

## Local Planning Authority Response to the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1)

Application by FVS Dean Moor Limited for an order granting development consent for the Dean Moor Solar Farm

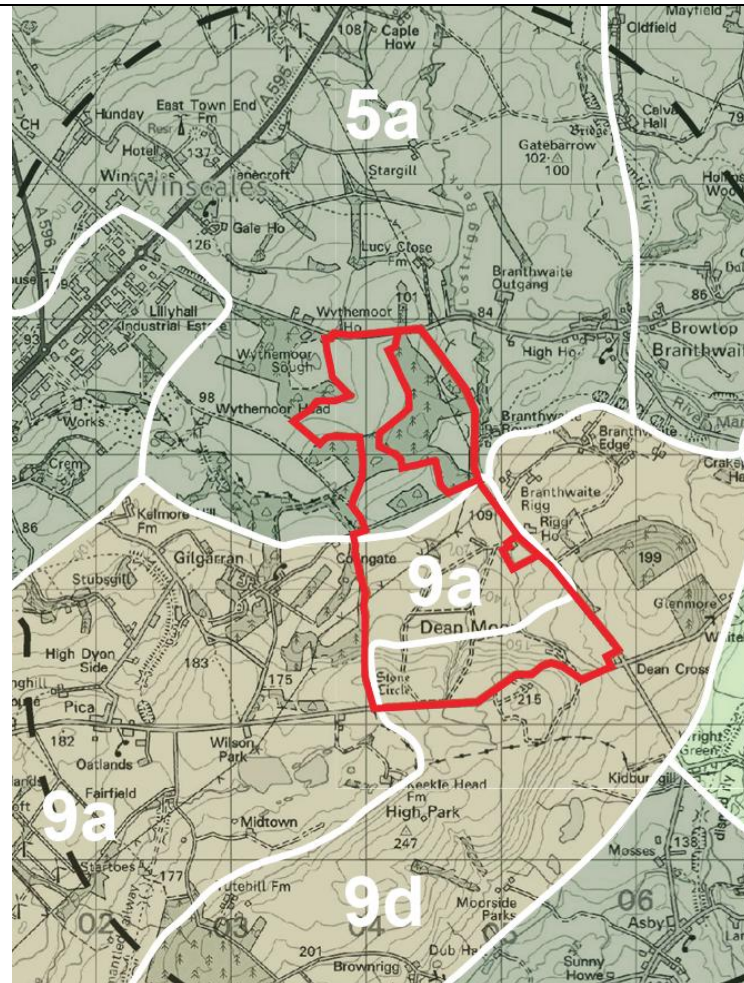
	ExA Written Question	Council Response
Q1.0.13	Please set out how the scheme addresses the mitigation hierarchy in relation to the Dean Moor County Wildlife site, noting that part of this site would include solar development (this may be answered as part of Q1.0.11).	<p>The southern part of the site falls within the Dean Moor County Wildlife Site (CWS).</p> <p>This designation has not been considered when classifying the strategic significance of the site. Any areas that fall within the boundary of the Dean Moor CWS should have a strategic significance of "formally identified in local strategy". Areas that are adjacent or connected to the CWS should have a strategic significance of "location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy".</p> <p>The Council considered that the Applicant should provide further information on the mitigation hierarchy in relation to Dean Moor CWS.</p>
Q4.0.7	ES chapter 2 – please confirm that the list of cumulative schemes set out in table 2.6 is complete and should be used by the ExA to inform the cumulative assessment, otherwise please provide an alternative list. This was also requested by the ExA in relation to a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) in the rule 6 letter.	The Council provided additional details of potential sites for consideration under cumulative assessment on 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2025. The Applicant is currently considering these additional sites. It is not anticipated that any of them will alter the assessment of cumulative effects in the ES to any great extent.
Q6.0.7	<p>The CLVIA page 12 <a href="#">[AS-005]</a> includes a table which alludes to 'locally' in terms of magnitude of impact and degree of significance. Please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whether the table, including the terminology used, is in accordance with Guidelines</li> </ul>	(a) Locally – refers to the development area and immediate vicinity within the landscape character areas. See extract plan (APP-080 6.2 ES Figure 7.2a Published Landscape Character (Cumbria CC)) below which shows extent of the proposed development (in red) over the different LCAs and the extent of coverage of the proposed development within the LCAs.

