One Earth Solar Farm

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Policy Compliance Document

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 – Reg 5(2)(q)

One Earth Solar Farm

Table 1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) – Table of Compliance

National Policy Statement for Overarching Energy (EN-1) **Generic Impacts - The generic impacts set out in Part 5 of EN-1 (2023) are considered below.**			
Part	**EN-1 Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
EN-1 Part 3 – The need for new nationally significant energy infrastructure projects			
3.1 Introduction	3.1.1 This Part of the NPS explains why the government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives and why the government considers that the need for such infrastructure is urgent. 3.1.2 However, it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts. These effects will be minimised by the application of policy set out in Parts 4 and 5 of this NPS. See also Part 2 of each technology specific NPS.	The Proposed Development would make a significant contribution to the achievement of both the national renewable energy targets and to the UK's contribution to global efforts to reduce the effects of climate change. The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2029. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure,	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**

		affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. In the case of the Proposed Development, the residual significant adverse effects are limited to temporary effects on cultural heritage, biodiversity, landscape and visual and land and soils. It is considered that these residual impacts do not meet the "exceptional circumstances" test and therefore do not warrant refusal. The Proposed Development does not have an unacceptable interference with human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or pose an unacceptable risk to achievement of net zero. In addition, there are a significant number of additional benefits that would be achieved by the Proposed Development.	
3.2 Secretary of State decision making	3.2.1 The government's objectives for the energy system are to ensure our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and consistent with net zero emissions in 2050 for a wide range of future scenarios, including through delivery of our carbon budgets and NDC.	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2029. The Proposed Development would contribute towards the UK Government meeting the overarching key national policy aims of: • Achieving Net Zero by 2050 and reducing emissions; • Increasing the security of energy supply	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

		• Lowering the cost and increasing the affordability of generated electricity; and • Contributing to sustainable development and economic opportunities This would help the UK diversify its energy supply, increase energy resilience, and support local and national carbon emission reduction targets. It would provide a reliable supply of electricity that seeks to help address the needs of the UK power market. It would also help the UK to meet carbon reduction commitments, by significantly increasing the proportion of electricity supplied by renewable sources.	
	3.2.2 We need a range of different types of energy infrastructure to deliver these objectives. This includes the infrastructure described within this NPS but also more nascent technologies, data, and innovative infrastructure projects consistent with these objectives.	The Proposed Development would help the UK diversify its energy supply, increase energy resilience and help support local and national carbon emission reduction targets. The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2029.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**
	3.2.3 It is not the role of the planning system to deliver specific amounts or limit any form of infrastructure covered by this NPS. It is for industry to propose new energy infrastructure		

	projects within the strategic framework set by government. With the exception of new coal or largescale oil-fired electricity generation, 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.		
	3.2.6 The Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure, which is urgent, as described for each of them in this Part.	Section 3.3 of the NPS EN-1 identifies an urgent need for new nationally significant electricity infrastructure. The Proposed Development delivers against that need because it delivers 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2029. The Statement of Need concludes, in support of the settled policy position in 3.2.6 – 3.2.8 of NPS EN-1, that the decarbonisation, security of supply and affordability benefits delivered by the Proposed Development to the national urgent need for low-carbon generation should be accorded very significant weight in the planning balance.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**
	3.2.7 In addition, the Secretary of State has determined that substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.		
	3.2.8The Secretary of State is not required to consider separately the specific contribution of any individual project to satisfying the need established in this NPS.		

	3.2.9 This NPS, along with any technology specific energy NPSs, sets out policy for nationally significant energy infrastructure covered by sections 15-21 of the Planning Act 2008	The Applicant acknowledges this Paragraph and confirms that a policy review of all relevant NPSs for Energy has been undertaken.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]**
3.3 The need for electricity generating capacity	3.3.59 All the generating technologies mentioned above are urgently needed to meet the government's energy objectives by: providing security of supply (by reducing reliance on imported oil and gas, avoiding concentration risk, and not relying on one fuel or generation type) providing an affordable, reliable system (through the deployment of technologies with complementary characteristics) ensuring the system is net zero consistent (by remaining in line with our carbon budgets and maintaining the options required to deliver for a wide range of demand, decarbonisation, and technology scenarios, including where there are difficulties with delivering any technology).	As discussed in the above responses to NPS EN-1 Paragraphs 3.2.1 and 3.3.2, the Proposed Development is urgently needed in order to meet the Government's energy objectives. The Statement of Need, consistently with EN-1, concludes that the decarbonisation, security of supply and affordability benefits delivered by the Proposed Development to the national urgent need for low-carbon generation should be accorded very significant weight in the planning balance. Urgent and unprecedented actions are required on a global scale to halt climate change. A rapid increase in the supply of low carbon electricity is needed for the UK to meet its legally binding climate change targets. Solar generation is a critical part of the UK's strategy to achieve net zero by 2050, a key step towards the government's national mission for 'Clean Power by 2030'. However, the need for new clean power does not stop at 2030. The continued delivery of low-carbon generation facilities beyond 2030 is necessary to meet future	**Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

		electricity demand growth and achieve essential wider societal carbon savings. It is also important to continue to bring forward schemes in case 'Clean Power by 2030' is not achieved. The NPSs do not set out any maximum targets for low-carbon infrastructure development (see paragraph 3.2.3 of NPS EN-1). The UK should be developing as much low-carbon infrastructure as possible and as quickly as possible to meet the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions while ensuring a reliable, secure, and affordable supply.	
	3.3.63 Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure, and it should be progressed as quickly as possible.	The Proposed Development constitutes CNP Infrastructure and that this gives rise to a need which will, in general, outweigh any other residual impacts that are not capable of being addressed by the application of the mitigation hierarchy. Adverse impacts during the Proposed Development's construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases are identified and assessed across the ES with each Chapter highlighting the environmental measures secured to reduce the significance of likely significant adverse effects. The ES provides the understanding of the mitigation hierarchy implemented as part of the Proposed Development. This hierarchy	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report of Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

		starts from the Site Selection process which identified sites with limited impact on surrounding historical and environmental designations. This is then further developed within the Design and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development, as well as any necessary monitoring measures.	
3.3 The need for new electricity networks	3.3.82 Government has committed to reduce emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 under carbon budget 6. According to the Net Zero Strategy this means that by 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in demand. 3.3.83 Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy.	The Proposed Development delivers against that need because it delivers 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2029. The Statement of Need concludes that the decarbonisation, security of supply and affordability benefits delivered by the Proposed Development to the national urgent need for low-carbon generation should be accorded very significant weight in the planning balance. The Statement of Need explains that the development of large-scale solar generation reflects the national policy position that there is a critical national priority for nationally significant low-carbon infrastructure, including solar generation, and that solar is a key part of the national strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector. It builds upon the case made in the NPSs to demonstrate why	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

		development such as the Proposed Development is urgently needed at the scale proposed, why the proposed location is highly suitable for such a scheme, and how the Proposed Development also addresses all relevant aspects of established and emerging government energy and climate change policy and commitments.	
EN-1 Part 4 – Assessment Principles			
4.1 General policies and considerations	4.1.1 This part of EN-1, Assessment Principles, sets out the general policies for the submission and assessment of applications relating to energy infrastructure. 4.1.2 The Energy White Paper and British Energy Security Strategy emphasises the importance of the government's net zero commitment and efforts to fight climate change, as well as the need to maintain a secure and reliable energy system. The Levelling Up White Paper calls on the Government to ensure investment in the transition to Net Zero benefits less well-performing parts of the UK, reducing emissions, facilitating economic development and the creation of jobs.	The Proposed Development meets the requirements of the relevant NPSs. Therefore, the presumption in favour of granting consent should apply, given the urgent need for this type of infrastructure. The Applicant is cognisant that the SoS is to start with a presumption in favour of granting consent for energy NSIPs that support the provision low carbon infrastructure unless any more specific NPS Policies indicate otherwise. The Planning Statement provides a summary of the need for the Proposed Development, which is CNP in the 2024 NPSs, and which informs the presumption in favour of granting consent. The Applicant recognises the provisions of Paragraph 4.1.1 of NPS EN-1 in the SoS determination of the Proposed Development and has	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	4.1.3 Given the level and urgency of need for infrastructure of the types covered by the energy NPSs set out in Part 3 of this NPS, the Secretary of State will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. That presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused. 4.1.4 The presumption is also subject to the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 referred to at paragraph 1.1.4 of this NPS.	sought to ensure the Development Consent Order Application is consistent with the instructions and guidance of the relevant NPSs.	
Weighing impacts and benefits	4.1.5 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, reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits • its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse	The Planning Statement, submitted as part of this Application, sets out the planning balance for the Proposed Development, drawing together the likely significant beneficial effects of the Proposed Development and the likely significant residual adverse effects. In the case of the Proposed Development, the residual significant adverse effects are limited to temporary effects on cultural heritage, biodiversity, landscape and visual and land and soils. It is considered that these residual impacts do not meet the "exceptional circumstances" test and therefore do not warrant refusal. The Proposed Development does not have an unacceptable interference with human	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy	health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or pose an unacceptable risk to achievement of net zero. In addition, there are a significant number of additional benefits that would be achieved by the Proposed Development, as outlined above. The balance is firmly in favour of approval. The Proposed Development is a well-considered and effectively designed proposal that responds to the locality and is sensitive to the local environment. It is therefore concluded that Development Consent should be granted.	
	4.1.6 In this context, the Secretary of State should take into account environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels. These may be identified in this NPS, the relevant technology specific NPS, in the application or elsewhere (including in local impact reports, marine plans, and other material considerations as outlined in Section 1.1).	The Planning Statement, submitted as part of this Application, sets out the planning balance for the Proposed Development, drawing together the likely significant beneficial effects of the Proposed Development and the likely significant residual adverse effects. The Planning Statement, together with this Policy Compliance Document, demonstrates that the Proposed Development is broadly compliant with the relevant NPSs, NPPF, and Local Plans. The ES has further assessed these policies (local, regional and national levels) against each topic.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**

	4.1.7 Where this NPS or the relevant technology specific NPSs require an applicant to mitigate a particular impact as far as possible, but the Secretary of State considers that there would still be residual adverse effects after the implementation of such mitigation measures, the Secretary of State should weigh those residual effects against the benefits of the proposed development. For projects which qualify as CNP Infrastructure, it is likely that the need case will outweigh the residual effects in all but the most exceptional cases. This presumption, however, does not apply to residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or unacceptable risk to the achievement of net zero. Further, the same exception applies to this presumption for residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference offshore to navigation, or onshore to flood and coastal erosion risk.	The residual adverse effects associated with the Proposed Development's construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases have been identified across the ES. Each Chapter highlights, where required (and to the extent that is has been reasonably practicable), environmental measures have been proposed to minimise the residual significance of effect to the lowest reasonably practicable level. The Applicant is cognisant that there are some residual adverse effects that remain after the implementation of additional mitigation measures. These adverse effects have been weighted against the benefits of the Proposed Development within the Planning Statement. The Planning Statement concludes that the SoS should give appropriate weight to the benefits of the Proposed Development when considering the planning balance. The Proposed Development will contribute to addressing a CNP which the Government have described as being both critical and urgent	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**
Land Rights	4.1.8 Where the use of land at a specific location is required to facilitate the development by providing for mitigation and	The Site is within four land ownerships, and this small number of landowners is	**Draft DCO[EN010159/APP/3.1]**

	landscape enhancement, an applicant may, as part of its application to the Secretary of State, seek the compulsory acquisition of that land, or rights over that land. 4.1.9 The Secretary of State will consider any such application under the usual compulsory acquisition principles, taking into account the content of the NPSs.	advantageous in terms of minimising project complexity, legal complexity and cost. Negotiations for the purchase of other land, rights and interests are ongoing in respect of the land and new rights required for the Proposed Development, with many option agreements already signed and in process. Nevertheless, it is necessary for the Applicant to seek compulsory acquisition powers to secure such land, rights and interests and to ensure that any third-party interests or encumbrances affecting such land, rights and interests may be acquired, overridden or extinguished pursuant to the draft DCO, thereby ensuring that the Proposed Development can be constructed, operated and maintained. The compulsory acquisition of the Order land or rights over the Order land (including restrictions), together with the overriding of interests, rights and restrictive covenants and the suspension or extinguishment of private rights, is required for the purposes of, to facilitate, or are incidental to, the Proposed Development and are proportionate and no more than is reasonably necessary. All reasonable alternatives to compulsory acquisition have been explored. Whilst seeking compulsory acquisition powers, the Applicant will continue to seek to acquire the land, the temporary use of land, the	**Statement of Reasons [EN010159/APP/4.1]**

		rights and other interests by agreement, as well as secure the removal of matters affecting the Order Land that may impede the Proposed Development, wherever possible. Given the national and local need for the Proposed Development and the support for it found in policy, as well as the suitability of the Order limits (for the reasons outlined above), compulsory acquisition of the land and rights and the temporary use of land, together with the overriding of interests, rights and restrictive covenants and the suspension or extinguishment of private rights is justified.	
Other Documents	4.1.10 The policy set out in this NPS and the technology specific energy NPSs is intended to provide greater clarity around existing policy and practice of the Secretary of State in considering applications for nationally significant energy infrastructure, (or therefore the “benchmark” for what is, or is not, an acceptable nationally significant energy development). 4.1.11 The energy NPSs have taken account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for England, and Planning Policy	The Proposed Development includes infrastructure capable of generating more than 50 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the High Marnham 400kV Substation. Development consent is required for the Proposed Development as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), as it consists of an onshore generating station in England with a capacity of exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]**

	Wales and Technical Advice Notes (TANs) for Wales, where appropriate 4.1.12 Other matters that the Secretary of State may consider both important and relevant to their decision-making may include Development Plan documents or other documents in the Local Development Framework.	The Planning Statement, together with these Policy Compliance Document, considers the Proposed Development is broadly compliant with the relevant NPSs, NPPF, and Local Plans.	
	4.1.13 Where the project conflicts with a proposal in a draft Development Plan, the Secretary of State should take account of the stage which the Development Plan document in England or Local Development Plan in Wales has reached in deciding what weight to give to the plan for the purposes of determining the planning significance of what is replaced, prevented, or precluded.	The Proposed Development lies within five administrative areas, comprising of Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council. Lincolnshire County Council is preparing a new Minerals and Waste Plan. Lincolnshire County Council invited interested parties to share their views on the Applicants preferred approach between July and September 2024. Nottinghamshire County Council is preparing a revised Joint Waste Local Plan (incorporating review of Waste Core Strategy 2013) prepared with Nottingham City Council. The revised plan is expected to be adopted in March 2025. Newark and Sherwood District Council is completing a review of the Amended	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]**

