified Information		Location within the ES
		Methodology and Technical Chapters 6 – 10.
(b)	The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;	Chapters 5 and Chapter 8 [REF: 6.1]
(c)	The emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;	Chapter 5 Construction and Decommissioning Phasing and Methodology.
(d)	The risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);	Technical Chapters 6 – 10 and Chapter 10 of the PEIR Socio- economics (Appendix 2.7) <b>[REF: 6.3]</b> . Accidents and Disasters Scoped out of the ES.
(e)	The cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;	Technical Chapters 6 – 10.
(f)	The impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;	Chapter 9 Climate Change [REF: 6.1]
(g)	The technologies and the substances used.'	Chapters 3 Site and Proposed Development Description, Chapter 5 Construction and Decommissioning Phasing and Methodology, and Technical Chapters 6 – 10.
'The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC(2).'		
'Schedule 4: 6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.'		
'Sch prev adv any prep exp env sho	'Schedule 4: 7. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.'	



Specified Information	Location within the ES
'Schedule 4: 8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom(4) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.'	Scoped out of the ES, see Chapter 2 and Chapter 10 Ground Conditions <b>[REF: 6.1]</b> .
'Schedule 4: 9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.'	Separate standalone Non- Technical Summary.
'Schedule 4: 10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.'	Provided as footnotes and endnotes within each chapter of the ES.

- 1.3.3 The EIA process can be broadly summarised as consisting of three main elements that take place prior to the submission of a DCO application:
  - Scoping: an applicant is required to submit a scoping report in support of a request for a scoping opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, who conduct scoping on behalf of the Secretary of State for DESNZ. The Planning Inspectorate must consult prescribed consultation bodies before adopting a scoping opinion. The request for a scoping opinion (refer to Appendix 2.1 Scoping Report) [REF: 6.3] was submitted by the Applicant on 7 August 2023, and the Scoping Opinion (refer to Appendix 2.2 Scoping Opinion) [REF: 6.3] was adopted on 14 September 2023.
  - <u>Consultation</u>: an applicant is required to conduct pre-application consultation in accordance with the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations. For EIA development, an applicant must consult on preliminary environmental information (as listed in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations):
    - The preliminary information compiled by the Applicant (in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR')) presented the preliminary findings of the environmental assessments in sufficient detail to allow consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the Proposed Development, the assessment process, and preliminary findings prior to submission of the ES.
    - The PEIR was published to accompany statutory consultation and publicity under Sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008.
       Feedback was sought from the local communities and other



stakeholders during the statutory consultation period. Elements of the design, baseline conditions, and assessment methodology have been updated in response to the statutory consultation; where relevant these amendments will be discussed in ES Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Evolution and have formed the basis for the assessment undertaken in the ES.

- ES Preparation: this ES has been prepared considering the responses to the statutory consultation and ongoing engagement with statutory stakeholders. This ES advances the content of the PEIR and incorporates the design responses to the consultation and the results of the further surveys undertaken since the PEIR.
  - Consultation responses to the PEIR and ongoing engagement have informed the refinement of the Proposed Development's design, which is assessed in this ES for likely significant environmental effects. The issues that have been raised through statutory consultation and how these have been considered and addressed by the Proposed Development are presented within Chapter 2 – EIA Methodology, Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Evolution and, where specific to a technical discipline, within the methodology sections of each technical chapter of this ES. This ES forms part of the DCO application.
- 1.3.4 A flow chart of the DCO application process is shown in Diagram 1.

#### **Diagram 1: Flowchart of the DCO application process**



#### 1.4 The Consenting Process

- 1.4.1 The DCO application process is split into six stages. This ES relates to the first stage (pre-application):
  - Pre-application (the DCO application is currently at this stage);
  - Acceptance;
  - Pre-examination;
  - Examination;
  - Decision; and
  - Post-decision.



#### 1.5 The Proposed Development

- 1.5.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic ('PV') energy generating station with a total capacity exceeding 50 Megawatts ('MW') comprising solar PV arrays, grid connection infrastructure, associated infrastructure, and green infrastructure.
- 1.5.2 The Proposed Development will be located on approximately 276.5 hectares ('ha') of land located between the villages of Gilgarran and Branthwaite in West Cumbria (the 'Site') (see Figure 1.1), which is situated within the administrative area of Cumberland Council ('the Council'). The Proposed Development will be within the 'Order Limits' (the land shown on the Works Plans **[REF: 2.3]** within which the Proposed Development can be carried out). The extent of the Site is the same as the Order Limits, both shown on Figure 1.1.
- 1.5.3 The Site is divided into four main areas (Areas A, B, C, and D). Further information on these areas is provided within Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description and Figure 3.1.



