Rosefield Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1
Chapter 1: Background and Context

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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

EN010158/APP/6.1
September 2025
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

Table of Contents

1. Background and Context

1.1. Introducing Rosefield Solar Farm

1.1.1. Rosefield Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') is a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure which would allow for the generation and export of electricity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). The Proposed Development encompasses approximately 675 hectares (ha) located within the administrative area of Buckinghamshire Council (the 'Site') as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.1: Location Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

1.1.2. The Proposed Development would be located within the Order Limits (the land shown on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** within which the Proposed Development can be carried out). The Order Limits plan is provided as **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. This outlines the maximum extent of land that would be required to facilitate the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The location and description of the Proposed Development is described further within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** of this Environmental Statement (ES).

1.1.3. The principal components of the Proposed Development include:

- Solar PV development consisting of:
  - Ground Mounted Solar PV Generating Station. The generating station would include Solar PV modules and mounting structures; and
  - Balance of Solar System (BoSS) which comprises: Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear; Combiner Boxes; acoustic barriers and cabling.
- A project substation (the 'Rosefield Substation') compound comprising: Transformers; Switchgear; reactive power compensation bays; disconnectors; circuit breakers; busbars; control equipment; lightning surge arrestors; building(s) including office, control, functions, material storage, material laydown areas and welfare facilities; firewalls; fencing and acoustic barriers; a security cabin; parking as well as wider monitoring, maintenance and emergency equipment;
- A Main Collector Compound and two Satellite Collector Compounds comprising: Switchgear; Transformers; ancillary equipment; operation and maintenance and welfare facilities; material storage; material laydown areas; fencing and acoustic barriers; and security cabins;

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound comprising: batteries and associated Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear, ancillary equipment and their containers; office, control and welfare buildings; fencing and acoustic barriers; monitoring, maintenance and emergency systems; air conditioning; electrical cables; fire safety infrastructure; operation (including maintenance) security facilities; material storage; and material laydown areas;
- Interconnecting Cable Corridor(s) to connect the Solar PV modules and the BESS to the Satellite and Main Collector Compounds to the Rosefield Substation;
- A Grid Connection Cable Corridor to connect the Rosefield Substation to the National Grid East Claydon Substation via 400kV cabling;
- Ancillary infrastructure works comprising: boundary treatment; security equipment; lighting; fencing; landscaping; internal access tracks; works to facilitate vehicular access; earthing devices; earthworks; surface water management; utility connections and diversions; and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development;
- Green and blue infrastructure, recreation and amenity works comprising: landscaping; habitat management; biodiversity enhancement; the creation of three permissive footpaths; and works to permanently divert four PRoW Footpaths in five instances;
- Site-wide operational monitoring and security equipment; and
- Highways infrastructure improvements and safety works comprising: minor junction improvement works; road widening; passing places; and works to facilitate vehicular access to the Site.

1.1.4. The construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as the capacity exceeds 50MW and will require a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) **[Ref. 1-1]**.

1.1.5. This ES forms part of the DCO Application for the Proposed Development submitted by the Applicant to the Planning Inspectorate. The decision on whether to grant a DCO will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, hereafter referred to as the 'Secretary of State', pursuant to the PA 2008.

1.2. The Applicant

1.2.1. Rosefield Energyfarm Limited (also known as the 'Applicant') is a joint venture between EDF Renewables UK and Ireland and PS Renewables.

1.2.2. EDF Renewables UK and Ireland, part of the EDF Group, is one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies. EDF Renewables UK and Ireland has an operating portfolio of 50 renewable energy sites including battery, onshore and offshore wind and solar (together totalling more than 2 GW) and an expanding renewables portfolio with almost 14 GW of solar and wind projects in planning and development. All this is providing much needed affordable and low carbon electricity. Our investment and innovation is reducing costs for customers and bringing significant benefits for communities. We invest in projects and the communities where they operate for the long term, remaining involved in projects over their lifetime from development, construction and operation, all the way through to decommissioning.

1.2.3. Established in 2012, PS Renewables is a globally trusted development, engineering, procurement and construction company. Over the past decade it has developed, designed and built over 30 solar farms across the UK, providing over 300 MW of clean, renewable electricity to UK homes and businesses every year.

