



Pearmtree Hill Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1

Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA

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5 Approach to the EIA

5.1 Introduction and context

- 5.1.1 This chapter presents the approach and methodology applied to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development. EIA is a systematic process undertaken to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects (beneficial or adverse) on the environment resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of a proposed development. The EIA process identifies measures to mitigate or manage any significant negative (adverse) effects. The EIA ensures decision makers make an informed judgment on the environmental impacts of a proposed development.
- 5.1.2 The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIAs which must be undertaken for NSIPs in England and Wales.
- 5.1.3 The EIA has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance, which is set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Background and Context [EN010157/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.1.4 EIA is an iterative process taking place alongside the design of the Proposed Development. The design of the Proposed Development, as presented in this ES, has been informed by the ongoing EIA process (which is informed by technical assessments) and scoping, and ongoing consultation and engagement responses, as detailed further within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]**, **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 1 Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1]**, and within the **Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]** and **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010157/APP/5.2]** submitted in support of the DCO Application.
- 5.1.5 This chapter is supported by the following appendices presented in **ES Volume 4 [EN010157/APP/6.4]**:
- **Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report**
 - **Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion**
 - **Appendix 5.3: Scoping Opinion Response Matrix**
 - **Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Assessment**
 - **Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report**

- **Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment.**

5.2 Overview of the EIA process

5.2.1 The EIA Regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIAs which must be undertaken for NSIPs in England and Wales.

5.2.2 The main stages of the EIA process are as follows:

- **EIA Screening:** Screening is undertaken to determine whether a proposed development constitutes 'EIA Development', as detailed in Section 1.5 of **ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Background and Context [EN010157/APP/6.1]**. The Applicant recognises that the Proposed Development has the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects. Consequently, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]** of its intention to prepare an ES in respect of the Proposed Development. Therefore, by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development is considered 'EIA Development', requiring an EIA to be undertaken and an ES prepared.
- **EIA Scoping:** EIA Scoping refers to the process of identifying the scope of the EIA for the Proposed Development with the relevant decision maker (in the case of a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State). As detailed in **Section 5.5**, an EIA Scoping Report was prepared by the Applicant in respect of the Proposed Development and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 9 November 2023 and a Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State on 20 December 2023.
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report:** The Preliminary Environmental Information Report, as stated in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, sets out the preliminary environmental information for the Proposed Development. The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report is to provide sufficient information to enable consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development being proposed. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report was prepared by the Applicant and published as part of the Statutory Consultation which took place between May – July 2024.
- **ES:** An ES is submitted as part of an application for development consent and is taken into account during the decision making process. This ES presents the results of the EIA undertaken for the Proposed

Development and sets out the likely significant environmental effects that would result from the pre-construction, construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or the decommissioning of the Proposed Development, alongside the proposed mitigation measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects.

5.3 Assessment approach and guidance

- 5.3.1 The EIA is undertaken in accordance with the legislation and guidance relevant to the specific environmental factors being assessed. The EIA tailors each environmental factor that is assessed to the relevant industry standard methods and criteria, using professional opinion where it is appropriate to do so. Further detail on the assessment approach and methodology applied to each environmental factor assessment is presented within the respective environmental factor assessment chapters provided in **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.
- 5.3.2 This ES has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**. In preparing this ES, reference has been made to the following guidance:
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents **[Ref. 5-2]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process **[Ref. 5-3]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements **[Ref. 5-4]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope **[Ref. 5-5]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment **[Ref. 5-6]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process **[Ref. 5-7]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments **[Ref. 5-8]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive **[Ref. 5-9]**;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation **[Ref. 5-10]**;

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Commitments Register **[Ref. 5-11]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development **[Ref. 5-12]**;
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (30 April 2024) **[Ref. 5-13]**; and
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 'Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development' **[Ref. 5-14]**.

5.4 Objectives of the EIA

5.4.1 The EIA aims to identify and evaluate the potential environmental impacts and effects that a proposed project may have before it is approved and implemented. The EIA can then inform the design of the proposals to minimise any potentially significant negative impacts on the environment and promote sustainable development. Furthermore, the EIA aims to:

- Outline the relevant legal and planning policy framework;
- Document the scoping, consultation and engagement process that has informed the EIA;
- Outline any reasonable alternatives considered;
- Establish baseline environmental conditions at the site and within the surrounding area;
- Identify, predict and assess the environmental effects associated with the proposed project: beneficial and adverse; permanent and temporary; direct and indirect and short/medium/long term; significant or not significant;
- Identify, predict and qualitatively assess the cumulative effects of the proposed project, including those associated with other existing development and/or approved development(s);
- Identify suitable mitigation measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment and identify the likely significant residual effects following the implementation of these measures; and
- Identify monitoring measures where likely significant residual adverse effects are identified.