		Allocations & Development Management DPD. The Draft Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD was submitted to the SoS on the 18th January 2024 and was examined in public in November. However, the outcome of the examination is not yet published and whilst the plan is at an advanced stage of preparation, there are unresolved objections to amended versions of the above policies emerging through that process. Therefore, the level of weight which those proposed new policies can be afforded is currently limited. Should a local plan update be published, the Applicant will consider any proposals within it against the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development's compliance with the adopted local plan has been considered within the Policy Compliance Document.	
	4.1.15 In the event of a conflict between these documents and an NPS, the NPS prevails for the purpose of Secretary of State decision making given the national significance of the infrastructure	At present, this Paragraph is not relevant to the Proposed Development. Should a local plan update be published, the Applicant will consider any proposals within it against the Proposed Development.	**N/A**
Development Consent	4.1.16 The Secretary of State should only impose requirements in relation to a development consent that are necessary, relevant to planning,	The draft DCO sets out the Requirements considered necessary to control the delivery of the Proposed Development. The	**Draft DCO[EN010159/APP/3.1]**

	relevant to the development to be consented, enforceable, precise, and reasonable in all other respects. 4.1.17 The Secretary of State should consider the guidance in the NPPF, the PPG: Use of Planning Conditions, and TANs, or any successor documents, where appropriate.	Applicant considers that the provisions within the draft DCO meet the tests listed.	**Explanatory Memorandum DCO [EN010159/APP/3.2]**
	4.1.18 The Secretary of State may consider any development consent obligations that an applicant agrees with local authorities. These must be relevant to planning, necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the proposed development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development, and reasonable in all other respects.	The Applicant recognises that there may be a need for certain planning obligations, in the meaning set out in the NPS, to be secured – although the Applicant has not currently identified any need in this respect. Where such a need is identified, the Applicant will submit any such proposed planning obligation to the ExA and/or SoS for consideration.	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**
Early Engagement	4.1.19 Early engagement both before and at the formal pre-application stage between the applicant and key stakeholders, including public regulators, Statutory Consultees (including Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs)), and those likely to have an interest in a proposed energy infrastructure application, is strongly encouraged in line with the Government's pre-	The Applicant has conducted an ongoing programme of consultation and engagement to inform the design of the Proposed Development. The Applicant recognises the importance of consulting on the Proposed Development from an early stage and the benefits this could bring in terms of delivering an improved Proposed Development.	**Section 55 Checklist [EN010159/APP/1.6]** **Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**

	application guidance. This means that only applications which are fully prepared and comprehensive can be accepted for examination, enabling them to be properly assessed by the Examining Authority and leading to a clear recommendation report to the Secretary of State. 4.1.20 This is particularly so in the case of HRA matters covered in paragraphs 5.4.25 to 5.4.31 below, which explain the onus is on the applicant to submit sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State to conduct an Appropriate Assessment if required.	In summary, the completed Section 55 checklist provides evidence of compliance with the pre-application consultation requirements within the PA 2008, APFP Regulations, EIA Regulations 2017, and the MHCLG pre-application guidance (2024). Further, the Applicant has submitted a Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment which provides information to allow the SoS (as the competent authority) to determine whether there will be an adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site(s) in view of their Conservation Objectives (COs) as a result of the Proposed Development. Strictly speaking, the SoS will undertake the final Appropriate Assessment, with this Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment as a suggested assessment undertaken independently on behalf of the Applicant.	
Financial Viability	4.1.21 In deciding to bring forward a proposal for infrastructure development, the applicant will have made a judgement on the financial and technical viability of the proposed development, within the market framework and taking account of government interventions. 4.1.22 Where the Secretary of State considers that the financial viability and technical feasibility of the proposal has been properly assessed	The Applicant has considered these policies and confirms that the Proposed Development is expected to be project financed. The overall objective of the financing strategy for the Proposed Development is to provide full funding commitments prior to the commencement of construction and minimise the overall cost of funds to provide value for money on the cost of the delivered energy from this capital-intensive project.	**Funding Statement [EN010159/APP/4.2]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Grid Connection Statement [EN010159/APP/7.2]**

	by the applicant, it is unlikely to be of relevance in Secretary of State decision making (any exceptions to this principle are dealt with where they arise in this or other energy NPSs and the reasons why financial viability or technical feasibility is likely to be of relevance explained).	The Applicant has followed a site selection process that has taken into account environmental, physical, technical, social, and commercial considerations and opportunities, as well as engineering requirements. Therefore, the Applicant is confident that they have developed a sensitive and technically viable proposal at this stage. The Applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development, as is acknowledged in EN-1 Part 4.3, Section 2.6 and Paragraph 2.10.70 of EN-3. The extent of flexibility sought by the Applicant is described in the Description of the Proposed Development. The Funding Statement and a Grid Connection Statement are submitted alongside the DCO application setting out how the Proposed Development is to be funded, and the status of the grid connection is confirmed.	
4.2 The critical national priority for low carbon infrastructure	4.2.1 Government has committed to fully decarbonising the power system by 2035, subject to security of supply, to underpin its 2050 net zero ambitions. More than half of final energy demand in 2050 could be met by electricity, as transport and heating in particular shift from fossil fuel to electrical technology	The Proposed Development would make a significant contribution to the achievement of the national renewable energy targets and to the UK's overall contribution to global efforts to reduce the effects of climate change. The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	4.2.2 Ensuring the UK is more energy independent, resilient and secure requires the smooth transition to abundant, low-carbon energy. The UK's strategy to increase supply of low carbon energy is dependent on deployment of renewable and nuclear power generation, alongside hydrogen and CCUS. Our energy security and net zero ambitions will only be delivered if we can enable the development of new low carbon sources of energy at speed and scale 4.2.3 With smart and strategic planning, the UK can maintain high environmental standards and minimise impacts while increasing the levels of deployment at the scale and pace needed to meet our energy security and net zero ambitions. 4.2.4 Government has therefore concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure.	solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2029 In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. The Statement of Need, consistently with EN-1 and EN-3, explains that the development of large-scale solar generation reflects the national policy position that there is a critical national priority for nationally significant low-carbon infrastructure, including solar generation, and that solar is a key part of the national strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector. It builds upon the case made in the NPSs to demonstrate why the development such as the Proposed Development is urgently needed at the scale proposed, why the proposed location is highly suitable for such a scheme, and how the Proposed Development also addresses all relevant aspects of established and emerging government	

		energy and climate change policy and commitments.	
	4.2.5 This does not extend the definition of what counts as nationally significant infrastructure: the scope remains as set out in the Planning Act 2008. Low carbon infrastructure for the purposes of this policy means: • for electricity generation, all onshore and offshore generation that does not involve fossil fuel combustion (that is, renewable generation, including anaerobic digestion and other plants that convert residual waste into energy, including combustion, provided they meet existing definitions of low carbon; and nuclear	The Proposed Development is a form of renewable energy generation and therefore meets the definition of low carbon infrastructure, and is within the definition of a nationally significant infrastructure project as set out in the Planning Act 2008.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	generation), as well as natural gas fired generation which is carbon capture ready • for electricity grid infrastructure, all power lines in scope of EN-5 including network reinforcement and upgrade works, and associated infrastructure such as substations. This is not limited to those associated specifically with a particular generation technology, as all new grid projects will contribute towards greater efficiency in constructing, operating and connecting low carbon infrastructure to the National Electricity Transmission System for other energy infrastructure, fuels, pipelines and storage infrastructure, which fits within the normal definition of “low carbon”, such as hydrogen distribution, and carbon dioxide distribution • for energy infrastructure which is directed into the NSIP regime under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008, and fit within the normal definition of “low carbon”, such as interconnectors, Multi-		

	Purpose Interconnectors, or 'bootstraps' to support the onshore network which are routed offshore • Lifetime extensions of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure, and repowering of projects		
	4.2.6 The overarching need case for each type of energy infrastructure and the substantial weight which should be given to this need in assessing applications, as set out in paragraphs 3.2.6 to 3.2.8 of EN-1, is the starting point for all assessments of energy infrastructure applications.	The Applicant notes this Paragraph and refers to the assessment pieces above in paragraphs 3.2.6 to 3.2.8 to demonstrate compliance.	**N/A**
	4.2.7 The CNP policy does not create an additional or cumulative need case or weighting to that which is already outlined for each type of energy infrastructure. The policy applies following the normal consideration of the need case, the impacts of the project, and the application of the mitigation hierarchy. As such, it is relevant during Secretary of State decision making and specifically in reference to any residual impacts that have been identified. It should therefore also be given consideration by the Examining Authority when it is	The Proposed Development has followed the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 in assessing the impacts of the Proposed Development. Mitigation hierarchy started from the site selection process, and through to the design stage of the Proposed Development. However, each ES Chapter also provides an overview of significant effects (whether adverse or beneficial) as well as the environmental measures that influence the residual significance of effect.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	making its recommendation to the Secretary of State.	Each ES Chapter also provides an overview of the significant residual effects, as well as the environmental measures secured to reduce the significance of such effect to its lowest reasonably practicable level. As noted in the Planning Statement, the identified residual impacts are considered, on balance, to be clearly outweighed by the overarching needs case for the Proposed Development (being that of a critical national priority) and the substantial weight which is to be given to such a need.	
	4.2.8 During decision making, the CNP policy will influence how non-HRA and non-MCZ residual impacts are considered in the planning balance. The policy will therefore also influence how the Secretary of State considers whether tests requiring clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality, or very special circumstances have been met by a CNP Infrastructure application. Further detail is provided in paragraphs 4.2.15 to 4.2.17, and Figure 2.		
	4.2.9 During decision making, the CNP policy also explains the Secretary of State's approach to HRA derogations and MCZ assessments. Specifically, the policy explains how the alternative solutions and IROPI tests are considered by the Secretary of State. Further detail is provided in paragraphs 4.2.18 to 4.2.22, and Figure 3.	This paragraph is not relevant to the Proposed Development. The submitted Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment concludes there is no adverse effect on site integrity as a result of the Proposed Development and no HRA Derogations case is required.	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**
	4.2.10 Applicants for CNP infrastructure must continue to show how their application meets the requirements in this NPS and the relevant technology specific NPS,	The Applicant has considered this NPS and relevant technology specific NPS's, applying the mitigation hierarchy, as well as any other legal and regulatory requirements.	**Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]**

	applying the mitigation hierarchy, as well as any other legal and regulatory requirements.	The ES provides the baseline environmental information available for the study areas that are relevant for the environmental assessment undertaken, the description of the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development, as well as any necessary monitoring measures. In addition, the Applicant has ensured that there has been an application of mitigation hierarchy over the course of the Proposed Development, having started from the site selection stage in order to avoid and minimise impacts but has also informed the Proposed Development design.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]**
	4.2.11 Applicants must apply the mitigation hierarchy and demonstrate that it has been applied. They should also seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB or other relevant statutory body when undertaking this process. Applicants should demonstrate that all residual impacts are those that cannot be avoided, reduced or mitigated.		**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Commitments Register [EN010159/APP/7.15]**
	4.2.12 Applicants should set out how residual impacts will be compensated for as far as possible. Applicants should also set out how any mitigation or compensation measures will be monitored and reporting agreed to ensure success and that action is taken. Changes to measures may be needed e.g. adaptive management. The cumulative impacts of multiple	The ES Chapters are structured to outline the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning phase impacts of the Proposed Development. The ES Chapters identify the significance of an impact upon an assessed receptor, taking account of the environmental measures secured by the Proposed Development's design. The Cumulative Effects assessment assesses the impact of the Proposed	**ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]** **Commitments Register [EN010159/APP/7.15]**

	developments with residual impacts should also be considered.	Development cumulatively with relevant developments within the Zone of Influence. To ensure clarity as to how the Environmental Measures are secured, a Commitments Register has been included within the submission. This Register follows PINS Guidance and will identifies how commitments will be secured and implemented, to ensure potential environmental effects arising from the project are mitigated as far as possible, in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, and as set out in the technical assessments detailed in the Aspect Chapters of the ES. It is noted that the Commitments Register is a 'live' document that will be updated throughout the NSIP planning process. The Commitments Register links to the management plans secured and monitored via the draft DCO.	
	4.2.13 Where residual impacts relate to HRA or MCZ sites then the Applicant must provide a derogation case, if required, in the normal way in compliance with the relevant legislation and guidance.	This paragraph does not apply to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development's construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases would not give rise to residual impacts relating to HRA.	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**
	4.2.14 The Secretary of State will continue to consider the impacts and benefits of all CNP Infrastructure applications on a case-by-case basis. The Secretary of State must be	As described above, the Applicant's assessment through the: - EIA, as set out in the ES; and	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	satisfied that the applicant's assessment demonstrates that the requirements set out above have been met. Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that they have been met the CNP presumptions set out below apply.	- HRA, as set out in the Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment; demonstrates that the requirements for considering stakeholder consultation, residual impacts, the mitigation hierarchy and relevant policy and legislative tests under the NPSs and other legislation have been complied with .	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**
Non-HRA and non - MCZ residual impacts of CNP Infrastructure	4.2.15 Where residual non-HRA or non-MCZ impacts remain after the mitigation hierarchy has been applied, these residual impacts are unlikely to outweigh the urgent need for this type of infrastructure. Therefore, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that consent will be refused on the basis of these residual impacts. The exception to this presumption of consent are residual impacts onshore and offshore which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or unacceptable risk to the achievement of net zero. Further, the same exception applies to this presumption for residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference offshore to navigation, or	The Applicant acknowledges that there would be a number of significant adverse residual effects of the Proposed Development, following the application of the mitigation hierarchy (as far as it has been reasonably practicable). Having followed the mitigation hierarchy, the Applicant is confident that the residual adverse effects associated with the Proposed Development do not amount to "the most exceptional circumstances" for where CNP policy would not apply. Therefore, given the urgent need for the Proposed Development, the need outweighs the residual adverse effects.	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**

	onshore to flood and coastal erosion risk. 4.2.16 As a result, the Secretary of State will take as the starting point for decision-making that such infrastructure is to be treated as if it has met any tests which are set out within the NPSs, or any other planning policy, which requires a clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality or very special circumstances.		
HRA Derogations and MCZ assessments for CNP infrastructure	4.2.18 Any HRA or MCZ residual impacts will continue to be considered under the framework set out in the Habitats Regulations and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 respectively.	This paragraph is not relevant to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development's construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases would not give rise to residual impacts relating to HRA.	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**
4.3 Environmental effects/considerations	4.3.1 All proposals for projects that are subject to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project.	The Proposed Development has followed the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 in assessing the impacts of the Proposed Development and preparing an ES that is submitted with the Application. The ES has included aspect assessments of those specifically referenced aspects covered under Paragraph 4.3.2. The ES	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters**

	4.3.2 The Regulations specifically refer to effects on population, human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them.	Chapters have each considered the inter-related effects of the Proposed Development on the same receptor. The ES provides the baseline environmental information available for the study areas that are relevant for the environmental assessment undertaken, the description of the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development, as well as any necessary monitoring measures. It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development's ES is in accordance with paragraphs 4.3.1 to 4.3.3 of NPS EN -1.	**[EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**
	4.3.3 The Regulations require an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent, and temporary, positive, and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects.		
	4.3.4 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. This information could include matters such as employment, equality, biodiversity net gain,		

	community cohesion, health, and well -being.		
	4.3.5 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.	The ES has considered the environmental, social, and economic effects through the topic chapters and considers the potential for these effects to arise during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases. Both the natural and historic environments have been considered. The predicted effects of the Proposed Development have been presented within the ES and includes consideration of the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. As such it is considered that the Proposed Development's ES accord s with the requirements of Paragraphs 4.25, 4.2.6 and 4.2.7 of EN-1.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]**
	4.3.6 Where the NPSs use the term 'environment' they are referring to both the natural and historic environments.		
	4.3.7 In the absence of any additional information on additional assessments, the principles set out in this Section will apply to all assessments.		
	4.3.10 The applicant must provide information proportionate to the scale of the project, ensuring the information is sufficient to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations.	The Proposed Development is based on a parameter-led level of detail (provided for in the EIA process that is proportionate to the scale of the Proposed Development). The EIA Process has made effective use of Scoping, ongoing engagement, and other digital outputs to deliver a proportionate approach. Where full details cannot be provided, the ES assesses the maximum development parameters (or the parameters that	**Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]**
	4.3.11 In some instances, it may not be possible at the time of the application for development consent for all aspects of the Application to have been settled in precise detail. Where this is the case, the applicant		

	should explain in its application which elements of the Application have yet to be finalised, and the reasons why this is the case.. 4.3.12 Where some details are still to be finalised, the ES should, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the Application to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed 4.3.13 To help the Secretary of State consider thoroughly the potential effects of a proposed project in cases where the EIA Regulations do not apply and an ES is not therefore required, the applicant should instead provide information proportionate to the scale of the project on the likely significant environmental, social, and economic effects.	represent the reasonable worst case for likely significant environmental effects, should that be different), which allows flexibility for elements that are likely to require more detailed design after the submission of the ES. In response to Paragraph 4.3.12, the Applicant confirms that each aspect chapter of the ES sets out the assumptions made regarding the maximum design scenario relevant to that chapter and for each impact. In accordance with the above, the realistic worst-case scenarios for each topic are summarised within each aspect chapter. These are based on the Outline Design Parameters, where relevant, described in Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development which provides further details regarding the maximum design scenario approach and the Proposed Development's parameters.	
	4.3.15 Applicants are obliged to include in their ES, information about the reasonable alternatives they have studied. This should include an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental, social,	The Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES and the Site Selection Report provide a description of the detailed site selection and assessment of alternatives process undertaken by the Applicant.	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	and economic effects and including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility.	The assessment considers the locational criteria (being environmental, social and economic, electrical and engineering constraints) which geographically influenced the area of search. Then, following the selection of the preferred locations for the components of the Proposed Development, based on the application of the locational criteria and factors mentioned above, the Applicant then developed a set of core design principles which are described in the Design Approach Document. These have then influenced the optioneering and the identification of a preferred design which then underwent further technical and feasibility assessments.	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]**
	4.3.16 In some circumstances, the NPSs may impose a policy requirement to consider alternatives.		
	4.3.17 Where there is a policy or legal requirement to consider alternatives, the applicant should describe the alternatives considered in compliance with these requirements.		
	4.3.18 The Secretary of State should consider the worst-case impacts in its consideration of the application and consent, providing some flexibility in the consent to account for uncertainties in specific project details.	The use of the Rochdale Envelope approach has been adopted to present a reasonable worst-case assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development. The list of parameters for each of the Works is set out in the Works Plans and Outline Design Parameters, which set the maximum spatial extent of each Work that forms the authorised development. Where parameters have been adopted, these are realistic and considered worst-case estimations of future design parameters.	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN010159/APP/6.2]**
	4.3.19 The Secretary of State should consider how the accumulation of, and interrelationship between, effects might affect the environment, economy, or community as a whole, even though they may be acceptable when considered on an individual		