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for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd edition (GLVIA 3) guidance or other guidance

- where the stated 'local' impacts as above are derived from (for example, whether they are taken from the description of landscape changes as set out in the ES, or whether they are landscape and visual judgments made by the author(s) of the CLVIA).



There would be a direct and high magnitude of impact due to the presence of solar panels within those LCAs. The overall impact on those character areas would be as described in each case as the overall magnitude of impact on the area would generally be indirect and generally lower (as seen in the submitted

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		<p>LVIA). Therefore, 'locally' really means 'within the boundary of the proposed development and immediate vicinity, where there would be a direct effect on the landscape character. i.e. 'a change from open fields to fields with solar panels.'</p> <p>The following references from the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) refers to local and locally in relation to LCAs.</p> <p>GLVIA para 5.12 – reference to local scale and use of landscape character assessments:</p> <p><i>'Using existing character assessments - Many parts of the UK are already covered by existing character assessments at different scales. There is a hierarchy of assessment, from broad-scale national or regional assessments, through to more detailed local authority assessments, to in some cases quite fine-grain local or community assessments. Although usually prepared for different original purposes, existing assessments can also contribute to LVIA. The first step in preparing the landscape baseline should be to review any relevant assessments that may be available at different levels in this hierarchy. Those published and adopted by competent authorities are usually the most robust and considered documents.'</i></p> <p>GLVIA para 5.25 – This reference provides the context to the use of 'locally valued landscapes':</p> <p><i>'Local landscape designations - In many parts of the UK local authorities identify locally valued landscapes and recognise them through local designations of various types.'</i></p> <p>GLVIA 5.26 – This reference relates to the LCAs where the proposed development would reside in a locally undesignated landscape:</p> <p><i>'Undesignated landscapes - The fact that an area of landscape is not designated either nationally or locally does not mean that it does not have any value. This is particularly so in areas of the UK where in recent years relevant national planning</i></p>
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		<p><i>policy and advice has on the whole discouraged local designations unless it can be shown that other approaches would be inadequate. The European Landscape Convention promotes the need to take account of all landscapes, with less emphasis on the special and more recognition that ordinary landscapes also have their value, supported by the landscape character approach.'</i></p> <p>(b) They are landscape and visual judgments made by the author(s) of the CLVIA).</p>
Q7.0.1	<p>There does not appear to be any provision made for a scheme/plan which promotes local employment and skills. With reference to local policies and NPS EN-1, please set out how the proposal meets requirements in this regard and, if it does not, please set out how policy compliance could be achieved.</p>	<p>There could be more consideration given to the Councils corporate priority to increase Community Wealth Building (corporate policy and Local Plan Strategic Objective SO3g and Policies S15and S20) by upskilling local workers in key fields, such as solar.</p> <p>The Council believes that opportunities exist to try and utilise the local workforce where possible. There is an established and skilled supply chain linked to the nuclear industry locally that could support deliver of the project.</p> <p>The Council would welcome further discussion with the Applicant on this matter and the consideration of a potential Employment and Skills Plan.</p>
Q14.0.1	<p>ES Chapter 2, Table 2.7 <a href="#">[APP-033]</a> notes that a Construction Dust Risk Assessment was not undertaken, citing limited proximity of sensitive receptors and the inclusion of dust mitigation measures within section 8 of the oCEMP <a href="#">[APP-108]</a>. It further indicates that this approach was agreed with the Environmental Health Officer at Cumberland Council, with supporting</p>	<p>Although it is not specifically documented the Council accepted the information provided about the limited proximity of receptors. Therefore, it is acknowledged that a specific Dust Risk Assessment would be difficult to produce.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the dust mitigation measures proposed within the oCEMP would mitigate at source to limit dust leaving the site during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>In the circumstances the Council consider that this would be the best approach in this case.</p>

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	<p>correspondence provided in ES Appendix 2.9 <a href="#">[APP-106]</a>. However, the correspondence does not clearly confirm whether Cumberland Council agreed to the scoping out of the Construction Dust Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Could both the applicant and Cumberland Council please supply further evidence of this agreement? If such agreement is not confirmed, the applicant is requested to provide a qualitative dust impact assessment, based on relevant guidance, to demonstrate that the proposed mitigation measures are proportionate to the anticipated scale of effects.</p>	
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