5.5 EIA scoping

- 5.5.1 EIA Scoping is the process of identifying the expected environmental issues of a project and to determine which elements are likely to result in likely significant effects on the environment. Scoping will establish the environmental factors to be considered within the ES and the receptors/matters that will comprise the scope of the assessment.
- 5.5.2 An EIA Scoping Report setting out a description of the Proposed Development and the issues proposed to be addressed within the ES was prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 9 November 2023 requesting the Secretary of State adopt a scoping opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES for the Proposed Development.
- 5.5.3 Although scoping is not a mandatory requirement under the EIA Regulations [Ref. 5-1], it is recognised as a useful preliminary procedure which helps to identify the main effects that a development is likely to have on the environment, taking into account responses from prescribed consultees.
- 5.5.4 In considering the request for an EIA Scoping Opinion, the Secretary of State consulted with the relevant prescribed consultees under the EIA regime. The EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 20 December 2023. The EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** and **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.
- 5.5.5 It should be noted that since the EIA Scoping Report was submitted, the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development [Ref. 5-12] has been published by the Planning Inspectorate. The Applicant acknowledges the new advice page and considers the EIA Scoping Report to be consistent with it and the approach to supporting technical assessments in the ES.
- 5.5.6 A table outlining the Scoping Opinion response and how the ES and other reports submitted in support of the DCO Application have addressed the matters raised within the response received is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.
- 5.5.7 As EIA is an iterative process taking place alongside the design of the Proposed Development, the process of scoping the assessment has also been iterative. Engagement has been undertaken with stakeholders to clarify and inform the scope of the assessment and to agree any further work to be undertaken. A summary of the scope which has been assessed in this ES, having full regard to and reflecting the Scoping Opinion response, is presented in **Table 5-1** below.

Table 5-1: Summary of the scope of this ES

Environmental factor	Location within Volume 2 of this ES
Air quality	ES Volume 2, Chapter 6 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Biodiversity	ES Volume 2, Chapter 7 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Climate	ES Volume 2, Chapter 8 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Cultural heritage	ES Volume 2, Chapter 9 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Land, soil and groundwater	ES Volume 2, Chapter 10 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Landscape and visual	ES Volume 2, Chapter 11 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Noise and vibration	ES Volume 2, Chapter 12 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Population	ES Volume 2, Chapter 13 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Transport and access	ES Volume 2, Chapter 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Cumulative effects	ES Volume 2, Chapter 15 [EN010157/APP/6.2]

5.5.8 The following environmental factors/other environmental considerations have been scoped out of the assessment. Justification for this approach taken is presented below.

Glint and glare

5.5.9 Solar photovoltaic (PV) modules are specifically designed to absorb light rather than reflect it. Light reflecting from solar PV modules results in the loss of energy output. Solar PV modules are dark in colour due to their anti-reflective coatings and are manufactured with low-iron, ultra-clear glass with specialised coatings and textures to enable maximum absorption. The combination of these factors significantly increases electrical energy production of the panels and at the same time significantly reduces reflected rays.

5.5.10 Whilst the Planning Inspectorate has agreed that glint and glare can be scoped out of the assessment as part of the EIA of likely significant effects, a glint and glare assessment has been undertaken, as presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]**. This approach is in accordance with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development [Ref. 5-12].

5.5.11 **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]** considers ground-based (residential dwellings and road) and airborne (airfields, Air Traffic Control Towers, and approaching aircrafts) receptors. Railway infrastructure was not considered as a receptor for the Proposed Development due to the distance of the nearest railway line from solar PV modules (approximately 3km). Detailed geometric analysis has been undertaken using a bespoke glint and glare model for all receptors potentially

affected by the Proposed Development to identify any potential impacts and mitigation which has been embedded into the design.

- 5.5.12 **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]** has been informed by **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010157/APP/6.2]** in terms of existing vegetation within the Site and along the Order Limits, together with the new planting and mitigation proposals, as presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.4: Indicative Environmental Masterplan [EN010157/APP/6.3]**.

Heat and radiation

- 5.5.13 The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that heat and radiation can be scoped out of the assessment on the basis that the ES clearly signposts any identified sources of heat and radiation and how this has been considered with respect to site selection, site layout and mitigation design. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]** identifies sources of heat (and radiation), and how this has been considered with respect to site layout and mitigation design. It should be noted that sources of heat and radiation have not influenced the site selection.

Major accidents and disasters

- 5.5.14 The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that major accidents and disasters can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that the ES should clearly signpost where these impacts are assessed in other relevant chapters and documents and where any relevant mitigation measures are secured, if required.
- 5.5.15 Any relevant mitigation measures are detailed in and secured by the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Outline CEMP) [EN010157/APP/7.2]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Outline OEMP) [EN010157/APP/7.3]**, and the **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Outline BSMP) [EN010157/APP/7.6]**.