	basis with mitigation measures in place.	Therefore, each chapter assesses the 'realistic worst-case' scenario for each of the identified potential impacts. Each aspect assessment has taken the maximum design scenario approach which considers the likely worst cast environmental, social and economic effects. In addition, the inter-relationship of different disciplines across the physical, biological, ecological and human environments during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been considered across the specific ES Chapters. Each ES aspect Chapter, as well as the Cumulative Effects Chapter of the ES, consider and assesses cumulative effects as well as the environmental measures for the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Based on the above assessment, the Applicant considers that the approach and level of information contained within the ES is consistent with the requirements of Paragraphs 4.3.18 and 4.3.19 of NPS EN-1.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]**
	4.3.22 Given the level and urgency of need for new energy infrastructure, the Secretary of State should, subject to any relevant legal requirements (e.g. under the Habitats Regulations)	The Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES provides a description of the detailed site selection and assessment of alternatives process undertaken by the Applicant. The assessment of options is	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design**

	which indicate otherwise, be guided by the following principles when deciding what weight should be given to alternatives: • the consideration of alternatives in order to comply with policy requirements should be carried out in a proportionate manner; • only alternatives that can meet the objectives of the Application need to be considered	considered against the context of the urgent national need for renewable energy and, more specifically, the role of the Proposed Development in the Net Zero transition. The assessment considers both the site selection and alternative technologies. However, focused specifically on thelocational criteria (being environmental, social and economic, electrical and engineering constraints) which geographically influenced the area of search. Then, following the selection of the preferred locations for the Proposed Development Components, based on the application of the locational criteria and factors mentioned above, the Applicant then developed a set of core design principles which are described in the Design Approach Document. These have then influenced the optioneering and the identification of a preferred design which then underwent further technical and feasibility assessments.	**Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]**
	4.3.29 It is intended that potential alternatives to a proposed development should, wherever possible, be identified before an application is made to the Secretary of State (so as to allow appropriate consultation and the development of a suitable evidence base in relation	The Applicant notes this Paragraph and the onus it places on other person(s) to propose and, importantly, evidence the suitability of such alternative sites.	**N/A**

	to any alternatives which are particularly relevant). Therefore, where an alternative is first put forward by a third party after an application has been made, the Secretary of State may place the onus on the person proposing the alternative to provide the evidence for its suitability as such and the Secretary of State should not necessarily expect the applicant to have assessed it.		
4.4 Health	4.4.1 Energy infrastructure has the potential to impact on the health and well-being ("health") of the population. Access to energy is clearly beneficial to society and to our health as a whole. However, the construction of energy infrastructure and the production, distribution and use of energy may have negative impacts on some people's health. The direct impacts on health may include: • increased traffic • air or water pollution • dust, odour • hazardous waste and substances • noise • exposure to radiation, and	The Human Health Chapter of the ES considers the likely impacts and effects of the Proposed Development on human health during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases. The effects on population health, including the potential for adverse effects and opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing, are considered in the Chapter. Well-being is an integral consideration throughout this Chapter, reflecting that the WHO define health in terms of states of wellbeing. The Chapter assesses a number and range of impacts on human health, including but not limited to impacts on physical activity, community identity, culture, resilience and influence, employment and income (for vulnerable groups), climate change	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]**

	• increases in pests	mitigation and adaption, electro-magnetic fields (EMFs), wider societal infrastructure and resource, and health and social care services (for construction phase). Overall, the Chapter concludes that there would be no significant adverse population health effects arising from the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning phases. The Chapter concludes that there will be a moderate beneficial impact on climate change mitigation and adaption of the Proposed Development, which is significant is EIA terms.	
	4.4.3 New energy infrastructure may also affect the composition and size of the local population, and in doing so have indirect health impacts, for example if it in some way affects access to key public services, transport, or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity.		
	4.4.4 As described in the relevant sections of this NPS and in the technology specific NPSs, where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess these effects for each element of the project, identifying any potential adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate.		
	4.4.5 The impacts of more than one development may affect people simultaneously, so the applicant should consider the cumulative impact on health in the ES where appropriate.		
	4.4.6 Opportunities should be taken to mitigate indirect impacts, by promoting local improvements to		

	encourage health and wellbeing, this includes potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society, i.e., those groups which may be differentially impacted by a development compared to wider society as a whole.		
	4.4.7 Generally, those aspects of energy infrastructure which are most likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on health are subject to separate regulation (for example for air pollution) which will constitute effective mitigation of them, so that it is unlikely that health concerns will either by themselves constitute a reason to refuse consent or require specific mitigation under the Planning Act 2008. 4.4.8 However, not all potential sources of health impacts will be mitigated in this way and the Secretary of State may want to take account of health concerns when setting requirements relating to a range of impacts such as noise.	The Human Health Assessment concludes that there would be no significant adverse population health effects arising from the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning phases. The Chapter concludes that there will be a moderate beneficial impact on climate change mitigation and adaption of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. The Proposed Development looks to embed a number of environmental measures as part of the design which would be beneficial for the health of the local environmental. Some of the measures include: • A break in the arrays at the northeastern boundary, allowing The Woodland Trust access to Road Wood and to retain ecological connectivity. • Removal of arrays to maintain visual connectivity between the Fledborough Viaduct and Fledborough Village.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]** **Commitments Register [EN010159/APP/7.15]**

		• Setbacks to the south of Ragnall Village and offsets of up to 50 metres from Main Street. • Land between North Clifton and South Clifton removed from the Proposed Development to maintain perceived connectivity between the villages. • Bespoke buffers and setbacks to individual properties based on the home visits and consultation responses; and • Solar panels offset by at least 15 metres and up to 180 metres from PRoWs. The Proposed Development incorporates the adoption of an oCEMP and an oCTMP to minimise sources of environmental pollution and potential for disruption during the construction works, as well as an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan to maximise local employment and skills benefits. These documents include good design and best practice measures to ensure that adverse impacts to air quality, noise and traffic are avoided, reduced or mitigated. The Proposed Development incorporates the adoption of an oDEMP to minimise sources of environmental pollution and potential for disruption during the decommissioning works (see introductory	

		chapters for details relating to these management plans), and the Commitments Register sets out the environmental measures to be included during decommissioning. These documents include good design and best practice measures to ensure that adverse impacts to air quality, noise and traffic are avoided, reduced or mitigated.	
4.6 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain	4.6.1 Environmental net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. Projects should therefore not only avoid, mitigate and compensate harms, following the mitigation hierarchy, but also consider whether there are opportunities for enhancements.	The Applicant is cognisant of the importance of achieving environmental net gains, such as to leave the natural environment in a better state. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	4.6.2 Biodiversity net gain is an essential component of environmental net gain. Projects in England should consider and seek to incorporate improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver when planning how to deliver biodiversity net gain.		
	4.6.6 Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for	The Applicant confirms that opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment have been captured within the oLEMP which seeks to, for example, provide the mechanism to deliver the	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net**

	biodiversity, or the wider environment where possible. 4.6.7 In England applicants for onshore elements of any development are encouraged to use the most current version of the Defra biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and present planned biodiversity net gain outcomes. This calculation data should be presented in full as part of their application. 4.6.8 Where possible, this data should be shared, alongside a completed biodiversity metric calculation, with the Local Authority and Natural England for discussion at the preapplication stage as it can help to highlight biodiversity and wider environmental issues which may later cause delays if not addressed. 4.6.10 Biodiversity net gain should be applied after compliance with the mitigation hierarchy and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations although compliance with those obligations will be relevant to the question of the baseline for assessing net gain and if they deliver an additional	environmental commitments as set out in the ES whilst also ensuring the protection and health of retained vegetation within the Order Limits. A final Landscape and Ecology Management Plan would be produced substantially in accordance with the outline document, as secured via a requirement of the draft DCO. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	enhancement beyond meeting the existing obligation, that enhancement will count towards net gain		
	4.6.11 Biodiversity net gain can be delivered onsite or wholly or partially off-site. We encourage details of any off-site delivery of biodiversity net gain to be set out within the application for development consent.		
	4.6.12 When delivering biodiversity net gain off-site, developments should do this in a manner that best contributes to the achievement of relevant wider strategic outcomes, for example by increasing habitat connectivity, enhancing other ecosystem service outcomes, or considering use of green infrastructure strategies. Reference should be made to relevant national or local plans and strategies, to inform off-site biodiversity net gain delivery. If published, the relevant strategy is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). If an LNRS has not been published, the relevant consenting body or planning authority may specify alternative plans, policies or strategies to use.		

	4.6.13 In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains and benefits to communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities, such as: • reductions in GHG emissions, • reduced flood risk, • improvements to air or water quality, • climate adaptation, • landscape enhancement, or • increased access to natural greenspace, or • the enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands. The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of specific projects. Applicants should look for a holistic approach to delivering wider environmental gains and benefits through the use of nature-based solutions and Green Infrastructure.	In addition to delivering BNG, the Proposed Development principally proposes to facilitate the export of up to 740MW of low carbon electricity into the National Grid. The Proposed Development would therefore help the UK to meet carbon reduction commitments, by increasing the proportion of electricity supplied by renewable sources. Flood risk matters are considered in the Hydrology and Hydrogeology Chapter of the ES. Meanwhile, Air Quality matters are considered in the Air Quality Chapter of the ES. Both Chapters conclude that there would be no significant adverse effects (not significant in EIA terms) arising from the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning phases. In terms of the wider benefits of the Proposed Development to the local area, the Proposed Development is anticipated to give rise to the following socio-economic construction phase impacts which are beneficial effects but not significant in EIA terms: • At peak construction time, creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]**
	4.6.14 The Environment Act 2021 mandated the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) across England. They are a new system of spatial strategies for nature recovery and will play a major role in		

	providing detail on the best locations to create, enhance and restore nature and deliver wider environmental benefits. LNRSs will also agree priorities for nature recovery and map the most valuable existing areas for nature. They will be critical in delivering new government targets for species abundance and habitat creation commitments, as well as other pressing environmental outcomes for water and flood risk, carbon and tree planting and woodland creations. LNRSs will also drive the creation of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN), a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.	• The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. • On a national level, a £30,891 Gross Value Added per construction worker. As set out in the Biodiversity Assessment, the extent of the One Earth Solar Farm provides the opportunity to deliver landscape scale nature conservation benefits that can positively contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) being developed for Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. The Local Habitat Map for Nottinghamshire8 (that will underpin the Nottinghamshire LNRS) shows habitats identified as 'areas of particular importance to biodiversity' both within and close to the Order Limits. These provide a skeleton on which habitats created and managed positively as part of the Proposed Development can be delivered around.	
	4.6.15 Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate,	The submitted ES of the application summarises the environmental net gains associated with the Proposed Development. In addition, the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan summarises some of the main mitigation	**ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**

	incorporated into proposals as part of good design (including any relevant operational aspects) of the project.	and enhancement strategies to be implemented by the Proposed Development. In terms of biodiversity net gain, the Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**ES Volume 3, , Appendix 6.11:Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	4.6.16 Applicants should make use of available guidance and tools for measuring natural capital assets and ecosystem services, such as the Natural Capital Committee's 'How to Do it: natural capital workbook', Defra's guidance on Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (ENCA), and other tools that aim to enable wider benefits for people and nature.	The Applicant recognises the importance of making use of available guidance and tools for measuring natural capital. The Biodiversity Assessment confirms the relevant guidance that the assessment has considered. The guidance and tools used in the assessment include the: • Planning Practice Guidance (2023) – Guidance Natural Environment (2024) • Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018, updated 2024) • British Standards Institution (2013) Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BS 42020:2013)	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**

		• Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2011) Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020 (3rd Edition) • Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (date unknown) Local Biodiversity Action Plan The Applicant considers that the above guidance and tools are sufficient for the needs of the assessment and that, for example, the Natural Capital Committee's 'How to Do it: natural capital workbook' has not been necessary to inform the assessment.	
	4.6.17 Where environmental net gain considerations have featured as part of the strategic options appraisal process to select a project, applicants should reference that information to supplement the site-specific details.	The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design and site selection process in order to ensure that the Proposed Development makes the greatest possible contribution to renewable energy targets and the building of energy resiliency whilst also minimising environmental impacts by following the principles of good design. The Design Approach Document sets out the principle related to environmental net gain. The principle is "*Provide resource for research and development sets out that the Proposed Development will include monitoring of Biodiversity Net Gain and soil recovery, informing ongoing research and best practice*".	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

		The Proposed Development has sought opportunities to provide beneficial outcomes including delivering Biodiversity Net Gain and contributing towards local conservation priorities. This includes providing new and enhanced contributions to the local green infrastructure network including extensive hedgerow networks, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, field margins and ditches.	
4.7 Criteria for "good design" in energy infrastructure	4.7.1 The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object - be it a building or other type of infrastructure - including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important.	As detailed in section 5 of the Planning Statement, good design has been a fundamental consideration from the outset of the Proposed Development. The Design Approach Document demonstrates how the design of the Proposed Development has been developed in accordance with a clear design framework, based on the criteria for good design set out in EN-1. This has included the adoption of project level design principles, Project Principles, to guide decision making and embed good design outcomes to the Proposed Development. Project Principles have evolved throughout the design process, being informed and refined by stakeholder engagement, consultation feedback, technical studies and environmental assessments. They have been used to steer and influence the design of the Proposed Development to avoid and reduce adverse impacts wherever possible, make the most of opportunities for enhancement and balance the need for	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**
	4.7.2 Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is		

	acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area. 4.7.3 Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. Projects should look to use modern methods of construction and sustainable design practices such as use of sustainable timber and low carbon concrete. Where possible, projects should include the reuse of material. 4.7.4 Given the benefits of good design in mitigating the adverse impacts of a project, applicants should consider how good design can be applied to a project during the early stages of the project lifecycle. 4.7.5 To ensure good design is embedded within the project development, a project board level design champion could be appointed, and a representative design panel used to maximise the value provided	flexibility and certainty within the DCO Application. Throughout the design process, the Applicant maintained an interdisciplinary approach to design and considered both the opportunities and constraints of the Proposed Development. This included analysis of the existing physical, environmental, social and cultural context of the Site by a broad range of technical disciplines (including landscape and visual, noise, ecology and heritage) as set out and assessed by the Aspect Chapters of the ES. This approach has enabled the Applicant to understand the complexities of the Site and identify where multiple opportunities and constraints have the potential to stack up with one another to provide a good design response and allow for co-existence and co-location with other terrestrial uses. For example, creating green infrastructure corridors that mitigate the visual impact of the scheme and also provide biodiversity and recreational benefits to the local environment. Engagement with landowners and statutory consultees including Local Planning Authorities, Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency has formed an important part of the design process and helped to identify opportunities for co-existence and co-location with other terrestrial uses. For example, working with landowners to reduce potential impacts on	

	by the infrastructure. Design principles should be established from the outset of the project to guide the development from conception to operation. Applicants should consider how their design principles can be applied postconsent.	farming activities and secure the benefits provided by the Proposed Development. As a result of the design approach adopted by the Applicant, the Proposed Development would deliver a number of environmental, social and economic benefits in addition to the generation of secure, low cost, decarbonised, clean, renewable energy. These include significant areas of new habitats that respect and enhance features within the landscape, including over 1240ha of grassland (including calcareous grassland), 15km of new hedgerows and 5.5ha of woodland planting delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain and improvements in ecological connectivity. The Proposed Development would also provide benefits to the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-connected footpath and cycle network and access to open space and recreational spaces. The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the OLEMP, as set out in the DAD. Permissive paths will be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The extent and location of the paths is as follows:	
	4.7.6 Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, land form and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process.		
	4.7.7 Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should		

	set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected. 4.7.8 Applicants should consider taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal. In particular, the Design Council can be asked to provide design review for nationally significant infrastructure projects and applicants are encouraged to use this service. Applicants should also consider any design guidance developed by the local planning authority. 4.7.9 Further advice on what applicants should demonstrate by way of good design is provided in the technology specific NPSs where relevant. 4.7.10 In the light of the above and given the importance which the Planning Act 2008 places on good design and sustainability, the Secretary of State needs to be satisfied that energy infrastructure developments are sustainable and, having regard to regulatory and other constraints, are as attractive, durable, and adaptable (including	• 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join the Trent Valley Way, enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with the existing PRoW network this would create a circular route for pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km. If consent is given, these design outcomes will be secured and implemented post-consent, in accordance with the various management plans and Outline Design Parameters secured by requirements to the Draft DCODCO The approach also ensures the conclusions of the Environmental	

	taking account of natural hazards such as flooding) as they can be.	Statement are upheld, and the appropriate flexibility is provided.	
	4.7.11 In doing so, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has considered both functionality (including fitness for purpose and sustainability) and aesthetics (including its contribution to the quality of the area in which it would be located, any potential amenity benefits, and visual impacts on the landscape or seascape) as far as possible.		
	4.7.12 In considering applications, the Secretary of State should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy. Many of the wider impacts of a development, such as landscape and environmental impacts, will be important factors in the design process.		
	4.7.13 The Secretary of State should consider such impacts under the relevant policies in this NPS. Assessment of impacts must be for the stated design life of the		