1.3. The need for Rosefield Solar Farm

1.3.1. Solar generation is a critical element of the plan to decarbonise the UK electricity sector as set out in the UK Government's Electricity Generation Costs Report 2023 **[Ref. 1-2]** and is already a leading low-cost generation technology in the UK. The national need for solar generation is urgent as outlined in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) **[Ref. 1-3]**.

1.3.2. Solar generation also contributes to security of supply. Aggregated generation output from portfolios which consist of different renewable technologies, including solar, is more predictable and less variable than single-technology portfolios. Solar generation is needed to help 'keep the lights on' by supporting a high level of generation adequacy and generation dependability within the UK's electricity system.

1.3.3. Solar generation addresses all important aspects of existing and emerging government energy policy. It makes a critical and timely contribution to decarbonisation and security of supply in the UK, helps shield consumer bills from volatile energy prices and international supply markets and provides the potential to deliver biodiversity net gains through its development. NPS EN-1 **[Ref. 1-3]** recognises solar as a Critical National Priority, further highlighting the overarching need for low carbon energy infrastructure to help fully decarbonise the UK's energy system by 2035.

1.3.4. In summary, the Proposed Development has a vital role to play on the national and world stage in the urgent response to tackling climate change.

1.3.5. The **Statement of Need [EN010158/APP/5.6]** provides further detail on the necessity of the Proposed Development.

1.4. Requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment

1.4.1. The Proposed Development is considered to be 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' as defined by Schedule 2(3)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') **[Ref. 1-4]**. The EIA Regulations require an ES to be submitted as part of the DCO Application to present the findings of the EIA undertaken for the Proposed Development.

1.4.2. The EIA process has assessed the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and considers measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects on the environment. This ES identifies 'residual' effects, which can be defined as the impacts remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed mitigation and monitoring measures are outlined within the respective environmental factor chapters (**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 - 16 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**).

1.4.3. Further detail about the approach to the EIA can be found within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

1.5. Legislative and Planning Policy Context

1.5.1. The following sections provide an overview of the legislative and planning policy context for the Proposed Development. A detailed account of the legislative and planning policy framework relevant to the Proposed Development is provided within the **Planning Statement [EN010158/APP/5.7]**.

Planning Act 2008

1.5.2. The Proposed Development constitutes a NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the PA 2008 **[Ref. 1-1]**, as it comprises an onshore generating station in England with a capacity of more than 50MW.

1.5.3. The PA 2008 establishes that the Secretary of State is responsible for determining applications for development consent, with the power to appoint a single person or panel to manage and examine the application (referred to as the 'Examining Authority').

1.5.4. In its role, the Examining Authority will examine the DCO Application for the Proposed Development and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then decide whether to grant development consent.

National policy statements

1.5.5. Where a National Policy Statement (NPS) has effect, the Secretary of State must, among other considerations in Section 104 of the PA 2008, decide an application for development consent in accordance with the relevant NPS. The following NPSs are relevant to the Proposed Development:

- Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1) **[Ref. 1-3]**;
- NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) **[Ref. 1-5]**; and
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) **[Ref. 1-6]**.

1.5.6. Section 104 of the PA 2008 also provides the basis for deciding the DCO Application, and the Secretary of State must have regard to the provisions set out in this section. This includes any matters the Secretary of State thinks are both important and relevant to its decision.

1.5.7. If granted, the DCO may also provide permission for other consents and authorisations, removing the need for additional consents (such as planning permission and compulsory purchase). For example, a DCO can include consent for 'associated development' pursuant to Section 115 of the PA 2008, which is development that is not an NSIP in its own right but is associated with the Proposed Development. This may be development that supports the NSIP, which helps to address the impacts of the NSIP, or is of a type normally promoted with the NSIP.

Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1)

1.5.8. NPS EN-1 **[Ref. 1-3]**, published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in November 2023 and designated in January 2024, sets out the national policy for delivering major energy infrastructure in England and Wales. NPS EN-1 has effect in combination with the relevant technology-specific NPS, which for Rosefield Solar Farm are NPS EN-3 **[Ref. 1-5]** and NPS EN-5 **[Ref. 1-6]**, and together they provide the primary basis for decisions made by the Secretary of State.

1.5.9. Part 3 of NPS EN-1 sets out the need for new nationally significant energy infrastructure. Paragraph 3.1 confirms the Government's position that development consent applications for new large-scale energy infrastructure are urgently needed to meet the Government's energy objectives. The Government has concluded that low carbon infrastructure is a Critical National Priority, including solar which is an energy generating technology. Solar development therefore supports the urgent need for Critical National Priority infrastructure to achieve the Government's energy objective and should be delivered as quickly as possible.