Utilities

- 5.5.16 The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that utilities can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that further consultation will be carried out with the relevant utility companies and that the **Outline CEMP [EN010157/APP/7.2]** includes any additional mitigation measures to protect against interference with below ground utilities during construction. The DCO also includes protective provisions to ensure the DCO includes appropriate protections and restrictions on the Applicant's exercise of its powers, for the protection of utilities.

5.5.17 A desk-based study of existing utilities was undertaken to inform the design of the Proposed Development. This desk-based study includes the land within the Order Limits.

Human health

5.5.18 The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that human health can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that the ES should clearly set out potential impacts to human health from the Proposed Development during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning and cross-reference to where impacts, including combined impacts on receptors, are assessed within the ES.

5.5.19 **Table 5-2** sets out the potential impacts to human health from the Proposed Development during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning and references where these impacts are assessed within the ES.

Table 5-2: Potential human health impacts from the Proposed Development and where these are assessed in the ES

Environmental factor	Potential human health impacts	Where this matter is assessed
Air quality	<u>During construction and decommissioning:</u> Temporary impacts on residents wellbeing caused by respiratory conditions.	ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Landscape and visual	<u>During construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning:</u> Impacts on the visual amenity of residents and users of the public right of way and minor road network, which can influence an individual's health and wellbeing.	ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010157/APP/6.2]
Noise and vibration	<u>During construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning:</u>	ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010157/APP/6.2]

Environmental factor	Potential human health impacts	Where this matter is assessed
	Impacts on residents wellbeing.	
Population	<p><u>During operation (including maintenance):</u></p> <p>Impacts on mental and physical health and wellbeing to users of the new proposed permissive paths.</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Population [EN010157/APP/6.2]</p>
Transport and access	<p><u>During construction and decommissioning:</u></p> <p>Health and wellbeing impacts caused by disruption to amenity or safety (e.g. related to fear and intimidation on and by road users)</p> <p>Health and wellbeing where community links and access to facilities and employment may be materially changed (i.e. via severance of communities, driver and passenger delay).</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Transport and Access [EN010157/APP/6.2]</p>
Glint and glare	<p><u>During operation (including maintenance):</u></p> <p>Nuisance to people living in nearby residential properties.</p>	<p>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]</p>

Material assets and waste

5.5.20 Material assets and waste was proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]**. However, as set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010157/APP/6.4]**, the Planning Inspectorate advocated its inclusion as a stand-alone chapter, citing the following reasons:

- The need to remove some soils for treatment or disposal if found to be contaminated and not practical to treat onsite should be confirmed in the ES.
- The use of borrow pits should be considered within the ES and the cut and fill balance should be confirmed.
- The ES should include an assessment of the likely impact of component replacement, e.g. batteries and panels, and outline what measures, if any, would be put in place to ensure that these components are able to be diverted from the waste chain.
- The ES should include estimates, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation (including maintenance) phases.
- The ES should assess the likely significant effects from decommissioning waste to the extent possible at the time.

5.5.21 The Applicant is committed to the following, which address the Planning Inspectorate's comments in turn (together with additional information), above, therefore removing the requirement for a standalone ES chapter to be submitted.

- The Applicant is committed to undertaking a pre-construction site investigation. This will confirm the need (or otherwise) to remove some soils for treatment or disposal if found to be contaminated and not practical to treat onsite. Where there is found to be a need, measures to address this will be implemented and secured by the **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Outline SWMP) [EN010157/APP/7.10]**.
- It is not intended that borrow pits will be used during construction of the Proposed Development.
- It is not intended to remove significant quantities of excavated arisings from the site during construction. Where possible, material would be balanced through a cut and fill exercise to retain volumes onsite. Mitigation measures detailed in and secured by the **Outline CEMP [EN010157/APP/7.2]** and **Outline SWMP [EN010157/APP/7.10]** will be sufficient to demonstrate how a cut and fill balance shall be achieved.
- The service life of the Proposed Development components is outlined in **Table 8-4 of ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Climate [EN010157/APP/6.2]**. This has been considered in relevant assessments of **ES Volume 2 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**. The measures that would be put in place to ensure that these components are able to be diverted from the waste chain are detailed in and secured by the **Outline SWMP [EN010157/APP/7.10]**.