	Application rather than a shorter time period.		
	4.7.14 The Secretary of State should consider taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal. In particular, the Design Council can be asked to provide design review for nationally significant infrastructure projects.		
	4.7.15 Further advice on what the Secretary of State should expect applicants to demonstrate by way of good design is provided in the technology specific NPSs where relevant.		
4.10 Climate Change Adaption and Resilience	4.10.1 Whilst we must continue to accelerate efforts to end our contribution to climate change by reaching Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation is also necessary to manage the impacts of current and future climate change. If new energy infrastructure is not sufficiently resilient against the possible impacts of climate change, it will not be able to satisfy the energy needs as outlined in Part 3 of this NPS.	The design of the Proposed Development has incorporated nature-based solutions, where practicable, such as developing biodiversity enhancement measures and considering hydrology, flood risk, landscape, and ecology. The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes	**Planning Statement [EN00159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	4.10.2 Climate change is already altering the UK's weather patterns and this will continue to accelerate depending on global carbon emissions. This means it is likely there will be more extreme weather events. As well as climatic and seasonal changes such as hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, there is also a likelihood of increased flooding, drought, heatwaves, and intense rainfall events, as well as rising sea levels, increased storms and coastal change. Adaptation is therefore necessary to deal with the potential impacts of these changes that are already happening. 4.10.3 To support planning decisions, the government produces a set of UK Climate Projections as well as hazard-specific tools and guidance like the Environment Agency's climate change allowances for flood risk assessments.. In addition, the government's National Adaption Programme and Adaptation Reporting Power will ensure that	that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment confirms that flood risk during construction and at decommissioning will be managed through the CEMP and DEMP, which will be secured by the DCO and required to be in accordance with the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), and the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management (oDEMP). Opportunities for environmental enhancement in relation to water are detailed in the Design Approach Document, particularly with the relatively few panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3. A requirement of the DCO will ensure that the detailed design is substantially in accordance with the Design Approach Document and the Outline Design Parameters. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment evaluates flood risk and	**Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

	reporting authorities (a defined list of public bodies and statutory undertakers, including energy utilities) assess the risks to their organisation presented by climate change. 4.10.4 The generic impacts advice in this NPS and the technology specific advice on impacts in the other energy NPSs provide additional information on climate change adaptation and should be read alongside this section. (Section 5.3 on greenhouse gas emissions, Section 5.6 on coastal change and Section 5.8 on flood risk in particular provide relevant guidance for consideration). 4.10.5 In certain circumstances, measures implemented to ensure a scheme can adapt to climate change may give rise to additional impacts, for example as a result of protecting against flood risk, there may be consequential impacts on coastal change. In preparing measures to support climate change adaptation applicants should take reasonable steps to maximise the use of nature-based	drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed environmental measures to be implemented as part of the CEMP, OEMP and DEMP, the impact of the Proposed Development is no greater than minor adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms However, it should be noted that given the placement of the panels in a flood zone, a number of design measures have been introduced to reduce impacts. The Proposed Development incorporates an oCEMP which sets out the best practice measures to be followed to minimise the environmental impacts of the construction works. A high-level summary of items that are covered in the oCEMP are: • Any potential changes to the existing fluvial or surface water flow routes will be addressed within the oCEMP which will outline any temporary measures that would be put in place to control flood flows (such as preventing flows from entering open excavations). No machinery or spoil/materials would be stored within the identified flood extent,	

	solutions alongside other conventional techniques.	to ensure no impact to contractors, or deviation in flow routes due to the proposed works. • Although there will be some changes to the drainage regime as a result of construction and decommissioning activities within the Order Limits (i.e. due to storage areas, facilities, and temporary changes in ground level), these will be addressed within the oCEMP. The oCEMP will outline any temporary measures that will be put in place to control surface water runoff (such as through temporary attenuation features) and reduce the risk of polluted surface water from discharging to ground or entering the ordinary watercourses within the Order Limits (such as through the use of environmental capture techniques and silt traps). The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy Report demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have	
	4.10.6 Integrated approaches, such as looking across the water cycle, considering coordinated management of water storage, supply, demand, wastewater, and flood risk can provide further benefits to address multiple infrastructure needs, as well as carbon sequestration benefits.		

		been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant and is to be confirmed and secured through the DCO. The FRA provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. The Planning Statement demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and how the requirements of the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test are satisfied. Following the completion of the Sequential Test and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5.8.9 of EN-1, the Applicant has applied the Exception Test to the proposed Solar PV Development within Flood Zone 3. In accordance with paragraph 5.8.10 of EN-1, the Applicant considers it appropriate to apply the Exception Test as the Sequential Test has demonstrated that, at a site specific level, there are no reasonably available lower risk sites to locate the required Solar PV Development that would	

		deliver the same amount of renewable energy in the same time period. The Applicant considers that the substantial benefits that the Proposed Development would deliver, as set out in Section 3 of the Planning Statement and considered further in the planning balance at, would clearly outweigh the flood risk, particularly given that this risk would be entirely removed through design.	
	4.10.7 In addition to avoiding further GHG emissions when compared with more traditional adaptation approaches, nature-based solutions can also result in biodiversity benefits and net gain, as well as increasing absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	4.10.8 New energy infrastructure will typically be a long-term investment and will need to remain operational over many decades, in the face of a changing climate. Consequently, applicants must consider the direct (e.g. site flooding, limited water availability,	The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a	**Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

	storms, heatwave and wildfire threats to infrastructure and operations) and indirect (e.g. access roads or other critical dependencies impacted by flooding, storms, heatwaves or wildfires) impacts of climate change when planning the location, design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of new energy infrastructure.	minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms. The study area for CCR, unlike other disciplines, focuses on the impact that climate will have on the Proposed Development (as opposed to the impact of the Proposed Development on the environment). The Proposed Development has an anticipated lifespan of 60 years. Climate projections from UKCP18 for the period up to 2090 (the year which the Proposed Development is anticipated to be decommissioned) have used the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 – high emissions scenario.	
	4.10.9 The ES should set out how the proposal will take account of the projected impacts of climate change, using government guidance and industry standard benchmarks such as the Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments, Climate Impacts Tool, and British Standards for climate change adaptation, in accordance with the EIA Regulations.	The CCR assessment methodology takes into account the recommendations in the IEMA *EIA guide to Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation* and has been adapted to ensure the assessment is proportionate to the Proposed Development.	**Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

	4.10.10 Applicants should assess the impacts on and from their proposed energy project across a range of climate change scenarios, in line with appropriate expert advice and guidance available at the time.		
	4.10.11 Applicants should demonstrate that proposals have a high level of climate resilience built-in from the outset and should also demonstrate how proposals can be adapted over their predicted lifetimes to remain resilient to a credible maximum climate change scenario. These results should be considered alongside relevant research which is based on the climate change projections.	The CCR Assessment assesses the potential adverse effects of climate change on the Proposed Development through the consideration of climate-related current and anticipated physical risks throughout the Proposed Development's 60-year lifetime, in line with the UK's guidance on climate change risk assessments. The CCR Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms.	**Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

	4.10.12 Where energy infrastructure has safety critical elements, the applicant should apply a credible maximum climate change scenario. It is appropriate to take a risk-averse approach with elements of infrastructure which are critical to the safety of its operation.	The study area for CCR, unlike other disciplines, focuses on the impact that climate will have on the Proposed Development (as opposed to the impact of the Proposed Development on the environment). The Proposed Development has an anticipated lifespan of 60 years. Climate projections from UKCP18 for the period up to 2090 (the year which the Proposed Development is anticipated to be decommissioned) have used the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 – high emissions scenario. This represents a maximum credible scenario. The Assessment has been prepared taking into account the latest guidance available from IEMA	**Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**
	4.10.13 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that applicants for new energy infrastructure have taken into account the potential impacts of climate change using the latest UK Climate Projections and associated research and expert guidance (such as the EA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments or the Welsh Government's Climate change allowances and flood	The Carbon and Climate Change Chapter of the ES sets out the methodology employed for assessing the likely significant effects of climate change on the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It confirms that the climate change risk assessment methodology considered is consistent with the IMEA *EIA guide to Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation* and has been adapted to ensure the	**Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	consequence assessments) available at the time the ES was prepared to ensure they have identified appropriate mitigation or adaptation measures. This should cover the estimated lifetime of the new infrastructure, including any decommissioning period.	assessment is proportionate to the Proposed Development. The Flood Risk Assessment makes use of the Environment Agency's latest climate change allowances when assessing the flood risks. The Applicant considers that appropriate mitigation and/or environmental measures have been embedded into the Proposed Development.	
	4.10.15 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that there are not features of the design of new energy infrastructure critical to its operation which may be seriously affected by more radical changes to the climate beyond that projected in the latest set of UK climate projections, taking account of the latest credible scientific evidence on, for example, sea level rise (for example by referring to additional maximum credible scenarios – i.e. from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or EA) and that necessary action can be taken to ensure the operation of	The Proposed Development has been developed with a full understanding of the potential consequences of climate change and has incorporated environmental measures embedded in the design. The Proposed Development demonstrates that the consequences of current climate change impacts have been addressed, minimised and mitigated to the extent where no significant adverse residual effects are predicted during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development.	**Volume 2, Chapter 7:Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

	the infrastructure over its estimated lifetime.	Summary of the potential impacts and residual effects in respect to climate change. The impacts assessed include the following: • Hotter Summers, Extreme; • Temperatures (Heatwaves); • Wetter Winters, Extreme Rainfall; • Drier Summers, Drought; • Wind and Storms; • Climate Resilience and Adaptation; • In-combination Climate Change Impacts; and • Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on carbon and climate change, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Climate Change Risk and Flood Risk Assessments have made use of the latest UK guidance on climate change risk and the Environment Agency's latest climate change allowances. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment evaluates flood risk and drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed	
	4.10.16 If any adaptation measures give rise to consequential impacts (for example on flooding, water resources or coastal change) the Secretary of State should consider the impact of the latter in relation to the application as a whole and the impacts guidance set out in Part 5 of this NPS.		
	4.10.17 Any adaptation measures should be based on the latest set of UK Climate Projections, the government's latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, when available and in consultation with the EA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments or the Welsh Government's Climate change allowances and flood consequence assessments.		
	4.10.18 The Secretary of State may take into account reporting authorities' reports (see paragraph 4.10.4 above) to the Secretary of State when		

	considering adaptation measures proposed by an applicant for new energy infrastructure. 4.10.19 Adaptation measures should be required to be implemented at the time of construction where necessary and appropriate to do so. However, where they are necessary to deal with the impact of climate change, and that measure would have an adverse effect on other aspects of the project and/or surrounding environment (for example coastal processes), the Secretary of State may consider requiring the applicant to ensure that the adaptation measure could be implemented should the need arise, rather than at the outset of the development (for example increasing height of existing, or requiring new, sea walls).	environmental measures, such as the incorporation of freeboards for panels, to be implemented as part of the CEMP, OEMP and DEMP, the impact of the Proposed Development is no greater than minor adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms.	
4.11 Network Connection	4.11.1 The connection of a proposed electricity generation plant to the electricity network is an important consideration for applicants wanting to construct or extend generation plant.	The Applicant has secured a connection agreement with National Grid which will allow export and import of up to 740 megawatts (MW) of electricity to a proposed new substation at the existing	**Grid Connection Statement [EN010159/APP/7.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative**

	4.11.2 In the market system and in the past, it has been for the applicant to ensure that there will be necessary infrastructure and capacity within an existing or planned transmission or distribution network to accommodate the electricity generated.	National Grid High Marnham Power Station site. The existing High Marnham Power Station site is located within the Order Limits to allow for cabling between the onsite substations and the National Grid substation. This cabling between the substations is part of the Proposed Development, however, works to the substation are not included as part of the Proposed Development. National Grid is developing plans to upgrade the High Marnham substation and the Chesterfield to High Marnham 275kV circuit to bring offshore wind power generation to the Midlands and beyond. The Proposed Development is not the triggering party for that proposed upgrade, but would connect to the upgraded infrastructure, as set out in detail in the Grid Connection Statement. It is expected that the application for the new High Marnham substation will be submitted to Bassetlaw District Council in early 2025, with a decision in spring 2025 and construction commencing in the summer of 2026 with the substation fully operational in the winter of 2029.	**Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]**
	4.11.3 To support the achievement of the transition to net zero, government is accelerating the co-ordination of the development of the grid network to facilitate the UK's net zero energy generation development and transmission.		
	4.11.4 Transmission network infrastructure and related network reinforcement associated with nationally significant new offshore wind is considered as CNP Infrastructure. Further guidance can be found in 2.8.8 of EN-3 and 2.12.7 of EN-5.		
	4.11.5 The applicant must liaise with National Grid who own and manage the transmission network in England and Wales or the		

	relevant regional DNO or TSO to secure a grid connection.	It is acknowledged that the infrastructure for which the grid connection agreement has been sought is not yet consented or operational, however there is no indication that the upgrade would not be granted by Bassetlaw District Council and subsequently constructed by National Grid. As such it is considered that there is confidence that the infrastructure will be available to accommodate the Proposed Development by 2030 when the operational phase is expected to commence. There is no obvious reason that the Applicant is aware of as to why the upgrade would not be possible. Although the Proposed Development and the High Marnham substation upgrade are being brought forward independently of one another, given their proximity and potential connectivity, further cumulative assessment detail has been set out within the **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** based on a series of assumptions. As more detailed information is made available this	
	4.11.6 Applicants may wish to take a commercial risk where they have not received or accepted a formal offer of a grid connection from the relevant network operator at the time of the application. In this situation applicants should provide information as part of their application confirming that there is no obvious reason why a network connection would not be possible.		
	4.11.7 The Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime so that the cumulative effect of different elements of the same project can be considered together. Coordinated applications typically bring economic efficiencies and reduced environmental impact. The government therefore envisages that wherever reasonably possible, applications for new generating stations and related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the		

	Secretary of State or in separate applications submitted in tandem which have been prepared in an integrated way, as outlined in EN-5. This is particularly encouraged to ensure development of more co-ordinated transmission overall.	assessment can be revisited and updated, as necessary.	
	4.11.8 On some occasions it may not be possible to coordinate applications. For example, different elements of a project may have different lead-in times and be undertaken by different legal entities subject to different commercial and regulatory frameworks (for example grid companies operate within OFGEM controls) making it inefficient from a delivery perspective to submit one application. Applicants may therefore decide to submit separate applications for each element. Where this is the case, the applicant should include information on the other elements and explain the reasons for the separate application confirming that there are no obvious reasons		

	for why other elements are likely to be refused.		
	4.11.12 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that appropriate network connection arrangements are/will be in place for a given project regardless of whether one or multiple (linked) applications are submitted.		
	4.11.13 Where the Secretary of State has decided to grant consent for one project this should not in any way fetter the Secretary of State's ability to take subsequent decisions on any related projects.		

4.13 Safety	4.13.3 Some energy infrastructure will be subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. These Regulations aim to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit the consequences to people and the environment of any that do occur. COMAH regulations apply throughout the life cycle of the facility, i.e. from the design and build stage through to decommissioning. They are enforced by the Competent Authority comprising HSE or ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation, for nuclear) and the EA acting jointly in England and by the HSE and NRW acting jointly in Wales, and the HSE and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) acting jointly in Scotland.	The Applicant confirms that the Proposed Development would not be subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. The Proposed Development is therefore not subject to the Policy tests contained within Paragraphs 4.13.3 and 4.13.4 of NPS EN-1.	**N/A**
	4.13.4 The same principles apply here as for those set out in the previous section on pollution control and other environmental permitting regimes.		