1.5.10. NPS EN-1 then sets out at paragraph 3.2.7 that the Secretary of State should give substantial weight to the contribution that projects would make toward satisfying this need when considering applications for development consent.

1.5.11. Paragraph 3.2.3 of NPS EN-1 states *"it is for industry to propose new energy infrastructure projects that they assess to be viable within the strategic framework set by the government… the government does not consider it appropriate for planning policy to set limits on different technologies but planning policy can be used to support the government's ambitions in energy policy and other policy areas."*

1.5.12. Paragraph 3.3.20 of NPS EN-1 specifies that "*Wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity supply (as they are not reliant on fuel for generation)*".

1.5.13. Paragraph 4.1.5 of NPS EN-1 states that:

"*In considering any proposed development, in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Secretary of State should take into account:*

- *Its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation… and any long-term or wider benefits;*
- *Its potential adverse impacts,… including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy"*.

1.5.14. Section 4.3 of NPS EN-1 relates to the requirement for assessment of likely significant environmental effects and reporting within an ES for projects that are subject to the EIA Regulations.

1.5.15. Paragraph 4.3.4 of NPS EN-1 states that:

"*To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy*".

1.5.16. Paragraph 4.3.5 of NPS EN-1 continues:

"*For the purposes of this NPS and the technology specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from*

pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project."

1.5.17. Where relevant, the EIA process takes into account the requirements of NPS EN-1.

1.5.18. **Table 1.1** presents details of where the information requirements of Part 5 (Generic Impacts) of NPS EN-1 are addressed within this ES.

Table 1.1: Information requirements of NPS EN-1 and where that information is located within the ES.

Required information	Location within the ES
Air quality and emissions	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Biodiversity and geological conservation	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Civil and military aviation and defence interests	**ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010158/APP/6.4]**
Dust, odour, artificial light, smoke, steam, and insect infestation	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Flood risk	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Greenhouse gas emissions	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Climate [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Historic environment	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Landscape and visual	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Land use, including open space, green infrastructure and green belt	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Soil [EN010158/APP/6.2]ES Volume 2,**

Required information	Location within the ES
	Chapter 14: Population [EN010158/APP/6.2]
Noise and vibration	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Socio-economic impacts	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Population [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Traffic and transport	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Traffic and Transport [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Resource and waste management	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**
Water quality and resources	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**

NPS for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3)

1.5.19. NPS EN-3 **[Ref. 1-5]**, adopted by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in November 2023, provides the primary basis for informing the Secretary of State's decisions on applications it receives for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure.

1.5.20. Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 specifically relates to solar PV generation, with paragraph 2.10.9 confirming 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 by 2050. As such, solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector*".

1.5.21. Paragraph 2.10.10 of NPS EN-3 goes on to state that:

1.5.22. "*Solar also has an important role in delivering the government's goals for greater energy independence. The British Energy Security Strategy states that government expects a five-fold increase in combined ground and rooftop solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW)*."

1.5.23. NPS EN-3 acknowledges that associated infrastructure is typical for solar development, paragraph 2.10.16 noting that "*associated infrastructure may also be proposed and may be treated, on a case by case basis, as associated development, such as energy storage*".

1.5.24. The Proposed Development has been designed in accordance with the requirements of NPS EN-3. Elements that form part of the Proposed Development are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and the approach to site selection and alternatives considered are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

NPS for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5)

1.5.25. NPS EN-5 **[Ref. 1-6]** adopted by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in November 2023, forms part of the wider suite of energy NPSs.

1.5.26. NPS EN-5 is relevant to the Proposed Development as paragraph 1.6.1 recognises electricity networks as "*transmission systems (the long-distance transfer of electricity through 400kV and 275kV lines), and distribution systems (lower voltage lines from 132kV to 230V from transmission substations to the end-user) which can either be carried on towers/monopoles, or undergrounded; and associated infrastructure, e.g. substations (the essential link between generation, transmission*".

1.5.27. NPS EN-5 sets out further technology-specific considerations, in addition to those impacts covered in NPS EN-1, for:

- Biodiversity and geological conservation;
- Landscape and visual; and
- Noise and vibration.