- The indirect impacts associated with materials consumption and waste disposal (e.g. release of greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, amenity impacts, ecological impacts, etc) have been considered in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Chapter 8: Climate, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual, and Chapter 14: Transport and Access [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.
- The indirect impacts of any off-site waste management facilities and material production facilities are expected to be assessed (and where necessary, mitigated) under the planning and permitting regime for those sites and thus do not form part of an EIA for a development that uses such facilities for material supply or waste management.
- The waste hierarchy will be followed during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It is not expected that the Proposed Development would result in significant amounts of waste being sent to local landfill sites. However, local landfill capacities are considered and discussed in the **Outline SWMP [EN010157/APP/7.10]**.
- Details of operational waste management measures for the Proposed Development are detailed in and secured by the **Outline OEMP [EN010157/APP/7.3]** and **Outline SWMP [EN010157/APP/7.10]**. These measures will ensure there will be relatively little waste produced during the operation (including maintenance) phase and the requirement for material assets will be limited to maintenance and replacement parts, as required.
- During decommissioning, the removal of any material assets and waste will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. If items can be recycled, this will be the first-choice option. The impacts of waste during the decommissioning phase will be managed and mitigated through measures detailed in and secured by the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Outline DEMP) [EN010157/APP/7.4]** and the **Outline SWMP [EN010157/APP/7.10]**. The Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (which will be required to be in substantial accordance with the **Outline DEMP [EN010157/APP/7.4]**) will be approved by the host local planning authority at the time of decommissioning to ensure any impacts on waste arising at this stage are considered and mitigated.

5.5.22 Furthermore, following discussions as to the proposed approach above with East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Principal Officer for Environmental Control, it was

agreed (confirmation received on 19 September 2024) that the Applicant could scope out material assets and waste from the EIA.

Electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (EMF)

5.5.23 The Planning Inspectorate is content that an assessment of likely significant effects from electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields can be scoped out of the assessment, as the Applicant can confirm that the Proposed Development uses underground cables with a maximum voltage up to and including 132 kilovolts (kV). As such, it is considered that this meets guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection in 1998.

Water

5.5.24 Water was proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]**. However, as set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010157/APP/6.4]**, the Planning Inspectorate advocated its inclusion as a stand-alone chapter, citing the following reasons in terms of flood risk:

- Large parts of the Site fall within Flood Zones 2 and 3.
- Paragraph 5.2.8 of **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** identifies uncertainty about the risk of flooding.
- The ES should include an assessment of significant effects to/from flooding where they are likely to occur, or evidence demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a likely significant effect.
- Design and mitigation measures should be agreed with the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority and relevant Internal Drainage Board.

5.5.25 The Planning Inspectorate cited the following reasons in terms of water quality:

- Lack of evidence regarding the final design and control measures to scope impacts to water quality out during construction or decommissioning.
- The ES should identify relevant receptors and pathways of effect, pollutant sources, the measures required to mitigate such effects and any monitoring required; this should include a drilling fluid breakout plan which should also be submitted with the DCO Application if trenchless techniques are employed.
- The ES should include an assessment of significant effects where they are likely to occur or evidence demonstrating agreement with the

relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a likely significant effect.

- If the Proposed Development has the potential to impact any Water Framework Directive waterbodies, a Water Framework Directive assessment should also be submitted in support of the DCO Application and used to inform the ES assessment.

- 5.5.26 The Applicant has undertaken a significant amount of assessment work and consultation in relation to water, as outlined below, which address the Planning Inspectorate's comments in turn (together with additional information), and has therefore scoped water as a stand-alone ES chapter out of the ES.
- 5.5.27 The Applicant has undertaken extensive consultation with the Environment Agency, particularly on **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** and **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]**. This engagement has resulted in the Environment Agency agreeing that water can be scoped out of the assessment on the basis that a Flood Risk Assessment and Water Framework Assessment are submitted with the DCO.
- 5.5.28 **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]** details the consultation undertaken with the Environment Agency, East Riding of Yorkshire Lead Local Flood Authority and the Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board on the potential flood risks of the Proposed Development and the proposed design and mitigation measures.
- 5.5.29 As the Proposed Development has the potential to impact Water Framework Directive waterbodies, **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** is submitted in support of the DCO Application.
- 5.5.30 The Environment Agency confirmed that in relation to the Proposed Development, any concerns they may have are in relation to potential impacts on groundwater. An assessment of effects on groundwater is presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2]**, as proposed and committed to in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.
- 5.5.31 Measures to control potential impacts to water quality during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning are detailed in and secured by the **Outline CEMP [EN010157/APP/7.2]**, **Outline OEMP [EN010157/APP/7.3]**, **Outline DEMP [EN010157/APP/7.4]** respectively, as well as being documented in **ES Volume 4, Commitments Register [EN010157/APP/6.4]**. Furthermore, Horizontal Directional Drilling control

measures are detailed in and secured by the **Outline CEMP [EN010157/APP/7.2]**.

