



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

**The Examining Authority's second written questions and requests for information (ExQ2)**

**Issued on 14 October 2025**

**Response by the Lake District National Park Authority**

**28 October 2025**

**Your ref: EN010155**

**Our ref: 7/2025/E0064**

**Our Identification number: F68E6D71E**

## **EXQ.2 Question Q2.4.1**

In Section 4. Landscape and Visual Effects question Q2.4.1 is addressed to the applicant and the Lake District National Park Authority.

The following is the answer on behalf of the Lake District National Park Authority:

### Section 11A

- 1.1 Section 11A National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 imposes to a responsibility on any 'relevant authority' to seek to further the purposes of National Parks. This responsibility applies to the Lake District National Park Authority and the ExA as relevant authorities exercising their roles as interested party and decision maker in respect of the scheme.

### NPPF189: Great weight

- 1.2 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states that 'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues'. A finding of minor harm to the scenic beauty of the Lake District National Park should therefore be given great weight in the consideration of this development proposal.
- 1.3 This presents the decision maker with a tilted balance where the adverse visual effect on the National Park gain great weight and the benefits on the other side of the scale may have normal weight. That great weight has to have regard to the magnitude of the effect and be weighed against the benefits arising. Giving great weight to a very low magnitude of effect will not necessarily result in a balance that tips against the development. Where there are large or numerous benefits on the other side of the scale, the decision maker may conclude that the benefits outweigh the harm identified.

### Minor harm to visual amenity

- 1.4 The magnitude of the effect from the identified views from the fells would be 'very low' having regard to the small number of locations where views would be located, that the development would be visible as part of a wide sweep of view and the distance of the site from the viewpoints, notwithstanding the size of the development.
- 1.5 The sensitivity of users of the areas where views are available will be high since these will predominantly be recreational users visiting the high fells for quiet enjoyment, including the appreciation of the available views.
- 1.6 It should be noted that the minor harm results from a very low magnitude of effect combined with a high sensitivity.

- 1.7 The LDNPA and the applicant agree that the development would result in 'minor harm' to the visual amenity of the Lake District National Park for the lifetime of the development.

Residual harm

- 1.8 This minor harm is the residual effect once mitigation measures have been taken into account, over the lifetime of the development.
- 1.9 The development is proposed to have a 40 year lifespan. After decommissioning as proposed, the harm would be reversed, and once the panels are removed and the site restored, there would be no adverse residual effect.
- 1.10 For the lifespan of the development there would therefore be minor harm to the visual amenity (the appreciation of natural beauty) of the Lake District National Park.

Weighing against statutory purposes of National Park

- 1.11 National Park Purposes are:  
(a) of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the areas specified in the next following subsection; and  
(b) of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public."
- 1.12 The development would not have an adverse effect on the wildlife of the National Park. It would not have an adverse effect on the cultural heritage of the National Park, except in regard to the effect on the English Lake District World Heritage Site attribute of Outstanding Universal Value relating to the extra-ordinary beauty and harmony, that mirrors the effect on visual amenity. The development would not have an effect on the opportunities for the public to access the special qualities of the National Park.
- 1.13 The development would, for the period of its construction, operation and decommissioning, have a minor adverse effect on visual amenity of certain views that translate into an adverse effect on natural beauty, and the enjoyment of that natural beauty by the public. The magnitude of such effects would be very low.
- 1.14 Having regard to Section 11A of the 1949 Act the ExA needs to weigh this effect against the benefits of the scheme in delivering carbon savings, energy security, reliability and affordability and the other local enhancements proposed. The very low magnitude of effect, even with the great weight to be afforded to the effect, would appear capable of being outweighed by the nature and amount of benefits described.

██████████  
Area Planner

On Behalf of Lake District National Park Authority

28 October 2025