1.5.28. NPS EN-5 sets out technology-specific considerations for the impact of electromagnetic frequencies.

National planning policy framework (NPPF)

1.5.29. While not determinative under the PA 2008, the NPPF **[Ref. 1-7]** is a document that may be important and relevant for the purposes of the Secretary of State's decision-making. The NPPF also provides relevant context for each environmental factor assessment as detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-16 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

1.5.30. The NPPF was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in March 2012 and was last updated in December 2024. The NPPF sets out the UK Government's planning policies and how these should be applied in England.

1.5.31. The NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIPs; however, Chapter 2 of the NPPF, 'Achieving sustainable development', sets out that the planning system should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, considering economic, social, and environmental roles.

1.5.32. Paragraph 161 of the NPPF states:

"The planning system should support the transition to net zero by 2050 and take full account of all climate impacts including overheating, water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change*. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure".*

1.5.33. While the local planning authority is not the determining authority for the application for development consent, paragraph 168 of the NPPF states that when determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon developments and their associated infrastructure, local planning authorities should:

"a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and give significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal's contribution to a net zero future".

Local planning policy

1.5.34. Local development plans do not carry the same weight under the PA 2008 in respect of decision-making for NSIPs as they do when determining planning applications pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) **[Ref. 1-8]**. The aforementioned NPSs are the primary consideration for NSIP applications. Nevertheless, a local development plan is still a matter that can be considered both important and relevant when determining an application for a NSIP. However in the event of any conflict the NPS prevails.

1.5.35. Rosefield Solar Farm lies within Buckinghamshire for which Buckinghamshire Council is the responsible relevant local planning authority (the 'host' planning authority). The relevant local planning policies of the adopted local development plan **[Ref. 1-9]** for Buckinghamshire Council comprise the following:

- Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) 2013 – 2033 (Adopted September 2021); and
- Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016 – 2036 (Adopted July 2019).

Consideration of planning policy in EIA

1.5.36. Legislation, policy and guidance have been considered within each of the environmental factor chapters, set out within **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 -**

15 [EN010158/APP/6.2], with a summary provided for each environmental factor.

1.5.37. An assessment of the Proposed Development against planning policy is undertaken and set out in the **Planning Statement [EN010158/APP/5.7]**.

1.6. Objectives and good design principles

1.6.1. For the Proposed Development, the approach for achieving good design was considered from the outset and a framework for good design was developed with the purpose of shaping the design and development. This is described in the **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]** and includes the identification of Project Principles to ensure good design outcomes are embedded within the Proposed Development from the very start.

1.7. Structure of the Environmental Statement

ES Volume 1: Introduction Chapters

1.7.1. **ES Volume 1 [EN010158/APP/6.1]** (this volume) introduces the environmental assessment and the Proposed Development and is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1: Background and Context;
- Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development;
- Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description;
- Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered; and
- Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA.

ES Volume 2: Factor Chapters

1.7.2. **ES Volume 2 [EN010158/APP/6.2]** presents the main findings of the EIA and is structured as follows:

- Chapter 6: Air Quality;
- Chapter 7: Biodiversity;
- Chapter 8: Climate;
- Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual;
- Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater;
- Chapter 12: Soil;
- Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration;

- Chapter 14: Population;
- Chapter 15: Transport and Access;
- Chapter 16: Water; and
- Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects.

1.7.3. The environmental factor assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to 16**) have been structured in a consistent format to navigate the ES and ensure that the ES includes the information as required by Regulation 14(2) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 1-4]** and specified in the Annex to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements **[Ref. 1-10]** as shown in **Table 1.2** and **Table 1.3** within **Section 1.9** below. The following structure has been adopted in each environmental factor assessment chapter:

- Section 1: Introduction;
- Section 2: Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance;
- Section 3: Stakeholder engagement;
- Section 4: Approach to identifying the scope of the assessment;
- Section 5: Environmental baseline;
- Section 6: Approach to the assessment;
- Section 7: Mitigation embedded into the design;
- Section 8: Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation);
- Section 9: Additional mitigation;
- Section 10: Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation);
- Section 11: Opportunities for enhancement;
- Section 12: Monitoring requirements;
- Section 13: Difficulties and uncertainties;
- Section 14: Summary; and
- Section 15: References.

ES Volume 3: Figures

1.7.4. **ES Volume 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** comprises figures to support the information detailed in **ES Volume 1 [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 2 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**. The supporting figures are provided in a separate volume to ensure the figures to be shown are at a suitable scale to aid access and interpretation.