5.6 Consultation and engagement

- 5.6.1 Consultation and engagement throughout the EIA process is essential for the development of a comprehensive and proportionate ES. The views of statutory and non-statutory consultees are valuable to ensure that the EIA prioritises specific issues with potential significant environmental effects and identifies areas requiring further investigation.
- 5.6.2 Consultation and engagement, as an ongoing process, facilitates the evolution of design, allowing the integration of both embedded and additional mitigation measures into the Proposed Development. This approach aims to minimise, as well as avoid, prevent and offset adverse environmental effects and optimise environmental benefits.
- 5.6.3 Early engagement with consultees has played a crucial role in influencing the design process of the Proposed Development and the preparation of the EIA. Where appropriate, the Applicant has engaged with relevant stakeholders to gather feedback and ensure that their inputs are integrated into the evolving design.
- 5.6.4 Engagement has been undertaken with the following stakeholders:

- Active Travel England
- Albanwise Environment
- Canal and River Trust
- Catwick Parish Council
- Coal Authority
- Crown Estate
- SSE Renewables and Equinor (Dogger Bank)
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Electricity North West
- Energy Assets Pipeline
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- GTC Infrastructure Ltd
- Health Security Agency
- Historic England
- Health and Safety Executive
- Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
- Humberside Police
- Hull City Council
- Last Mile
- Leven Parish Council
- Ministry of Defence
- National Gas Transmission
- National Grid Electricity Distribution

- National Grid Electricity Transmission
- National Grid Interconnector Holdings
- National Highways
- NATS (National Air traffic Services) Safeguarding
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Northern Gas Networks
- Riston Parish Council
- Tickton and Routh Parish Council
- UK Power Networks
- Wawne Parish Council
- Witham 3 IDB
- Woodmansey Parish Council
- York Consortium Drainage Boards
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

5.6.5 Details of specific engagement undertaken for each of the environmental factor assessments is presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.

5.6.6 The **Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]** details the consultation and engagement undertaken during the different stages of the development of the design and how the Applicant has taken into account feedback. How the design has been influenced by consultation and engagement is also set out within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1]** and in the **Design Approach Document [EN010157/APP/5.7]**.

5.7 The EIA process

5.7.1 The method behind the EIA process considers the existing conditions of the area into which the development is being introduced (**the baseline**), providing a future baseline context for assessments where relevant, and makes reasonable worst case predictions of the likely change (**the impact – in terms of magnitude**) that may occur during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning. The predicted impact is considered in terms of key environmental and social aspects (**receptors**) present within the Site and surrounding area, and based on their sensitivity to change, the scale of the resulting change experienced by the receptor/resource (**the effect**) is then determined, along with a statement on whether the effect is significant or not in accordance with significance criteria.

5.7.2 Any mitigation measures required to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset adverse effects are then considered and assessed, with the resulting residual effect being determined as significant or not.

5.7.3 Effects resulting from the interaction and combination of different environmental residual (post-additional mitigation) effects from within the Proposed

Development affecting a receptor (intra-project combined effects) and the combined residual (post-mitigation) effects of the Proposed Development and another project or projects on a single receptor/resource (inter-project cumulative effects) are also assessed. All the likely effects of the Proposed Development are reported **within an Environmental Statement** – this document (**ES Volume 1 [EN010157/APP/6.1]**) in addition to **ES Volume 2 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**, **ES Volume 3 [EN010157/APP/6.3]** and **ES Volume 4 [EN010157/APP/6.4]**, including **ES Volume 4, Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement [EN010157/APP/6.4]**, and the likely significant environmental effects are specifically highlighted.

5.7.4 Each of the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**) follow the same structure for ease of reference, as outlined below:

- Introduction
- Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance
- Stakeholder engagement
- Approach to the assessment
- Environmental baseline
- Mitigation embedded into the design
- Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation)
- Additional mitigation
- Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation)
- Opportunities for enhancement
- Monitoring requirements
- Difficulties and uncertainties
- Summary

Rochdale envelope and approach to flexibility

5.7.5 As outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]**, the ‘Rochdale Envelope’ approach has been applied with minimum or maximum parameters used for the purposes of this EIA. The minimum or maximum (reasonable ‘worst-case’) parameters are set out in the **Design Parameters Document [EN010157/APP/5.8]**. This approach has been taken to allow for flexibility to accommodate changes in technological advancements at the time of construction. The Applicant has sought a degree of flexibility in the DCO Application.

5.7.6 Establishing the minimum/maximum parameters enables a robust and cautious assessment of likely significant effects, based on reasonable worst-case

scenarios, to be undertaken within this ES for environmental factors where the nature of the assessment requires a specific level of detail, such as minimum or maximum heights or massing. Thus, the assessment parameters form the basis of the assessment. The assessment parameters are detailed in the works descriptions detailed within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]**.

- 5.7.7 The **Works Plans [EN010157/APP/2.2]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.2: Height Parameters Zonal Plan [EN010157/APP/6.3]** show the spatial extent within which each element of the Proposed Development can be located. Each environmental factor has assessed the minimum or maximum parameters (as appropriate) within the Rochdale Envelope to determine the potential for significant effects and identify suitable mitigation measures. For some assessments contained within this ES, the worst-case location for the element (for example, the closest point to the sensitive receptor¹), has been assessed. Further detail on the reasonable worst-case approach for each environmental factor assessment is presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.