	4.13.5 Applicants should consult with the HSE on matters relating to safety.	The Applicant confirms that the Proposed Development would not be subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. As a result of consultation, the UK Health Security Agency requested that applicant assess EMF health impacts. Health impacts are including within the Environmental Statement accordingly.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]**
	4.13.6 Applicants seeking to develop infrastructure subject to the COMAH regulations should make early contact with the Competent Authority.		
	4.13.7 If a safety report is required it is important to discuss with the Competent Authority the type of information that should be provided at the design and development stage, and what form this should take. This will enable the Competent Authority to review as much information as possible before construction begins, in order to assess whether the inherent features of the design are sufficient to prevent, control and mitigate major accidents.		
	4.13.8 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a safety assessment has been done, where required, and that the Competent Authority has assessed that it meets the safety objectives described above.	The Applicant confirms that the Proposed Development would not be subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015.	**N/A**

4.14 Hazardous Substances	4.14.1 All establishments wishing to hold stocks of certain hazardous substances above a threshold need 'Hazardous Substances Consent.'	The Proposed Development is not expected to hold stock of hazardous substances which would require the obtaining of a 'Hazardous Substances Consent'.	**N/A**
	4.14.2 The Hazardous Substances Authority (HSA) has responsibility for deciding whether the risk of storing hazardous substances is tolerable for the community. The HSA will usually be the local planning authority. In some circumstances, the county council are the HSA.		
	4.14.3 HSE is a statutory consultee on applications for hazardous substances consent. HSE is required to undertake detailed assessment work before producing its public safety statutory advice and the supporting consultation distances. This involves HSE considering the compatibility of the proposal outlined in the application (e.g. to store defined quantities of each hazardous substance in specific locations on site) against the risks to the offsite population. HSE advice takes into account existing		

	and potential developments in the area. The aim of HSE's advice is to mitigate the effects of a major accident on the populations around a major hazard site or pipeline.		
	4.14.4 Where HSE does not advise against the Secretary of State granting the consent, it will also recommend whether the consent should be granted subject to any requirements.		
	4.14.5 Applicants must consult the HSA and HSE at pre-application stage if the project is likely to need hazardous substances consent. Hazardous substances consents are a part of the planning regime which contributes to public safety	The Proposed Development is not expected to hold stock of hazardous substances which would require the obtaining of a 'Hazardous Substances Consent' and so the HAS and HSE have been consulted on these matters. The Consultation Report confirms, however, that the HSE has been consulted under Section 42 where the HSE provided substantive comments relating to human health.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]**
	4.15.6 HSE sets a consultation distance around every site with hazardous substances consent and notifies the relevant local planning authorities. The applicant should therefore consult the local planning authority at pre-application stage to identify whether its proposed site is within		

	the consultation distance of any site with hazardous substances consent and, if so, should consult the HSE for its advice on locating the particular development on that site. Where a hazardous substance consent has been deemed to be granted, the developer is required to send the relevant HAS any information required by them for the purpose of a register.		
	4.14.7 Where hazardous substances consent is applied for, the Secretary of State will consider whether to make an order directing that hazardous substances consent shall be deemed to be granted alongside making an order granting development consent. The Secretary of State should consult HSE about this.	This Paragraph is not relevant to the assessment of the Proposed Development as the Proposed Development does not seek to obtain a 'Hazardous Substances Consent'. However, where required the Applicant will submit Applications following detailed design. The Applicant is not aware of any barriers to consent being granted should one be required.	**N/A**
4.15 Common law nuisance and statutory nuisance	4.15.5 At the application stage of an energy NSIP, possible sources of nuisance under section 79(1) of the EPA 1990 and how they may be mitigated or limited should be identified by the applicant so that appropriate requirements can be	The Statutory Nuisance Statement sets out that is not expected that the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development would cause a statutory nuisance.	**Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010159/APP/5.3]**

	included in any subsequent order granting development consent (see Section 5.7 on dust, odour, artificial light etc. and Section 5.12 on noise and vibration).	As such, the Applicant considers that sufficient assessment and mitigation measures are in place to enable the SoS to conclude that no statutory nuisances would arise from the Proposed Development's construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.	
	4.15.6 At the application stage of an energy NSIP, possible sources of nuisance under section 79(1) of the EPA 1990 and how they may be mitigated or limited should be considered by the Secretary of State so that appropriate requirements can be included in any subsequent order granting development consent (see Section 5.7 on Dust, odour, artificial light etc. and Section 5.12 on Noise and vibration).		
	4.15.7 The Secretary of State should note that the defence of statutory authority is subject to any contrary provision made by the Secretary of State in any particular case in a Development Consent Order (section 158(3) of the Planning Act 2008). Therefore, subject to Section 5.7 and Section 5.12, the Secretary of State can disapply the defence of statutory authority, in whole or in part, in		

	any particular case, but in so doing should have regard to whether any particular nuisance is an inevitable consequence of the development.		
EN-1 Part 5 – Generic Impacts			
5.2 Air Quality and Emissions *Applicant Assessment*	5.2.8 Where the project is likely to have adverse effects on air quality the applicant should undertake an assessment of the impacts of the proposed project as part of the ES.	The Air Quality assessment evaluates the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on local air quality. The assessment provides an overview of the existing baseline conditions for the study area, followed by an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development on air quality.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**
	5.2.9 The ES should describe: • existing air quality concentrations and the relative change in air quality from existing levels; • any significant air quality effects, mitigation action taken and any residual effects, distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from	The Air Quality assessment includes a desk-based review to determine the air quality baseline within the study area. The baseline data sources are sufficient to provide an assessment of potential air quality impacts arising from the Proposed Development and have been agreed upon with Bassetlaw District Council, West Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volume 2, Appendix 13.7, Unplanned**

	any road traffic generated by the project; • the predicted absolute emissions, concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and • any potential eutrophication impacts.	Lincolnshire County Council during technical consultation. The Air Quality assessment provides an assessment of the air quality impacts and potential for likely significant effects due to the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, including those associated with road traffic exhaust emissions. Based upon the outcomes of the assessment, the Air Quality assessment outlines environmental measures to mitigate the air quality impacts of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development incorporates an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) to minimise emissions and sources of air pollution during the construction and decommissioning works. These documents will include good design and best practice measures to ensure that adverse impacts to air quality are avoided, reduced or mitigated. These	**BESS Emissions [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.11]**

		measures are considered to be included within the Proposed Development prior to the technical assessment. Similarly to the above, during operation the Proposed Development incorporates an outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oEMP) which includes measures to minimise emissions during maintenance. Furthermore, an assessment of unplanned emissions from the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in case of a fire has been undertaken, as required by the Scoping Opinion. This discusses a number of measures inherent in the design of the Proposed Development that will minimise the chance of fire, which are incorporated in an outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP). The air quality effects of emissions from construction traffic are judged to be 'not significant', as pollutant concentrations at all worst-case existing receptors will be well below the relevant objectives and the impacts are all predicted to be negligible.	

	5.2.10 In addition, applicants should consider the Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2022 and associated Defra guidance.	A qualitative assessment of the likely significant effects of construction and decommissioning phases dust and particulate matter at sensitive receptors have been undertaken following The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**
	5.2.11 Defra publishes future national projections of air quality based on estimates of future levels of emissions, traffic, and vehicle fleet. Projections are updated as the evidence base changes and the applicant should ensure these are current at the point of an application. The applicant's assessment should be consistent with this but may include more detailed modelling and evaluation to demonstrate local and national impacts. If an applicant believes they have robust additional supporting evidence, to the extent they could affect the conclusions of the assessment, they should include this in their representations to the	Defra has recently set two new targets, and two new interim targets, for $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in England. One set of targets focuses on absolute concentrations. The long-term target is to achieve an annual mean $PM_{2.5}$ concentration of 10 $\mu g/m^3$ by the end of 2040 (referred to as the annual mean concentration target or AMCT), with the interim target being a value of 12 $\mu g/m^3$ by the start of 2029. The second set of targets relate to reducing overall population exposure to $PM_{2.5}$. By the end of 2040, overall population exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ should be reduced by 35% compared with 2018 levels (referred to as the population exposure reduction target or PERT), with the interim target being a reduction of 22% by the start of 2029.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	Examining Authority along with the source.	At the time of writing there had been no further updates to relevant Air Quality Objectives for other pollutants considered in the Air Quality ES Chapter.	
	5.2.12 Where a proposed development is likely to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets, or affect the ability of a non-compliant area to achieve compliance within the timescales set out in the most recent relevant air quality plan/strategy at the time of the decision, the applicant should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that those statutory limits, objectives or targets are not breached.	The Proposed Development is not likely to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits and objectives. Therefore, this policy is not relevant.	**Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010159/APP/5.3]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	5.2.13 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction emissions over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at this stage. In doing so the Secretary of State should have regard to the Air Quality Strategy in England, or the Clean Air Plan for Wales in Wales, or any successors to these and should consider relevant advice within Local Air Quality Management guidance and PM2.5 targets guidance	The Air Quality assessment conducts a qualitative assessment of the likely significant effects of construction and decommissioning phase dust and particulate matter at sensitive receptors have been undertaken following the Defra Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance, the Air Quality Strategy, and PM2.5 Target Guidance. The assessment concludes that there are no likely significant residual effects on air quality as a result of the Proposed Development. Mitigation measures following IAQM guidance are presented in the oCEMP, oDEMP and Outline Construction Traffic Mitigation Plan; and so no further mitigation measures are required. .	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.2.14 The mitigations identified in Section 5.14 on traffic and transport impacts will help mitigate the effects of air emissions from transport.	When the Proposed Development is operational, activities will be limited to maintenance and the associated transport to the infrastructure elements of the Proposed Development. As planned maintenance will be generally minimal and would comprise limited planned site visits, the effects associated with operational road	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

		traffic exhaust emissions are considered to be not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. Any effects on air quality from traffic during the construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be temporary (i.e. during the construction/decommissioning period only) and can be suitably controlled by the employment of mitigation measures. Documented within the oCTMP, which has been prepared and is submitted in support of the DCO Application. No specific operational phase mitigation measures are required for road traffic exhaust emissions during operation (including maintenance). Nevertheless, best practice mitigation measures can be considered to further reduce any residual effects on air quality. An oOEMP has been prepared and is submitted in support of the DCO Application.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.2.15 Many activities involving air emissions are subject to pollution control. The considerations set out in	Air quality impacts on human receptors during the construction phase have been assessed in full and are detailed in the Air Quality	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	Section 4.12 on the interface between planning and pollution control therefore apply. The Secretary of State must also consider duties under other legislation including duties under the Environment Act 2021 in relation to environmental targets and have regard to policies set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.	assessment. This assesses potential significant effects from the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases on human receptors. Any effects on air quality and human receptors during the construction of the Proposed Development can be suitably controlled by the mitigation measures listed within the oCEMP, oOEMP, and the oBSMP. Therefore, the residual effects of the Proposed Development on air quality and human receptors during the construction phase following the implementation of additional mitigation measures are considered to be not significant. Environmental measures for air quality have been detailed in the Air Quality assessment. This includes the function for each embedded mitigation measure together with the securing mechanism. The Proposed Development incorporates an oCEMP and an oDEMP to minimise emissions and sources of air pollution during the construction and decommissioning	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]** **oBSMP [EN010159/APP/7.11]**

		works. These documents will include good design and best practice measures to ensure that adverse impacts to air quality are avoided, reduced or mitigated. These measures are considered to be included within the Proposed Development prior to the technical assessment. Similarly to the above, during operation the Proposed Development incorporates an oOEMP which includes measures to minimise emissions during maintenance. Furthermore, an assessment of unplanned emissions from the BESS in case of a fire has been undertaken, as required by the Scoping Opinion. This discusses a number of measures inherent in the design of the Proposed Development that will minimise the chance of fire, which are incorporated in an oBSMP. These embedded mitigation measures have been established based on the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction v2.2	

		(2024) to minimise the dust and exhaust emission impacts from the Proposed Development. Mitigation measures following IAQM guidance are presented in the oCEMP, oOEMP, oDEMP and the oCTMP.	
	5.2.16 The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality. This could for example include where an area breaches any national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives. However, air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of statutory limits, objectives or targets.	The Air Quality assessment concludes that there are no anticipated significant residual effects on air quality as a result of the Proposed Development; therefore, the Secretary of State does not need to give substantial weight to the deterioration in air quality. Mitigation measures following IAQM guidance are secured in the oCEMP, oOEMP, oDEMP and the oCTMP.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.2.17 The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project is proposed near a sensitive	As demonstrated through Existing Receptors in the Air Quality assessment, the Site is located in a rural area but close to a number of settlements, and as a consequence,	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	receptor site, such as an education or healthcare facility, residential use or a sensitive or protected habitat.	there are a large number of high sensitivity receptors in proximity to the Site, such as residential properties, that may be impacted by the Proposed Development. Receptors have been identified to represent a range of exposures, including worst-case locations (these being at the façades of the residential properties closest to the sources). When identifying receptors for assessment, particular attention has been paid to assessing impacts close to junctions, where traffic may become congested and where there is a combined effect of several road links, and close to those roads where the traffic increases as a result of the Proposed Development will be greatest. Selected receptors may be representative of air quality conditions at a number of properties; consideration has been given to how many sensitive locations each modelled receptor represents when considering the impacts of the Proposed Development and the overall significance of effects.	**ES Volume 3, Figure 13.2: Existing Receptors [EN010159/APP/6.20]**

		Table 13.5 of the Air Quality assessment sets out the existing receptor locations.	
	5.2.18 Where a project is proposed near to a sensitive receptor site for air quality, if the applicant cannot provide justification for this location, and a suitable mitigation plan, the Secretary of State should refuse consent.	As demonstrated through Existing Receptors in the Air Quality assessment, the Site is located in a rural area but close to a number of settlements, and as a consequence, there are a number of high sensitivity receptors in proximity to the Site, such as residential properties, that may be impacted by works associated with the Proposed Development. However, the implementation of mitigation measures identified within the oCEMP, oOEMP, oDEMP and oCTMP is expected to prevent any significant impacts on human health from occurring. Residual effects are therefore assessed as being not significant and the mitigation measures implemented being considered as suitable.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 3, Figures Supporting Volumes 1 and 2, Figure 13.2: Existing Receptors [EN010159/APP/6.20]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.2.19 In all cases, the Secretary of State must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives and targets. If a	The Proposed Development would not lead to non-compliance with any statutory air quality limit, objective or target.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13, Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	project will lead to non-compliance with a statutory limit, objective or target the Secretary of State should refuse consent.		
5.3 Greenhouse Gas Emission *Applicant Assessment*	5.3.4 All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.3). This should include: • A whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts, including impacts from change of land use. • An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages. • Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage. • How reduction in energy demand and consumption during	The Carbon and Climate Change Assessment includes a whole life greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment, which includes embodied GHG emissions. The assessment considers GHG emissions. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in an adverse residual effect which is significant in EIA terms. There is an assessed significant beneficial effect on GHG emissions, as it is anticipated that 3,045,555 tCO2e will be saved over the lifespan of the Proposed Development. The GHG impact during construction, operation and decommissioning is assessed as having a significant beneficial effect as it will contribute to achieving the rate of transition required by nationally set policy	**Vegetation Removal Plan [EN010159/APP/2.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14, Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures. • How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of best available techniques for that type of technology. • Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions. • Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework. • Where there are residual emissions, the level of emissions and the impact of those on national and international efforts to limit climate change, both alone and where relevant in combination with other developments at a regional or national level,	commitments and supporting the trajectory towards net zero. GHG savings as part of the operation of the Proposed Development and the displacement of fossil-fuel-derived electricity within the national electricity network are expected to be considerable. The Carbon and Climate Change assessment conducted the GHG assessment of construction emissions by calculating the life cycle emissions for the building materials and systems, accounting for their embodied emissions, construction, maintenance, repair and replacement emissions. Measures have been taken to drive down the GHG effects at the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. Operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through environmental measures. GHG environmental measures are outlined in the Climate Assessment which are secured within the Outline Landscape	

	or sector level, if sectoral targets are developed.	and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) and the oCEMP. The oCEMP and oCTMP detail the measures included to codify best-practice working measures to reduce environmental impacts, including GHG emissions (see the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy for more information), and includes the principles of the Considerate Constructors Scheme and its Code of Considerate Practice (CoCP), as well as measures to minimise the creation of waste and to maximise the use of materials with lower embodied GHG emissions. With respect to minimising the number of vehicle movements and subsequent emissions, the oCTMP will provide for measures to consolidate the delivery of materials on-Site, as well as ways to promote the most sustainable methods of construction workers to get to the Site. The oCTMP will also mandate for the cessation of construction plant when not in use, to minimise environmental impacts.	
Migration	5.3.5 A GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the overall objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always		

	remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero. 5.3.6 Applicants should look for opportunities within the proposed development to embed nature-based or technological solutions to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning 5.3.7 Steps taken to minimise and offset emissions should be set out in a GHG Reduction Strategy, secured under the Development Consent Order. The GHG Reduction Strategy should consider the creation and preservation of carbon stores and sinks including through woodland creation, hedgerow creation and restoration, peatland restoration and through other natural habitats.	The oOEMP provides management procedures for the operation and on-going maintenance of the Proposed Development. An outline Staff Travel Plan (oSTP) will be submitted prior to commencment of works and will assist with the minimisation of traffic movements from staff during the operational phase. The oDEMP provides management procedures for the removal and treatment of materials on-Site during decommissioning. and minimise of traffic movements during decommissioning. Steps taken to minimize and offset emissions are demonstrated within the Vegetation Removal Plan.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.3.8 The Secretary of State must be satisfied that the applicant has as far as possible	The Carbon and Climate Change assessment presents a greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment over the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate**