#### 1.6 The Applicant

- 1.6.1 FVS Dean Moor Limited (the 'Applicant') is a joint-venture partnership between two renewable energy development specialists: Firma Energy ('Firma Energy') and ib vogt ('IBV').
- 1.6.2 Firma Energy, founded in 2021, is an independent management-owned energy development company based in Leeds. Firma Energy focuses on creating and delivering renewable energy developments with environmental and social benefits.
- 1.6.3 IBV is a leading utility-scale solar development platform with a global footprint and a 20-year track record of solar farm design and engineering, construction, and operational site management.

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#### 1.7 National Policy Statements

- 1.7.1 Under Section 104 of the PA 2008, the Secretary of State must have regard to any relevant National Policy Statements ('NPS') and the application must be determined in accordance with them. Other matters the Secretary of State must have regard to under Section 104 include any local impact report, any matters prescribed in relation to development of the description to which the application relates, and any other matters which the Secretary of State thinks are both important and relevant to the decision.
- 1.7.2 The NPS set out the Government's objectives for the development of NSIPs, and each NPS covers a different sector of nationally significant infrastructure. There are currently three NPSs that are applicable to the determination of this DCO application, which are summarised in section 1.8.
- 1.7.3 The topic chapters of this ES refer to the national policy contained within the NPSs where relevant. The Planning Statement, submitted as part of the application outlines how the Proposed Development complies with the relevant NPSs.

#### 1.8 Approach to Planning Policy

- 1.8.1 There are three current NPSs that have effect in relation to the DCO application for the Proposed Development:
  - a. Overarching NPS for Energy ('EN-1') (designated January 2024)<sup>4</sup>: Sets out a commitment for the UK to transition to a low carbon economy and establishes the national need for energy infrastructure. It also includes a series of 'Assessment Principles' against which DCO applications for energy infrastructure should be determined. It sets out the Government's policy for delivery of major energy infrastructure to reach the legally binding net zero target by 2050, as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.
  - b. EN-1 specifically addresses the role of solar, stating solar is one of the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity. UK government analysis demonstrates that a secure, reliable, affordable, and net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> HM Government (2024). Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1)



wind and solar. It is also recognised that ensuring an affordable and reliable energy system today, and in the future, requires these technologies to be complemented by a means to supply electricity, or reduce demand, when the wind is not blowing, or the sun does not shine.

c. NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure ('EN-3') (designated January 2024)<sup>5</sup>: Should be read in conjunction with EN-1. EN-3 provides the primary basis for decisions by the Secretary of State on applications for renewable energy NSIPs, including solar PV above 50MW in England. EN-3 recognises solar farms as one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation worldwide. It provides clear support for large scale solar development, stating that:

'The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low cost decarbonization of the energy sector'.

The NPS sets out the urgent need for, and commitment to, the provision of new electricity generating capacity to meet national energy objectives. Paragraphs 2.10.18 to 2.10.72 set out the factors and technical considerations influencing site selection and design. These are as follows and are considered further in Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution as to how they have informed the location and design of the Proposed Development:

- Irradiance and site topography;
- Network connection;
- Proximity to dwellings;
- Agricultural land classification and land type;
- Accessibility;
- Public Rights of Way;
- Security and lighting;
- Capacity of a site;
- Site layout, design and appearance;
- Proposed Development lifespan (Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description);
- Decommissioning (Chapter 5 Construction and Decommissioning Methodology and Phasing); and
- Flexibility in the Proposed Development (Chapter 3 Site and Proposed Development Description).

Furthermore, EN-3 recognises the important role solar will have in delivering the UK's goals for greater energy independence and that low carbon energy infrastructure, including solar, is a *'Critical National* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> HM Government (2024). DESNZ National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3).



*Priority*'. The *British Energy Security Strategy*<sup>6</sup> states that government expects a five-fold increase in solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW).

d. NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure ('EN-5') (designated January 2024)<sup>7</sup>: Should be read in conjunction with EN-1 and EN-3. EN-5 sets out required assessments and technology-specific matters for consideration. It covers above ground electricity lines where nominal voltage is expected to be 132kV or above. However, paragraph 1.6.4 states that any other kind of electricity infrastructure (including underground cables at any voltage and associated infrastructure such as substations) will be covered by this NPS if it constitutes associated development for which consent is sought along with an NSIP, such as a generating station.