Defining the study area

- 5.7.8 Study areas have been defined individually for each environmental factor assessment, taking into account the geographic scope of the potential impacts relevant to that environmental factor and the information required to assess those impacts.
- 5.7.9 The proposed study areas for each environmental factor are described within **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.
- 5.7.10 These study areas have also been used to inform the zone of influence for the purposes of assessing cumulative effects, as detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Cumulative effects [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.

Establishing existing baseline conditions

- 5.7.11 EIA provides a mechanism to predicts how environmental conditions may change as a result of a proposed development. The assessment of the magnitude of impact and then the resulting scale and nature of effect is undertaken against a reference condition, known as the baseline. The baseline represents the environmental condition of the site and the surrounding area at the time of the assessment.

¹ A sensitive receptor is a receptor that could be subject to significant effects as a result of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or decommissioning of the Proposed Development

- 5.7.12 Baseline information (environmental characteristics and conditions) utilise desk-based existing information available at the time of the assessment, as well as new information either collected through surveys undertaken during the EIA process or additional information provided as part of the EIA Scoping and the consultation process. **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]** provide details of the current baseline conditions of the Site and surrounding area for each of the individual environmental factors. For the purposes of this ES, the baseline has been taken as the current conditions within the Site and the surrounding area, at the time of assessment (i.e. in the assessment year of 2024), although in defining the baseline conditions, data from preceding years may be used where the data remains relevant.
- 5.7.13 A summary of the baseline information is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development [EN010157/APP/6.1]**. The reports detailing the results of baseline studies or surveys are provided within **ES Volume 4 [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.

Establishing future baseline conditions in the absence of the Proposed Development

- 5.7.14 Schedule 4(3) of the EIA Regulations [**Ref. 5-1**] requires consideration of the likely evolution of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) in the absence of the Proposed 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 (the 'future baseline'). Whilst there are limitations to the predictions that can be made about natural baseline conditions at a future point in time, effort has been made to characterise the future baseline in the absence of the Proposed Development in the assessment for each environmental factor.
- 5.7.15 **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]** provide a description of the future baseline scenario and the data sources that have informed it (where relevant) for each environmental factor.
- 5.7.16 It should be noted that other developments are not considered within the future baseline scenario, as other developments are not considered to be a 'natural' change from the baseline scenario. Instead, other existing development(s) and/or approved development are considered within the inter-project cumulative effects assessment presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.

Assessment scenarios

- 5.7.17 The assessment scenarios considered for the Proposed Development are as follows:

- **Existing baseline (without the Proposed Development)** - Reported at the time that the baseline data has been collected.
- **Future baseline (without the Proposed Development)** – For comparison with the construction phase, operation (including maintenance) phase, and decommissioning phase. It should be noted that without the Proposed Development, it is assumed that the Site would continue to be occupied for agricultural use.
- **Construction of the Proposed Development** - As presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]**, construction is expected to commence in 2026 and is anticipated to be 24 months. Where relevant, environmental factor assessments have assessed the relevant 'worst case' construction scenario and where necessary, the relevant period or 'peak' of activity within the construction programme.
- **Operation (including maintenance) of the Proposed Development** – As presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]**, it is assumed that the Proposed Development will be operational and maintained for a duration of 40 years.
- **Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (where appropriate)** - As presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]**, decommissioning activities will begin following the cessation of the operational Proposed Development and are anticipated to take approximately 18-24 months.

5.7.18 The ES assumes that there will be a need to repair or replace components of the Proposed Development that fail or break during the operation (including maintenance) phase. It is anticipated that maintenance and servicing would include the inspection, removal, reconstruction, refurbishment or replacement of faulty or broken equipment, and adjusting and altering the components of the Proposed Development. These measures are set out in further detail within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1]** and the **Outline OEMP [EN010157/APP/7.3]**.

Assessment assumptions

5.7.19 Assumptions adopted in the evaluation of impacts for each environmental factor are reported in each of the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**). The principal assumptions that have been made, and any limitations that have been identified, in undertaking the EIA are based on expert judgment and are set out below:

- Baseline conditions have been established from a variety of sources, including historical data and are accurate at the time of writing;
- It is assumed that information received from third parties is accurate, complete and up to date;
- Where detailed information has not been available, reasonable assumptions have been made, and have been clearly set out, based on experience of developments of similar type and scale to enable assessment of likely significant effects; and
- Other existing development and/or approved developments will be implemented substantially in accordance with information that is publicly available and subject to the same regulatory regimes and good practice management controls as this Proposed Development.