	assessed the GHG emissions of all stages of the development. 5.3.9 The Secretary of State should be content that the applicant has taken all reasonable steps to reduce the GHG emissions of the construction and decommissioning stage of the development. 5.3.10 The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to projects that embed nature-based or technological processes to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning within the proposed development. However, in light of the vital role energy infrastructure plays in the process of economy wide decarbonisation, the Secretary of State must accept that there are likely to be some residual emissions from construction and decommissioning of energy infrastructure.	lifetime of the Proposed Development. The GHG assessment of construction emissions has calculated the life cycle emissions for the building materials and systems, accounting for their embodied emissions, construction, maintenance, repair and replacement emission. The total construction GHG emissions are 582,468 tCO2e, with 91.3% comprising those from the product stages and 8.7% from construction processes. GHG emissions from the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development are estimated to total 7,276 tCO2e. This phase includes emissions from decommissioning fuel use, transport of materials to disposal sites and emissions associated with recycling and landfill. These emissions are subject to a high level of uncertainty, as the decommissioning conditions cannot be predicted with any confidence 60 years into the future.Renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development	**Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

		during the first year of operation is estimated to be between 1,080,000 MWh, and the total energy generation from the proposed 60-year operational life is approximately 60,566,940 MWh. This assumes a 0.45% per annum degradation rate of the PV panels, with one replacement after 30 years. The GHG assessment has taken into consideration the whole lifecycle of the Proposed Development, but particularly focused on the reduction of emissions during the construction and decommissioning phases. Based on the total whole lifecycle GHG emissions of 1,274,445 tonnes CO_2e, the lifecycle carbon intensity of electricity generated by the Proposed Development is 21.0 gCO_2e/kWh. A reasonable, worst-case scenario has been adopted throughout this assessment, including assumptions concerning source countries of components, method of component manufacture, and associated transportation. The GHG impact during construction, operation and decommissioning is assessed as having a significant beneficial effect	

		as it will play a part in achieving the rate of transition required by nationally set policy commitments and supporting the trajectory towards net zero.	
	5.3.11 Operational GHG emissions are a significant adverse impact from some types of energy infrastructure which cannot be totally avoided (even with full deployment of CCS technology). Given the characteristics of these and other technologies, as noted in Part 3 of this NPS, and the range of non-planning policies that can be used to decarbonise electricity generation, such as the UK ETS (see Section 2.4), government has determined that operational GHG emissions are not reasons to prohibit the consenting of energy projects or to impose more restrictions on them in the planning policy framework than are set out in the energy NPSs (e.g. the CCR requirements). Any carbon assessment will include an assessment of operational GHG	To assess the GHG savings of the Proposed Development, operational emissions from a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine have been used as a comparison, as it is currently the most carbon-efficient fossil-fueled technology available. The operational emissions from unabated natural gas fired CCGT power stations are assumed to be 375 gCO_2e/kWh, which is taken from the Government's 2023/2024 fuel mix disclosure data. From 2035, this is assumed to reduce to 37.5 gCO_2e/kWh to account for CCS. The Carbon and Climate Change assessment compares the lifecycle carbon emissions of the Proposed Development to that of a natural gas-fired power generation using CCGT, with CCS assumed to be installed in the future. In this scenario the baseline emissions are 4,077,358 TCO_2e, which is over 3 times greater than the Proposed Development's	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 14, Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

	emissions, but the policies set out in Part 2, including the UK ETS, can be applied to these emissions.	lifecycle emissions of 1,274,445 TCO_2e. This represents a carbon emissions saving of 2,802,913 TCO_2e. It should be noted this value excludes indirect emissions from the operation of the CCGT power station including construction of the CCS and fuel supply chain emissions which would further increase the potential carbon emissions avoided. In the absence of any more appropriate identified methodology, this assessment considers that this approach, i.e. a comparison to Combined Cycle Gas Turbine emissions, is a robust and appropriate method to understand the level of GHG savings from the Proposed Development. In the July 2024 Decision Letter for Gate Burton Energy Park the Secretary of State commented that it considered a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine an inappropriate baseline for these comparisons as “2011 NPS EN-1 requires all combustion power stations with a capacity over 300MW to be constructed Carbon Capture Ready”. The future energy baseline is uncertain, and whilst there are	

		requirements for all combustion power stations with a capacity over 300 MW to be constructed to be 'Carbon Capture Ready', this does not guarantee the application of carbon capture technology, nor the timeframes to which it may be applied. The need for carbon abatement is immediate and technologies that can do so in the short-term, such as the Proposed Development, play a vital role in the pathway to Net Zero. As such, and in the absence of any more appropriate identified methodology, this assessment maintains that a comparison to Combined Cycle Gas Turbine emissions is a robust and appropriate method to understand the level of GHG savings from the Proposed Development.	
5.4 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation *Applicant Assessment*	5.4.17 Where the development is subject to EIA, the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance	The Ecology Desk Study sets out all the designated sites of ecological conservation importance; ancient woodland; habitats; protected and notable species; and important ecological features, within the relevant ecological Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development. The	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6, Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]**

	(including those outside England), on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats.	Biodiversity Assessment sets out the identified receptors, including Local Wildlife Sites, which could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity Assessment sets out the potential likely effects on the identified receptors during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Following the application of environmental measures set out in the Biodiversity Assessment, which are secured within the oCEMP and oLEMP, it concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	**oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	5.4.19 The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.	The Design Approach Document sets out the Design Evolution of the Proposed Development and how the extent of the Order Limits and area proposed for the development has	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design**

	5.4.20 Applicants should consider wider ecosystem services and benefits of natural capital when designing enhancement measures. 5.4.21 As set out in Section 4.7, the design process should embed opportunities for nature inclusive design. Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains (see Section 4.6 on Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain). The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of each project.	evolved and reduced over time to reduce impacts on biodiversity. The Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES explains that the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid all sites statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance and to avoid or minimise impacts on sites that are non-statutorily designated for their biodiversity importance. Environmental measures embedded within the Proposed Development design will ensure that designated sites are not significantly adversely impacted during construction, operation or decommissioning, and are secured within the oCEMP and oLEMP. Table 6.5 of the Biodiversity Assessment sets out the environmental measures that seek to minimise adverse ecological effects and to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity benefit by following the 'mitigation hierarchy' including measures to avoid, prevent, reduce and if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects.	**Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has, therefore, taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with this policy.	
	5.4.22 The design of energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile/migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure. As energy infrastructure could occur anywhere within England and Wales, both inland and onshore and offshore, the potential to affect mobile and migratory species across the UK and more widely across Europe (transboundary effects) requires	The Biodiversity Assessment sets out how the Proposed Development has considered the impact on the movement of mobile species, such as birds and badgers. Breeding bird survey data, detailed in the Breeding Bird Baseline, was used to estimate the number of skylark territories that would require compensation due to the placement of Solar PV modules. The Biodiversity Assessment acknowledges that construction and operation of the Proposed Development will result in the loss of arable farmland used by breeding	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6, Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volume 2, Appendix 6.5, Breeding Bird Baseline [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	consideration, depending on the location of development.	skylarks and other ground-nesting birds. The proposed mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the oLEMP include primary mitigation to compensate for habitat loss which would be the creation species-rich grassland devoid of solar panels and other above ground infrastructure to compensate for the loss of skylark breeding habitat. The grassland will provide foraging and nesting opportunities. If necessary, skylark plots (two per pair potentially displaced due to development) will be established in the grassland. 1240ha of species -rich grassland will be created, with skylark plots established in plots of at least 16m^2 that are further than 50m from a field boundary. In addition, adjacent solar PV panel fields will be under sown with species-rich grassland, further increasing the availability of foraging habitat. Overall, the assessment concludes that, due to the embedded design and mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects are anticipated to arise on any protected	

		species and habitats as a result of the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
Habitats Regulations	5.4.25 The applicant should seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB and provide the Secretary of State with such information as the Secretary of State may reasonably require, to determine whether an HRA Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. Applicants can request and agree 'Evidence Plans' with SNCBs, which is a way to record upfront the information the applicant needs to supply with its application, so that the HRA can be efficiently carried out. If an AA is required, the applicant must provide the Secretary of State with such information as may reasonably be required to enable the Secretary of State to conduct the AA. This should include information on any mitigation measures that are proposed to minimise or avoid likely significant effects.	Natural England has been consulted during the pre-application process and does not consider that any internationally designated sites would be affected by the Proposed Development. A Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations) to set out whether the Proposed Development is likely to have any significant effect on European designated sites. This report is submitted in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the Proposed Development. The Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment concludes there will be no significant effects to European Sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development or in	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**

	5.4.26 If, during the pre-application stage, the SNCB indicate that the proposed development is likely to adversely impact the integrity of habitat sites, the applicant must include with their application such information as may reasonably be required to assess a potential derogation under the Habitats Regulations	combination with other plans and projects, such that an appropriate assessment is not required.	
	5.4.27 If the SNCB gives such an indication at a later stage in the development consent process, the applicant must provide this information as soon as is reasonably possible and before the close of the examination. This information must include assessment of alternative solutions, a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate environmental compensation.	Should the SNCB later conclude that adverse effects on the integrity of European Site(s) cannot be avoided or mitigated, appropriate information will be provided to confirm that the Proposed Development meets the three derogation tests (No Reasonable Alternatives, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and adequate compensation).	**N/A**
	5.4.28 Provision of such information will not be taken as an acceptance of adverse impacts and if an applicant disputes the likelihood of		

	adverse impacts, it can provide this information as part of its application 'without prejudice' to the Secretary of State's final decision on the impacts of the potential development. If, in these circumstances, an applicant does not supply information required for the assessment of a potential derogation, there will be no expectation that the Secretary of State will allow the applicant the opportunity to provide such information following the examination.		
	5.4.29 It is vital that applicants consider the need for compensation as early as possible in the design process as 'retrofitting' compensatory measures will introduce delays and uncertainty to the consenting process.	The Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment concluded that there will be no significant effects to European sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development or in combination with other plans and projects. Therefore, there are no environmental compensation requirements to be considered.	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**
	5.4.30 Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCB and Defra/Welsh	Natural England has been consulted during the pre-application process and does not consider that any internationally designated sites would	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]**

	Government to develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development. Applicants should engage with the relevant Local Planning Authority at an early stage regarding the proposed location of compensatory measures. Applicants should also take account of any strategic plan level compensation plans in developing project level compensation plans.	be affected by the Proposed Development. There are no statutory sites designated at the international level within the 10km study area. However, the Humber Estuary Ramsar site and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is directly linked to the Proposed Development through the River Trent. Although the closest point of the Order Limits to the Humber Estuary Ramsar site / SAC is over 30km distant, migratory fish, namely river lamprey and sea lamprey, that are designated features of the Humber Estuary Ramsar site / SAC may use the freshwater habitats within or close to the Proposed Development as functionally linked land. Details are provided in the Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment which supports the DCO Application.	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6, Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**
	5.4.31 Before submitting an application, applicants should seek the views of the SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government as to the suitability, securability and effectiveness of the compensation plan to ensure the development will not hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives for the protected site. In cases where such views are provided, the applicant should include a copy of this information with the compensation plan in their application for further		

	consideration by the Examining Authority.		
Ancient woodland, ancient trees, veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats	5.4.32 Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both construction and operational phases.	The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to trees and hedgerows, including that: • Trees will be planted individually and linearly, creating tree lines, and within existing and newly created hedgerows. Trees of a variety of nursery stock sizes will be planted to provide difference in age structure. Tree lines and hedgerows with trees will improve connectivity across the Site and the wider landscape, they will provide habitat for fungi, invertebrates (as living, standing deadwood and fallen deadwood), nesting and food provision for birds and mammals, and roosting opportunities for bats. A range of native species typical of the region will be selected to provide a variety of conditions for multiple flora (fungi and epiphytes) and fauna, with a range of wood types (soft and hard to encourage varying rot rate and cavity features) and longevity. Proposed tree	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6, Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		planting locations are presented in the application and typically form boundaries around proposed solar PV fields. Additional tree planting, will occur within three mitigation (species-rich grassland) fields in the area to the east of the River Trent. • Tree planting and hedgerow planting will take place over the winters of each of the three-year construction programme. The aims will be to: ○ Gap up and plant standards in one third of the defunct hedgerows each winter ○ Plant one third of new hedgerows (including standards) each winter ○ Take existing hedgerows into positive management for biodiversity at least 3 months ahead of construction activity commencing (other than at access points and other areas where	

		vegetation management will be needed to aid delivery). Habitat creation and enhancement measures will be detailed within the oLEMP.	
Protection and enhancement of habitats and species	5.4.33 Applicants should consider any reasonable opportunities to maximise the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wider biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the ability of habitats to store or sequester carbon as set out under Section 4.6.	The BNG Assessment will be informed by the detailed design of the Proposed Development, including landscape proposals, construction methods and the Proposed Development timescale. Based upon these parameters, the BNG Assessment will result in an on-site net change of a minimum of 10%.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	5.4.34 Consideration should be given to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and species in, around and beyond developments, for wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits, beyond those under protection and identified as being of principal importance. This may include considerations and opportunities identified through Local Nature Recovery		

	Strategies, and national goals and targets set through the Environment Act 2021 and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.		
Mitigation	5.4.35 Applicants should include appropriate avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures as an integral part of the proposed development. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that: • during construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works; • the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance; • during construction and operation best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised, including as a	Environmental measures embedded within the Proposed Development design will ensure that designated sites are not significantly adversely impacted during construction, operation or decommissioning, and are secured within the oCEMP and oLEMP. Table 6.5 of the Biodiversity Assessment sets out the environmental measures that seek to minimise adverse ecological effects and to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity benefit by following the 'mitigation hierarchy' including measures to avoid, prevent, reduce and if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	consequence of transport access arrangements; • habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished; • opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats rather than replace them, and where practicable, create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals. Where habitat creation is required as mitigation, compensation, or enhancement, the location and quality will be of key importance. In this regard habitat creation should be focused on areas where the most ecological and ecosystems benefits can be realized; and • mitigations required as a result of legal protection of habitats or species will be complied with.		

	5.4.36 Applicants should produce and implement a Biodiversity Management Strategy as part of their development proposals. This could include provision for biodiversity awareness training to employees and contractors so as to avoid unnecessary adverse impacts on biodiversity during the construction and operation stages.	The oLEMP sets out a framework for the Applicant's approach to ensuring the successful establishment of landscape and ecological measures, both in the short term and during the operation of the Proposed Development. In addition, the oCEMP includes the requirement for contractors to provide training on relevant matters which could include, for example, biodiversity awareness.	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
Secretary of State decision making	5.4.39 The government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Act 2021 mark a step change in ambition for wildlife and the natural environment. The Secretary of State should have regard to the aims and goals of the government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, and in Wales the objectives of the Nature Recovery Plan, and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.	The Biodiversity Assessment has been produced with regard to the aims of the 25-Year Environment Plan, as evidenced by the extensive habitat to be provided pursuant to the oLEMP. The Applicant has also considered the Environment Act 2021, as evidenced by the BNG Assessment and the Applicant's commitment to achieving BNG through the Proposed Development. It is therefore considered the Proposed Development is compliant with this aspect of the policy. The Proposed Development has the potential to deliver significant	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

		amounts of low-carbon electricity and make a material contribution to help meet the UK's commitments to decrease carbon emissions and reach net zero by 2050, which in turn is beneficial for biodiversity and geological conservation interests.	
	5.4.41 The benefits of nationally significant low carbon energy infrastructure development may include benefits for biodiversity and geological conservation interests and these benefits may outweigh harm to these interests. The Secretary of State may take account of any such net benefit in cases where it can be demonstrated.	The Proposed Development has the potential to deliver biodiversity benefits as a result of its embedded mitigation and enhancement measures, as set out in the oLEMP and the oCEMP. In addition, with these measures implemented, there are no significant adverse impacts expected on biodiversity features. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has, therefore, taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		enhance biodiversity and accords with this policy.	
	5.4.42 As a general principle, and subject to the specific policies below, development should, in line with the mitigation hierarchy, aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through consideration of reasonable alternatives (as set out in Section 4.3 above). Where significant harm cannot be avoided, impacts should be mitigated and as a last resort, appropriate compensation measures should be sought.	As set out in the Biodiversity Assessment, with the application of environmental measures, no significant adverse effects have been identified on designated ecological sites, habitats or protected species during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Table 6.5 of the Biodiversity Assessment sets out the environmental measures that seek to minimise adverse ecological effects and to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity benefit by following the 'mitigation hierarchy' including measures to avoid, prevent, reduce and if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects. Measures are also set out in the oLEMP and oCEMP. These include habitat avoidance, mitigation, creation and replacement measures; mitigation relating to protected and notable species; and standard mitigation measures that comply with industry	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	5.4.43 If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (for example through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then the Secretary of State will give significant weight to any residual harm.		