#### 1.9 Local Planning Policy

- 1.9.1 As of 1 April 2023, Allerdale Borough Council ('ABC') merged with Copeland Borough Council and Carlisle City Council to become Cumberland Council ('the Council'), which is now the administrative authority within which the Site is located. The Site is located within the former administrative boundary of ABC.
- 1.9.2 The Council is preparing the Cumberland Local Plan 2025-2045 for which the evidence gathering, and early-stage consultation is planned for March 2025 to March 2026<sup>8</sup>. The ABC Local Plan<sup>9</sup> is considered relevant to the Proposed Development, as there are no new planning policies that have been adopted following the formation of the Council in April 2023 and as the Cumberland Local Plan is in the early stages of drafting.
- 1.9.3 In April 2021, ABC agreed an action plan<sup>10</sup> for tackling climate change. This sets targets to ensure emissions from its estate and activities are carbon neutral by 2030. At the same time, ABC ratified commitment to the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and its net zero target for the whole county by 2037. In doing so, it committed to putting in place policies for ABC to support the Government's statutory obligation to achieve net zero by 2050.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> HM Government (2022). Policy paper British energy security strategy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> HM Government (2024). DESNZ. National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Cumberland Council (2024). Cumberland Council Local Development Scheme March 2024 to March 2027.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) (2014) The Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> ABC (2023). Action plan to address climate change.



- 1.9.4 Within the ABC climate change action plan, it outlines that in April 2019, all Cumbrian local authorities, and the Lake District National Park Authority ('LDNPA') formally adopted the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy 2019 incorporating a pledge for Cumbria, *'to become a 'carbon neutral' County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change'*.
- 1.9.5 The Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy provides four priority areas which are addressed in ABC's Action Plan. Climate change has been considered below as the most relevant priority area to the Proposed Development:

#### 'Climate Change

Slowing, stopping and then removing the greenhouse gases from our atmosphere is an ambitious target – achievable only with joined up thinking and commitment across all areas of local government and our communities. Local Councils are an indispensable partner in reaching the national target of net zero by 2050.'

 1.9.6 The ABC Local Plan (Part 1) - Strategic and Development Management Policies was adopted in July 2014 and sets out a vision for ABC until 2029. The following policies are considered relevant to the Proposed Development:

#### Strategic Policy S2: Sustainable Development Principles:

'The Local Plan will promote sustainable development as a core principle running through the entire plan. All development within the Plan Area, regardless of scale or nature, will be assessed against this policy.



Economic:

The Council will: ... Encourage the development of renewable or low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations given the potential wider environmental, community and economic benefits; ...'

## Strategic Policy S19: Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies:

'The Council will seek to promote and encourage the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources given the significant wider environmental, community and economic benefits. Proposals where impacts (either in isolation or cumulatively) are, or can be made acceptable will be permitted.

The Council will take a positive view where:

a) Proposals (either in isolation or cumulatively):

*i.* Do not have an unacceptably adverse impact on the amenity of local residents (such as air quality/emissions, noise, odour, water pollution, shadow flicker);

*ii.* Do not have significant adverse impact on the location, in relation to visual impact and impact on the character and sensitivity of the surrounding landscape;

iii. Do not have an adverse effect on any European/International protected nature conservation site (including SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites, candidate SACs, potential SPAs and proposed Ramsar sites) including its qualifying habitats and species, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

*iv.* Do not have a significant adverse effect on any National nature conservation site (Site of Special Scientific Interest; National Nature Reserve), except where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh both the impact on the site and any broader impacts on the wider network of National sites.

v. Do not result in loss or harm to a Local nature conservation site, including habitats or species supported by Local Sites, unless it can be demonstrated that there is a need for the development in that location and that the benefit of development outweighs the harm or loss.

vi. Do not have unacceptably adverse impact on heritage assets and their settings; ...

c) Appropriate operational requirements are addressed (including accessibility and suitability of road network, ability to connect to the grid, proximity of any relevant feedstock);

d) Appropriate measures are included for the removal of structures and the restoration of sites, should sites become non-operational;

e) Potential benefits to the local economy and the local community, including agriculture and other land based industries are considered.'

1.9.7 Other topic-specific local planning policies that are relevant to the

Proposed Development will be set out by respective disciplines throughout the ES.



#### 1.10 The Structure of the ES

1.10.1 This ES comprises three volumes, including a Non-Technical Summary ('NTS'). Authors of each chapter and the structure of the ES are set out in Table 1.2. In accordance with Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations, the ES has been prepared by competent experts and the relevant expertise or qualifications of the experts are provided at Appendix 1.1.

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	
Volume 1: ES Non-Technical Summary Summary of the ES in non-technical language		
Volume 2: ES M	Volume 2: ES Main Text and Figures	
1	Introduction	
2	EIA Methodology	
3	Site and Proposed Development Description	
4	Alternatives and Design Evolution	
5	Construction and Decommissioning Methodology and Phasing	
6	Cultural Heritage	
7	Landscape and Visual	
8	Biodiversity	
9	Climate Change	
10	Ground Conditions	
11	Cumulative Effects and Residual Effects Summary	
Volume 3: ES Technical Appendices		

#### Table 1.2: Structure of the ES

Technical data, figures, plans and reports to support the chapters in Volume 2.

A full list of authors is provided in Volume 3 and appendices are signposted as appropriate throughout Volume 2.