Embedded (primary) mitigation measures

5.7.20 Mitigation can be relied on to reduce potential significant environmental effects from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The sequential steps of the mitigation hierarchy are as follows:

- Avoidance: Take measures to avoid creating impacts from the outset;
- Minimisation: Measure taken to reduce the duration, intensity and extent of the impact if they cannot be avoided;
- Restoration: Measures taken to improve ecosystems following exposure to unavoidable impacts; and
- Offset: Measure taken to compensate for any residual impacts.

5.7.21 As part of the EIA, an approach has been adopted where significant environmental effects have been avoided where possible in the first instance through design refinements and iterations. Where adverse environmental effects were identified through early assessment work, opportunities to reduce or control impacts and effects have been identified and incorporated into the Proposed Development. In accordance with IEMA's 'Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development' [Ref. 5-14], this is known as 'primary' mitigation (hereafter referred to as 'embedded' mitigation). In addition, opportunities to enhance the beneficial environmental effects of the Proposed Development have also been sought and incorporated into the Proposed Development.

5.7.22 The Proposed Development has been through three stages of design development which has resulted in the identification of mitigation measures that have been embedded into the design and layout of the Proposed Development.

- 5.7.23 Project design principles have been informed by consultation throughout the development stages of the Proposed Development. The project design principles provide the design narrative and design policy response and are detailed in the **Design Approach Document [EN010157/APP/5.7]**.
- 5.7.24 For the purposes of this ES, embedded (primary) mitigation measures will form part of the design of the Proposed Development.
- 5.7.25 The embedded (primary) mitigation measures relevant to each environmental factor are detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**. The mechanism by which the measures are to be secured and implemented and the party responsible for their delivery is outlined within **ES Volume 4, Commitments Register [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.

Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation)

- 5.7.26 The assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation) presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]** is a general commentary of the likely effects that could occur as a result of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, taking account of the embedded (primary) mitigation that forms part of the Proposed Development being assessed, but in the absence of any additional mitigation measures. This general commentary sets the scene for the potential need (or otherwise) for additional mitigation measures to be considered.
- 5.7.27 The assessment criteria discussed below in **paragraphs 5.7.33 to 5.7.41** has not been applied to the assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation).

Additional (secondary and tertiary) mitigation measures and monitoring

- 5.7.28 In accordance with IEMA's 'Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development' [Ref. 5-14], additional (secondary and tertiary) mitigation describes actions that will require further activity in order to achieve the anticipated outcome, and measures that will be required regardless of any EIA assessment, as it is imposed, for example, as a result of legislative requirements and/or standard sectoral practices. Examples of secondary mitigation include additional detailed design, for example to comply with proposed lighting limits for the Proposed Development. Examples of tertiary mitigation include considerate contractor's practices that manage activities which have potential nuisance effect (i.e. through the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan).
- 5.7.29 Where likely significant adverse effects have been identified in the assessment, measures to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant

adverse effects on the environment are described. In accordance with the EIA Regulations [Ref. 5-1], monitoring should be proposed (where appropriate) where significant adverse residual effects remain. In some cases, for instance where there is uncertainty over a residual effect, it may also be appropriate to implement monitoring.

- 5.7.30 Additional (secondary and tertiary) mitigation and monitoring measures are set out within **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**. The mechanism by which the measures are to be secured and implemented and the party responsible for their delivery is outlined within **ES Volume 4, Commitments Register [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.

Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation)

- 5.7.31 The EIA process requires the identification of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. The general approach to the determining the assessment of likely significant effects is detailed further below.
- 5.7.32 However, it should be noted that not all environmental factor assessments follow this approach. Where this is the case, that is explained within the relevant environmental factor assessment chapter (**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**).

Assessment criteria

- 5.7.33 The following criteria have been taken into account when determining the significance of residual effects for the purposes of the ES:
- The receptors/resources (natural and human) that would be affected and the pathways for such effects;
 - The geographic importance, sensitivity or value of receptors/resources;
 - The duration (short-term, medium-term or long-term); permanence (permanent or temporary) and changes in significance (increase or decrease);
 - Reversibility - e.g. is the change reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary;
 - Environmental and health standards (e.g. local air quality standards) being threatened; and
 - Feasibility and mechanisms for delivering mitigating measures, e.g. is there evidence of the ability to legally deliver the environmental assumptions which are the basis for the assessment.

- 5.7.34 The method for assessing the significance of effects varies between environmental factors but in principle, this is based on the environmental sensitivity (or value/importance) of a receptor/resource that could be affected by the Proposed Development and the magnitude of change from the baseline conditions in order to derive the resultant effect, and whether the effect is significant or not.

Sensitivity/value/importance of receptors

- 5.7.35 Within **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**, the ES has addressed the sensitive receptors associated with each environmental factor, considering their respective sensitivity/value/importance. This assessment is based on industry standards and guidance, quantifiable data, existing designations, and professional judgement where applicable and available.