ES Volume 4: Technical Appendices and Non-Technical Summary

1.7.5. **ES Volume 4 [EN010158/APP/6.4]** includes the appendices comprising a set of supporting reports, which include technical survey reports and survey data, to support the environmental information detailed in **ES Volume 1 [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 2 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

1.7.6. **ES Volume 4 [EN010158/APP/6.4]** also includes annotated photo sheets for the landscape and visual viewpoints to support the information detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010158/APP/6.2]**. It also includes the **Non-Technical Summary [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, which provides a concise summary of the ES. The Non-Technical Summary is designed to provide information in an accessible format using non-technical language to enable a wide audience to understand the Proposed Development and its environmental impacts. Furthermore, it includes the **Commitments Register [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

1.8. Information required by the EIA Regulations

1.8.1. **Table 1.2** presents the information required by Regulation 14(2) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 1-4]** and where this information is located within the ES. **Table 1.3** presents the information required by the Annex to Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements **[Ref. 1-10]** and where this information is located within the ES.

Table 1.2: Information required by Regulation 14(2) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 and where that information is located within the ES.

Required information	Location within this ES
Regulation 14(2) of the EIA Regulations	
(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**
(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development**

Required information	Location within this ES
reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment.	**Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
(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.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010158/APP/6.1]**
(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d).	**ES Volume 4, Non-Technical Summary [EN010158/APP/6.4]**
(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.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations	
1. A description of the development, including in particular:	
a) a description of the location of the development.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development [EN010158/APP/6.1]**
b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**

Required information	Location within this ES
land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases.	
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.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**
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.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Soil [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
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**	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010158/APP/6.1]**

Required information	Location within this ES
selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.	
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.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
4. A description of the factors specified in Regulation 5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:	
a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010158/APP/6.2]**

Required information	Location within this ES
	ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158/APP/6.2] **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Soil [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters).	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Soil [EN010158/APP/6.2]**

Required information	Location within this ES
	ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [EN010158/APP/6.2] **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Population [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
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.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
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.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Climate [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
g) the technologies and the substances used.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**
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.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**

Required information	Location within this ES
difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	
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.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
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.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Soil [EN010158/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	**ES Volume 4, Non-Technical Summary [EN010158/APP/6.4]**
10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the ES.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**

Table 1.3: Information required by the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7 (Annex) to be included within the ES and where that information is located within the ES.

Required information	Location within this ES
1. a description of the Proposed Development including location, physical characteristics, operational characteristics, and expected residues and emissions.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Climate [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
2. a description of the baseline scenario including the future baseline without development as far as can be assessed.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 16 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
3. a description of the methods used to predict significant effects.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
4. a description of the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) of the Proposed Development having regard to impacts that are; direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium or long-term, permanent and temporary.	**ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**
5. a description of avoidance and mitigation measures and to what extent these will be effective and a description of any proposed monitoring arrangements.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 – 17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**

1.9. Competency

1.9.1. Regulation 14(4)(a) of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 1-4]** requires that the ES is prepared by 'competent experts'.

1.9.2. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 1.1: Statement of Competence [EN010158/APP/6.4]** includes a Statement of Competence which outlines the relevant experience, expertise and /or qualifications of the experts who have prepared the ES, in accordance with Regulation 14(4)(a) of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 1-4]**.

1.10. References

- **Ref. 1-1:** UK Government. (2008). Planning Act 2008. Available online: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/14
- **Ref. 1-2:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2023). Energy Generation Costs 2023. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-generation-costs-2023
- **Ref. 1-3:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2023). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1
- **Ref. 1-4:** UK Government. (2017). The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online: The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (legislation.gov.uk)
- **Ref. 1-5:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2023). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2023). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3
- **Ref. 1-6:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2023). National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2023). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5
- **Ref. 1-7:** Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework. Available online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf

- **Ref. 1-8:** UK Government. (1990). Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Available online: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents
- **Ref. 1-9:** Buckinghamshire Council. (2021). Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013 – 2033 (Adopted in September 2021). Available online: https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/documents/9742/Aylesbury_local_plan_L46JWaT.pdf
- **Ref. 1-10:** Annex to Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven: Presentation of the Environmental Statement. (25 March 2025). Available online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6579a3e4095987001295dfcc/Annex1_advice_note_7.pdf

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