		good practice and environmental legislation.	
	5.4.44 The Secretary of State should consider what appropriate requirements should be attached to any consent and/or in any planning obligations entered into, in order to ensure that any mitigation or biodiversity net gain measures, if offered, are delivered and maintained. Any habitat creation or enhancement delivered including linkages with existing habitats for compensation or biodiversity net gain should generally be maintained for a minimum period of 30 years, or for the lifetime of the project, if longer.	Table 6.5 of the Biodiversity Assessment sets out the environmental measures that seek to minimise adverse ecological effects and to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity benefit by following the 'mitigation hierarchy' including measures to avoid, prevent, reduce and if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects. Measures are also set out in the oLEMP and oCEMP. These include habitat avoidance, mitigation, creation and replacement measures; mitigation relating to protected and notable species; and standard mitigation measures that comply with industry good practice and environmental legislation. These will be developed into detailed documents and secured by a requirement in the DCO and maintained for the lifetime of the project.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	5.4.45 The Secretary of State will need to take account of what mitigation measures may have been agreed between the applicant and the SNCB and the MMO/NRW (where appropriate). The Secretary of State will also need to consider whether the SNCB or the MMO/NRW has granted or refused, or intends to grant or refuse, any relevant licences, including protected species mitigation licences.	Appendix A-4, J-1, J-2 and K-3 of the Consultation Report set out the feedback received during non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation and how regard has been afforded by the Applicant to each matter raised.	**Consultation Report - Applicant Response Tables (ARTs) [EN010159/APP/5.1]**
	5.4.46 Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to environmental and biodiversity enhancements, although any weight given to gains provided to meet a legal requirement (for example under the Environment Act 2021) is likely to be limited. 5.4.47 When considering proposals, the Secretary of State should maximise such	As detailed in the Design Approach Document, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity while being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	reasonable opportunities in and around developments, using requirements or planning obligations where appropriate. This can help towards delivering biodiversity net gain as part of or in addition to the approach set out at Section 4.6.	demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Proposed Development has, therefore, taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and accords with this policy.	
	5.4.48 In taking decisions, the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national, and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.	Appropriate weight has been attached designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment, with an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on these set out in Biodiversity Assessment.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**
Secretary of State decision making – Habitats Regulations	5.4.49 The Secretary of State must consider whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on a protected site which is part of the National Site Network (a habitat site), a protected marine site, or on any site to which the same	A Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations) to set out whether the Proposed Development is likely to have any significant effect on	**Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment [EN010159/APP/5.2]**

	protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.	European designated sites. This report is submitted in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the Proposed Development. The Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment concludes there will be no significant effects to European Sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development or in combination with other plans and projects, such that an appropriate assessment is not required.	
Secretary of State decision making – Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	5.4.50 The Secretary of State should use requirements and/or planning obligations to mitigate the harmful aspects of the development and, where possible, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity or geological interest.	There is one site of national nature conservation importance within the 2km study area: Spalford Warren SSSI lies 1.92km south and comprises the best remaining example of grass heath dominated by wavy hair-grass and sand sedge in Nottinghamshire and one of the last to be found in the Midlands. The Biodiversity Assessment justifies the decision to scope out the SSSIs as while increased traffic during the construction phase will pass within 200m of this site but increases in NOx will be negligible.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**

Secretary of State decision making – Regional and Local Sites	5.4.52 The Secretary of State should give due consideration to regional or local designations. However, given the need for new nationally significant infrastructure, these designations should not be used in themselves to refuse development consent.	The Applicant purposefully sought land which did not include any highly sensitive ecological/biodiversity related designations. The Site does contain 1 LWS, and 6 further LWS are adjacent to the Site; however, the Applicant provides suitable protection, mitigation and, where possible, enhancement.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**
Secretary of State decision making – Ancient woodland, ancient trees, veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats	5.4.53 The Secretary of State should not grant development consent for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of any irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.	The Site has been selected and designed to avoid designated areas. It is not covered by any statutory ecological designations and no ancient woodland. There were no trees assigned as being of veteran status within the Site. However, two veteran crack willow lie adjacent to the Site in North Clifton and three more are located north of the A57 in Dunham.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**
Secretary of State decision making – Protection and enhancement of habitats and species	5.4.54 The Secretary of State should ensure that species and habitats identified as being of importance for the conservation of biodiversity are protected from the adverse effects of development by using requirements, planning	The Biodiversity Assessment sets out that there would be no residual significant adverse effects on any species and habitats as a result of the Proposed Development. From the surveys undertaken and avoidance in the design of the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**

	obligations, or licence conditions where appropriate. 5.4.55 The Secretary of State should refuse consent where harm to a protected species and relevant habitat would result, unless there is an overriding public interest and the other relevant legal tests are met. In this context the Secretary of State should give substantial weight to any such harm to the detriment of biodiversity features of national or regional importance or the climate resilience and the capacity of habitats to store carbon, which they consider may result from a proposed development.	Proposed Development, no protected species licences are anticipated to be required. However, should it be found that any protected species licences are required, i.e. following further update surveys for mobile species such as badgers and bats, then they would be protected by the	
5.5 - Civil and military aviation and defence interests *Applicant Assessment*	5.5.37 Where the proposed development may affect the performance of civil or military aviation CNS, meteorological radars and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES (see Section 4.3).	Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	5.5.38 The requirement for ATC and non-cooperative surveillance – i.e. radar/tracking technologies – forms part of the environmental baseline for proposed developments.	Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. The Applicant has considered all relevant guidance in relation to glint and glare and further detail on the guidance and methodology used for the assessment is set out below. Guidelines exist in the UK (produced by the Civil Aviation Authority) and in the USA (produced by the Federal Aviation Administration) with respect to solar developments and aviation activity. The UK CAA guidance is relatively high-level and does not prescribe a formal methodology.. Pager Power has, however, produced guidance for glint and glare and solar photovoltaic developments which was published in early 2017, with the fourth edition published in 2022. This methodology defines a comprehensive process for determining the impact upon railway infrastructure and operations, and aviation activity and this has been	**Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**
	5.5.39 The applicant should consult the MOD, Met Office, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome – licensed or otherwise – likely to be affected by the proposed development in preparing an assessment of the proposal on aviation, meteorological or other defence interests.		
	5.5.40 Any assessment of effects on aviation, meteorological or other defence interests should include potential impacts of the project upon the operation of CNS infrastructure, flight patterns (both civil and military), generation of weather warnings and forecasts, other defence assets (including radar) and aerodrome operational procedures. It should also assess the demonstratable		

	cumulative effects of the project with other relevant projects in relation to aviation, meteorological and defence.	used to inform the glint and glare assessment provided. The CAA guidance documents explain that glare should be a safeguarding consideration for aerodromes and that the responsibility of safeguarding lies with the aerodrome. The glint and glare study has assessed the potential safety impacts upon surrounding aviation activities and operations, and consultation is ongoing with aerodromes where appropriate. The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The MOD, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome have been consulted through the preparation of the Application.	
	5.5.41 In addition, consideration of developments near aerodromes should take into account the following factors: • Bird Strike Risk – Aircraft are vulnerable to wildlife strike, in particular bird strike. Birds and other	The Biodiversity assessment considers the impacts to birds. There is not anticipated to be an increase in risk of bird strike due to the Proposed Development as there are no proposals to create wetland or significant areas of woodland or	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**

	wildlife may be attracted to the vicinity of an aerodrome by various types of development, for example, large buildings with perching/roosting opportunities for birds. It is therefore important that infrastructure, buildings and other elements from energy installations, as well as environmental mitigation are designed in such a way so as not to increase the bird strike risk to the airport for developments within 13km (this can vary). • Building Induced Turbulence – If a significant building or structure is proposed close to the airport/runways, there is potential for building induced turbulence/wind shear to be created which has the potential to impact on aircraft on take-off and landing.	scrub which would attract significant assemblages of birds. The Proposed Development does not propose significant buildings or structures; therefore, turbulence has not been assessed. Thermal Plume Turbulence is not considered relevant as the Proposed Development does not propose dry cooling systems.	

	Studies may be required to identify the extent of any turbulence resulting from the energy infrastructure. • Thermal Plume Turbulence – This is caused under certain conditions by the release of hot air from a power plant equipped with a dry cooling system. The plumes generated by these facilities have the potential to create invisible turbulence that can affect the manoeuvrability of aircraft.		
	5.5.42 If any relevant changes are made to proposals during the pre-application and determination period, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the relevant aviation, meteorological and defence consultees are informed as soon as reasonably possible.	The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The MOD have been consulted through the preparation of the Application.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

Mitigation	5.5.43 The applicant should include appropriate mitigation measures as an integral part of the proposed development.	The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The Applicant has conducted a Glint and Glare Assessment assessing the potential impacts of glint and glare on both civil and military aviation communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**
	5.5.44 Mitigation for infringement of "obstacle limitation surfaces" (OLS) may include: • agreed changes to operational procedures of the aerodromes in accordance with relevant guidance, provided that safety assurances can be provided by the operator that are	The Applicant has conducted a Glint and Glare Assessment assessing the potential impacts of glint and glare on both civil and military aviation communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would	**Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	acceptable to the CAA where the changes are proposed to a civilian aerodrome. Applicants should engage airport operators at an early stage of the planning process to understand the potential impacts of development on aviation operations and develop mitigations if appropriate; or • installation of obstacle lighting and/or by notification in Aeronautical Information Service publications	provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. However, the Applicant can confirm that there is no impact upon obstacle limitation surfaces and therefore no such mitigation for this is required.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.5.49 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that the effects on meteorological radars, civil and military aerodromes, aviation technical sites and other defence assets or operations have been addressed by the applicant and that any necessary assessment of the proposal on aviation, NSWWS or defence interests has been carried out.	The Applicant has conducted a Glint and Glare Assessment assessing the potential impacts of glint and glare on both civil and military aviation communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) activity. However, no assessment was conducted for the meteorological radars, aerodromes or other defence assets as the Proposed Development does not impact them.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	5.5.50 In particular, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the proposal has been designed, where possible, to minimise adverse impacts on the operation and safety of aerodromes and that realistically achievable mitigation is carried out on existing surveillance systems such as radar/tracking technologies. It is incumbent on Operators of aerodromes to regularly review the possibility of agreeing to make reasonable changes to operational procedures.	The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The MOD, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome have been consulted through the preparation of the Application.	
	5.5.51 When assessing the necessity, acceptability, and reasonableness of operational changes to aerodromes, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that they have the necessary information regarding the operational procedures along with any demonstrable risks or harm of such changes, taking into account the cases put forward by all parties. When making such a judgement in the	The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The MOD, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome have been consulted through the preparation of the Application.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	case of military aerodromes, the Secretary of State should have regard to interests of defence and national security.		
	5.5.53 If there are conflicts between the government's energy and transport policies and military interests in relation to the application, the Secretary of State should expect the relevant parties to have made appropriate efforts to work together to identify realistic and pragmatic solutions to the conflicts. In so doing, the parties should seek to protect the aims and interests of the other parties as far as possible, recognising simultaneously the evolving landscape in terms of the UK's energy security and the need to tackle climate change, which necessitates the installation of wind turbines and the need to maintain air safety and national defence and the national weather warning service.	The Applicant has conducted a Glint and Glare Assessment assessing the potential impacts of glint and glare on both civil and military aviation communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) activity. The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. The MOD, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome have been consulted through the preparation of the Application. However, it should be noted that there are no conflicts expected between the government's energy and transport policies and military interests in relation to this Proposed Development.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**
	5.5.54 There are statutory requirements concerning	Following the completion of consultation for the Proposed	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the**

	lighting to tall structures. Where lighting is requested on structures that goes beyond statutory requirements by any of the relevant aviation and defence consultees, the Secretary of State should be satisfied of the necessity of such lighting taking into account the case put forward by the consultees. The effect of such lighting on the landscape and ecology may be a relevant consideration.	Development, there have been no requests from statutory consultees to ensure there is lighting on tall structures which form part of the Proposed Development. The Description of the Proposed Development outlines the security measures, including lighting, incorporated in the design of the Proposed Development's design. The Proposed Development's security and lighting have been designed to respond sensitively to ecology and landscape features.	**Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.5.55 Lighting must also be designed in such a way as to ensure that there is no glare or dazzle to pilots and/or ATC, aerodrome ground lighting is not obscured and that any lighting does not diminish the effectiveness of aeronautical ground lighting and cannot be confused with aeronautical lighting. Lighting may also need to be compatible with night vision devices for military low flying purposes.	Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on both civil and military aviation communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would be difficult to mitigate without significant implications, but a limited amount of evergreen barriers would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway.	**Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

		Given there is limited lighting associated with the operational phase of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that there should be limited impact on pilots.	
	5.5.57 Where suitable technological solutions have not yet been developed or proven, the Secretary of State will need to consider the likelihood of a solution becoming available within the time limit for implementation of the Development Consent Order.	Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on both civil and military aviation communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would be difficult to mitigate without significant implications, but a limited amount of evergreen barriers would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. The methodology used within the glint and glare study considers permanent addresses of residences (dwellings) within the surrounding area. Commercial properties are not considered with regard to glint and glare as residential amenity is not a significant concern. This methodology has been widely	**Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

		accepted in planning submission for UK projects, including NSIPs, and internationally. The Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken the assessment based on the technical assumption that the angle of the panels will be installed to face south at a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight absorption. The ES takes account of the impacts of Solar PV modules facing southwards on a fixed platform. The Applicant is open to new technological solutions, as they are developed.	
	5.5.58 Where a proposed energy infrastructure development would significantly impede or compromise the safe and effective use of civil or military aviation, meteorological radars, defence assets and/or significantly limit military training, the Secretary of State may consider the use of 'Grampian conditions', or other forms of requirement which relate to the use of current or future technological solutions, to	Appendix J-1-J2 of the Consultation Report sets out CAA's comments pertaining to glint and glare.Further details can be found within the Applicant Response Tables of the Consultation Report. The Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of the potential impacts of glint and glare. Aviation safety has been considered within the glint and glare study.	**Consultation Report - Applicant Response Tables (ARTs) [EN010159/APP/5.1]**

	mitigate impacts on legacy CNS equipment.		
	5.5.59 Where, after reasonable mitigation, operational changes, obligations and requirements have been proposed, the Secretary of State should consider whether: • a development would prevent a licensed aerodrome from maintaining its licence and the defence, or result in substantial local/national economic loss, or emergency service needs • it would cause harm to aerodromes' training or emergency service needs • the development would impede or compromise the safe and effective use of defence assets or unacceptably limit military training • the development would have a negative impact		

	on the safe and efficient provision of en-route air traffic control services for civil aviation, in particular through an adverse effect on CNS infrastructure • the development would compromise the effective provision of weather warnings by the NSWWS, or flood warnings by the UK's flood agencies		
	5.5.60 Provided that the Secretary of State is satisfied that the impacts of proposed energy developments do not present risks to national security and physical safety, and where they do, provided that the Secretary of State is satisfied that appropriate mitigation can be achieved, or appropriate requirements can be attached to any Development Consent Order to secure those mitigations, consent may be granted.	The Applicant is not aware of any matter in the Proposed Development that would present a safety or security related compromise to the MOD and its assets. However, engagement on specific matters, as set out above and within the Consultation Report, to the extent that information is available to be shared, will continue and will be reported to the Examining Authority, should the application be accepted, during Examination. To this end, the Application considers the Proposed Development is compliant with requirements.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]**

5.7 - Dust, odour, artificial light, smoke, steam and insect infestation *Applicant Assessment*	5.7.5 The applicant should assess the potential for insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke, and artificial light to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the ES. 5.7.6 In particular, the assessment provided by the applicant should describe: • the type, quantity, and timing of emissions; • aspects of the development which may give rise to emissions; • premises or locations that may be affected by the emissions; • effects of the emission on identified premises or locations; • measures to be employed in preventing or mitigating the emissions.	The Air Quality Assessment assesses the dust and emission effects of the Proposed Development upon sensitive receptors. The oBSMP sets out the safety measures proposed to be installed to reduce fire risk as well as fire protection measures. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to cause any effects from insect infestation, steam, smell or other effluvia. Construction and decommissioning activities will be undertaken using best practice measures to minimise air emissions, as set out in the Statutory Nuisance Statement. These good site practice mitigation measures are incorporated into the oCEMP. They are considered to be embedded mitigation and represent good industry practices that are part of the Proposed Development. The mitigation measures proposed for implementation during construction will also be appropriate for decommissioning as set out in the oDEMP.	**Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010159/APP/5.3]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oBSMP [EN010159/APP/7.11]**

	5.7.7 The applicant is advised to consult the relevant local planning authority and, where appropriate, the EA about the scope and methodology of the assessment.	As set out in the Consultation Report, the Applicant has been in consultation with the Local Planning Authority Environmental Health Officers.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]**
Mitigation	5.7.8 Mitigation measures may include one or more of the following: • engineering: prevention of a specific emission at the point of generation; control, containment and abatement of emissions if generated; • lay-out: adequate distance between source and sensitive receptors; reduced transport or handling of material; • administrative: limiting operating times; restricting activities allowed on the site; implementing management plans.	The Air Quality Assessment considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on air quality and sets out environmental measures for mitigation specific for each phase of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development incorporates an oCEMP and an oDEMP to minimise emissions and sources of air pollution during the construction and decommissioning works. These documents include good design and best practice measures to ensure that adverse impacts to air quality are avoided, reduced or mitigated. These measures are considered to be included within the Proposed	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	5.7.9 Construction should be undertaken in a way that reduces emissions, for example the use of low emission mobile plant during the construction, and demolition phases as appropriate, and consideration should be given to making these mandatory in Development Consent Order requirements. 5.7.10 Demolition considerations should be embedded into designs at the outset to enable demolition techniques to be adopted that remove the need for explosive demolition. 5.7.11 A construction management plan may help clarify and secure mitigation.	Development prior to the technical assessment. Similarly to the above, during operation the Proposed Development incorporates an oOEMP which includes measures to minimise emissions during maintenance. Glint and Glare Assessment has been undertaken to assess potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The solar photovoltaic glint and glare study concludes that no significant impact is predicted upon road safety, residential amenity, and railway operations and infrastructure and mitigation is not recommended. In terms of demolition, there will be minimal demolition of existing buildings and structures (see work no. 8) and methods for this is discussed within the oCEMP. Finally, the mitigation measures proposed are secured via the oCEMP, oOEMP, and oDEMP, alongside a requirement within the draft DCO.	