Magnitude of impact (change)

- 5.7.36 The magnitude of impact or change is predicted as a deviation from the established baseline conditions, as a result of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of these impacts/changes is defined within **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**, and has been determined, where available and appropriate, using quantifiable data, applicable national and international standards or limits and professional judgement.
- 5.7.37 The magnitude of impact/change identified is based on the peak potential magnitude of impact/change, representing the greatest likely magnitude of impact/change anticipated for a sensitive receptor (existing or proposed).

Significance of effects

- 5.7.38 The approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect is derived from a variety of sources including legislative requirements, topic-specific guidance, standards and codes of practice, the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, advice from statutory consultees and other stakeholders and the expert judgement of the team undertaking the EIA.
- 5.7.39 Determining the significance of effects has been undertaken using accepted industry standards and guidance and professional judgements that underpin the attribution of significance. Each effect has been assessed against the sensitivity/value/importance of the receptor and the magnitude of impact/change. For most environmental factor assessments, where more than one effect classification exists for any given scenario (i.e. slight or moderate), professional judgement is used to assign a single effect classification.

- 5.7.40 Unless otherwise stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**), effects that are classified as moderate or above are considered to be significant. Effects classified as slight or below are considered to be not significant.
- 5.7.41 Tables summarising the potential effects associated with each environmental factor, required mitigation measures and residual effects are provided at the end of each environmental factor assessment chapter (**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**). The tables provide a clear distinction of the type of effect:
- Beneficial or adverse
 - Permanent or temporary;
 - Direct or indirect;
 - Short, medium or long term;
 - Secondary, cumulative or transboundary; and
 - Significant or not significant.

5.8 Opportunities for environmental enhancement

- 5.8.1 Where the Applicant considers that opportunities for environmental enhancement exist, these are detailed within **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 14 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**. However, in accordance with the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, any enhancement opportunities proposed have not been taken account of within the respective environmental factor assessment conclusions.

5.9 Cumulative effects

- 5.9.1 The approach taken to the assessment of cumulative effects is reported in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.
- 5.9.2 Cumulative effects occur as a result of several actions on an environmental receptor which may overlap or act in combination. The following types of cumulative effects have been considered in accordance with the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]** and best practice guidance:
- **Intra-project combined effects** – the interaction and combination of different environmental residual (post-additional mitigation) effects from within the Proposed Development affecting a receptor; and
 - **Inter-project cumulative effects** – the combined residual (post-mitigation) effects of the Proposed Development and ‘other existing development and/or approved development’ on a single receptor/resource.

5.10 Coordinated assessment with Habitats Regulations Assessment and Water Framework Directive

- 5.10.1 Whilst the overarching objectives of EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment are similar, the scope, level of detail and terminology used varies. As such, these processes have been undertaken separately. However, the scope presented within this ES has been developed to ensure that the needs of these processes have been considered to ensure a coordinated assessment compliant with Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**.
- 5.10.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 **[Ref. 5-15]** requires consenting authorities to decide whether or not a project may have a significant effect on a European designated site. This process is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment. The overarching aim of Habitats Regulations Assessment is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan, either in isolation and/or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European designated site. An HRA Screening (Stage 1) and Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) has been produced and is provided in **Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform the Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3]**.
- 5.10.3 The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 **[Ref. 5-16]** aims to protect and enhance the quality of water in England and Wales. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** is submitted in support of the DCO Application.

5.11 References

- **Ref. 5-1:** The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572/contents/made>
- **Ref. 5-2:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (10 October 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-preparation-and-submission-of-application-documents>
- **Ref. 5-3:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (20 September 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure->

[projects-advice-on-working-with-public-bodies-in-the-infrastructure-planning-process](#)

- **Ref. 5-4:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements (1 June 2020 - Version 7). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an>
- **Ref. 5-5:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (1 July 2018 - Version 3). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope>
- **Ref. 5-6:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (20 September 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment>
- **Ref. 5-7:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process (20 September 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-transboundary-impacts-and-process>
- **Ref. 5-8:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (20 September 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-habitats-regulations-assessments>
- **Ref. 5-9:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive (14 November 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-water-framework-directive>
- **Ref. 5-10:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (20 September 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation>
- **Ref. 5-11:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Commitments Register (20 September 2024). Available online:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-commitments-register>

- **Ref. 5-12:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development (20 September 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-technical-advice-page-for-scoping-solar-development>
- **Ref. 5-13:** Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (30 April 2024). Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>
- **Ref. 5-14:** Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 'Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development'. Available online: [IEMA Guidance Documents EIA Guide to Shaping Quality Development V6.pdf \(iaia.org\)](#)
- **Ref. 5-15:** The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available online: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made>
- **Ref. 5-16:** The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. Available online: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/407/contents>

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