Secretary of State decision making	5.7.12 The Secretary of State should satisfy itself that: • an assessment of the potential for artificial light, dust, odour, smoke, steam and insect infestation to have a detrimental impact on amenity has been carried out • that all reasonable steps have been taken, and will be taken, to minimise any such detrimental impacts	The Air Quality Assessment assesses the dust and emission effects of the Proposed Development upon sensitive receptors The Proposed Development will emit minimal amounts of odour. Construction, operation and decommissioning activities will be undertaken with the use of best practice measures applied, as set out in the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP. As set out in the Design Approach Document, the Applicant recognises the importance of new planting and bunding to mitigate the Proposed Development. The Applicant can confirm that between the mitigation secured in the management plans and the design approach, all reasonable steps have been taken to minimise the potential for detrimental impacts. All relevant assessments covering artificial light, dust, odour, smoke, steam and insect infestation have been considered across the Environmental Statement and	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

		conclude there will not be a detrimental impact to amenity.	
	5.7.13 If development consent is granted for a project, the Secretary of State should consider whether there is a justification for all of the authorised project (including any associated development) to be covered by a defence of statutory authority against nuisance claims. If the Secretary of State cannot conclude that this is justified, the Secretary of State should disapply in whole or in part the defence through a provision in the Development Consent Order.	The Statutory Nuisance Statement concludes that the only matters addressed by the EPA 1990 which have been assessed as potentially being significant for the Proposed Development are those associated with noise, dust, health, light and vibration. However, it is demonstrated in this Statement that the Proposed Development would not have significant effects following the implementation of the identified mitigation measures.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16** **Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010159/APP/5.3]**
	5.7.14 Where the Secretary of State believes it appropriate, the Secretary of State may consider attaching requirements to the development consent, to secure certain mitigation measures.	The Applicant considers that all relevant mitigation has been secured via appropriate requirements within the Draft DCO	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**
	5.7.15 In particular, the Secretary of State should consider whether to require the	No such effects are anticipated within the ES. The Applicant considers that all relevant mitigation has been	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	applicant to abide by a scheme of management and mitigation concerning insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke, and artificial light from the development. The Secretary of State should consider the need for such a scheme to reduce any loss to amenity which might arise during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the development. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.	secured via appropriate requirements within the Draft DCO.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16** **Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**
Part 5.8 - Flood Risk	5.8.12 Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as	As set out in the flood risk assessment (FRA), the Proposed Development would not increase flood risk at the Order Limits or in the surrounding area, and would remain operational and safe during times of flood. Solar PV arrays will be raised to be 1.8m above ground level providing a 300mm freeboard across the majority of the Order Limits however, there are some localised areas where flood depths exceed 1.5m. For much of these areas, a freeboard will still be	**Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]**

	much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.	provided but will be less than 300mm. Only a small portion of the solar PV arrays would experience flooding at their base, and the depth of flooding to the panels will be limited. The operational impact should this occur is considered to be acceptable, and this approach has been discussed and agreed with the EA. No built development is proposed within the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b) and a sequential approach has been taken to the development layout, with sensitive equipment (such as sub-stations and battery storage) located outside of the design flood extent, ensuring they remain operational even in times of flood. However, due to the extent of the Order Limits, some development (inverters and panels) is required within the design flood extent. Where this is the case, the inverters will be raised 300mm above the design flood level on raised platforms. As a result, there will be a negligible impact on floodplain storage, however, to minimise this impact it is proposed that these features will have a voided	**oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

		structure beneath, allowing the flow and storage of floodwater beneath. Mitigation measures identified in the FRA which include: • Raising equipment above the design flood level on frames and voided structures, where possible, to limit loss in floodplain storage or adverse changes in flood flows; • No land raising being proposed within the Site, ensuring there is negligible loss in floodplain storage; and Managing surface water runoff from any areas of significant hardstanding and restricting runoff to match the natural greenfield runoff rates. This ensures there is no increase in flood risk downstream.	
Application Assessment	5.8.13 A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England or Zone A in Wales, an	A site-specific flood risk assessment has been provided with the application the Order Limits are both over 1ha and is located within Flood Zone 2 and 3. The FRA provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. The FRA	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	assessment should accompany all proposals involving: • sites of 1 hectare or more • land which has been identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future • land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water) • where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems.	demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The FRA meets all requirements set out within the policy.	
	5.8.14 This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate	The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy assesses flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and**

	how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account. 5.8.15 The minimum requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) are that they should: • be proportionate to the risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the project; • consider the risk of flooding arising from the project in addition to the risk of flooding to the project; • take the impacts of climate change into account, across a range of climate scenarios, clearly stating the development lifetime over which the assessment has been made; • be undertaken by competent people, as early as possible in the	flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and how the requirements of the Sequential Test and Exception Test are satisfied. The FRA meets all requirements set out within the policy.	**Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	process of preparing the proposal; • consider both the potential adverse and beneficial effects of flood risk management infrastructure, including raised defences, flow channels, flood storage areas and other artificial features, together with the consequences of their failure and exceedance; • consider the vulnerability of those using the site, including arrangements for safe access and escape; • consider and quantify the different types of flooding (whether from natural and human sources and including joint and cumulative effects) and include information on flood likelihood, speed-of-onset, depth, velocity, hazard and duration; • identify and secure opportunities to reduce		

	the causes and impacts of flooding overall, making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management; • consider the effects of a range of flooding events including extreme events on people, property, the natural and historic environment and river and coastal processes; • include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk after risk reduction measures have been taken into account and demonstrate that these risks can be safely managed, ensuring people will not be exposed to hazardous flooding; • consider how the ability of water to soak into the ground may change with development, along with how the proposed layout		

	of the project may affect drainage systems. Information should include: i. Describe the existing surface water drainage arrangements for the site ii. Set out (approximately) the existing rates and volumes of surface water run-off generated by the site. Detail the proposals for restricting discharge rates iii. Set out proposals for managing and discharging surface water from the site using sustainable drainage systems and accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change. If sustainable		

	drainage systems have been rejected, present clear evidence of why their inclusion would be inappropriate iv. Demonstrate how the hierarchy of drainage options has been followed. v. Explain and justify why the types of SuDS and method of discharge have been selected and why they are considered appropriate. vi. Explain how sustainable drainage systems have been integrated with other aspects of the development such as open space or green infrastructure, so as to ensure an		

	efficient use of the site vii. Describe the multifunctional benefits the sustainable drainage system will provide viii. Set out which opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding have been identified and included as part of the proposed sustainable drainage system ix. Explain how run-off from the completed development will be prevented from causing an impact elsewhere x. Explain how the sustainable drainage system been designed to facilitate		

	maintenance and, where relevant, adoption. Set out plans for ensuring an acceptable standard of operation and maintenance throughout the lifetime of the development • detail those measures that will be included to ensure the development will be safe and remain operational during a flooding event throughout the development's lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere; • identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall during the period of construction; and • be supported by appropriate data and information, including		

	historical information on previous events.		
	5.8.16 Further guidance can be found in the Planning Practice Guidance Flood Risk and Coastal Change section which accompanies the NPPF, TAN15 for Wales or successor documents.	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment and FRA considers relevant sections of the Planning Practice Guidance, the NPPF, and the government's associated planning guidance on water.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	5.8.17 Development (including construction works) will need to account for any existing watercourses and flood and coastal erosion risk management structures or features, or any land likely to be needed for future structures or features so as to ensure: • Access, clearances and sufficient land are retained to enable their maintenance, repair, operation, and replacement, as necessary	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology Assessment presents the assessment of the likely significant effects on surface water bodies (e.g. rivers, streams, ditches, canals, lakes and ponds) proposed. To ensure that access and ecological corridors are maintained however, it is proposed that the following buffers will be provided between the top of bank of watercourses and any built development (i.e. panels, sub-stations, inverters and battery storage): • A minimum 10m buffer from all ordinary watercourse and field	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	• Their standard of protection is not reduced • Their condition or structural integrity is not reduced	drains/ditches will be provided to any built development. • A minimum 16m buffer from the River Trent (main river) will also be provided to any development. It is worth noting that the buffers from the River Trent actually extend far beyond the 16m minimum. It should be noted that, as part of the Proposed Development there will be no alterations to the existing flood defences in the Order Limits. The standard of protection is not to be reduced and will work in tandem with the proposed buffers. As part of the development proposals, any works to the existing watercourses are to be limited, however there will be a requirement to undertake the following (which would require the relevant consents): • Proposed surface water drainage outfalls from areas of significant hardstanding (such as the sub-station and battery storage areas).	

		• Bridging over watercourses to facilitate access. These have been kept to a minimum and any openings will be sized accordingly to ensure there would be no constraint to flows. • Two artificial otter holts are proposed on the ditch network and a new ditch is proposed to be dug in the ecological mitigation area (floodplain grazing marsh) near the River Trent. • Works to desilt the watercourses are proposed and vegetation clearance on the banks will likely be required. It is predicted that the Proposed Development will have a negligible impact on watercourses and flood management, which is not significant in EIA terms.	
	5.8.18 Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the official	In preparing the FRA and the ES, the Applicant has considered advice and taken account of feedback received through consultation and engagement with relevant statutory	**Consultation Report - Applicant Response Tables (ARTs) [EN010159/APP/5.1]**

	pre-application stage of the NSIP process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators.	bodies, including the Environment Agency (EA), the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and the Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). Listed below are the statutory consultees and stakeholders that have provided comments in relation to the water environment: • Environmental Agency • Newark and Sherwood District Council • West Lindsey District Council • Nottinghamshire County Council • Canal and River Trust • Anglian Water • Lincolnshire County Council • JGP Property Ltd As part of their engagement in the consultation, the Environment Agency agreed with the assessment of different breach locations on the east and western banks of the River Trent has been undertaken based on the in channel defended design flood levels (to be conservative) for the River Trent. This assessment confirms that the sensitive electrical	
	5.8.19 Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by the Secretary of State to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The Secretary of State should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary but have not yet been addressed.		
	5.8.20 If the EA, NRW or another flood risk management authority has reasonable concerns about the proposal on flood risk grounds, the applicant should discuss these concerns		

	with the EA or NRW and take all reasonable steps to agree ways in which the proposal might be amended, or additional information provided, which would satisfy the authority's concerns.	equipment (BESS and substation) can be located outside of the breach flood extents.	
	5.8.21 The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Where it is not possible to locate development in low-risk areas, the Sequential Test should go on to compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas, within high-risk areas.	The Sequential Test has been applied and is set out within the Planning Statement. To summarise, the secured grid connection at High Marnham power station has been used as the starting point for site selection. Existing grid connection points with spare capacity are finite and should be utilised wherever possible to fulfil the need for new renewable energy development. A 10km radius from the point of connection was used to search for suitable areas of land for NSIP scale solar development, driven by the desire to be as close to the point of connection as possible, in order to minimise the risk of environmental impacts, disruption to multiple landowners, challenges with crossings and process losses, and the cost and delay of a longer cable	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 3.Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	5.8.22 The technology specific NPSs set out some exceptions to the application of the Sequential Test. However, when seeking development consent on a site allocated in a		

	development plan through the application of the Sequential Test, informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, applicants need not apply the Sequential Test, provided the proposed development is consistent with the use for which the site was allocated and there is no new flood risk information that would have affected the outcome of the test. 5.8.23 Consideration of alternative sites should take account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3 above. All projects should apply the Sequential Test to locating development within the site.	route. The majority of land to the north, east and south within the 10km radius capable of siting large areas of Solar PV Development were also located in areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3. Areas of Flood Zone 1 were identified, however were not of a size that could accommodate NSIP scale solar development or were not available or suitable for the Proposed Development. Larger areas of land to the west within the 10km radius were located in Flood Zone 1, however accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, there is clear reasoning for discounting development within these areas, as set out in detail within the Planning Statement, including In light of the above, the Sequential Tests required by paragraph 5.8.9 has been applied and satisfied as part of site selection. ▪ Following the completion of the Sequential Test and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5.8.9, the Applicant has applied the Exception Test to the proposed electrical infrastructure within Flood Zones 2 and 3. In	

		accordance with paragraph 5.8.10, the Applicant considers it appropriate to apply the Exception Test as the Sequential Test has demonstrated that, at a site specific level taking into account wider sustainable development objectives, there are no reasonably available lower risk sites to locate the required electrical infrastructure that would deliver the same amount of renewable energy to fully utilise the available grid connection within the same time period. The Exception Test needs to be passed in order for essential development to be considered acceptable in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Paragraph 5.8.11 further replicates the tests set out in Paragraph 178 of the NPPF which state that: • Development that has to be in a flood risk area will provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk, and • the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk	

		elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall. ▪ In relation to the first bullet point, above, the Applicant considers that the substantial benefits that the Proposed Development would deliver would clearly outweigh the flood risk. As articulated in the Statement of Need these are considered to be sustainability benefits to the wider community because significant renewable energy schemes at scale are required to be able to meet the legal binding commitment to Net Zero and make energy more affordable and reliable for all. The Proposed Development also delivers local community benefits through the additional proposed permissive paths, biodiversity net gain and environmental enhancements (see Section 3 of this Planning Statement). Significant socio-economic effects are also anticipated through an investment of approximately £1billion during construction and 4,000 FTE jobs across the whole value chain.	

		▪ In relation to the second bullet point, the mitigation measures included as part of the Proposed Development, as well as the removal of all electrical infrastructure from Flood Zone 3b, will ensure that the Proposed Development will be safe for its lifetime. It is therefore considered that the Sequential Test and Exception Test have been met.	
Mitigation	5.8.24 To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology Assessment considers the potential impacts on flood risk, watercourses, and surrounding Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water mains. Section 7.5 sets out the environmental measures embedded in the Proposed Development set out to manage surface water and flood risk.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
	5.8.25 In this NPS, the term SuDS refers to the whole range of sustainable approaches to surface water drainage management including, where appropriate:	The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Drainage Strategy demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	• source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage • infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, that can include individual soakaways and communal facilities • filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns • filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed • basins, ponds and tanks to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding • flood routes to carry and direct excess water through developments to	confirmed and secured through the DCO.	

	minimise the impact of severe rainfall flooding		
	5.8.26 Site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system, so that excess water can be safely stored on or conveyed from the site without adverse impacts.	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology Assessment assesses flood risk and drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the CEMP and DEMP, there will be no significant effects arising in relation to water. Given the design mitigation secured through the OEMP, there will be no significant adverse effects predicted upon receptors with regard to flood risk during the operation of the Proposed Development. The Drainage Strategy has been prepared, accounting for predicted impacts of climate change, setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Drainage Strategy demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**
	5.8.27 The surface water drainage arrangements for any project should, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the development's lifetime, be such that the volumes and peak flow rates of surface water leaving the site are no greater than the rates prior to the proposed project, unless specific off-site arrangements are made and result in the same net effect.		
	5.8.28 It may be necessary to provide surface water storage and infiltration to limit and reduce both the peak rate of discharge from the site and the total volume discharged from		

	the site. There may be circumstances where it is appropriate for infiltration facilities or attenuation storage to be provided outside the project site, if necessary through the use of a planning obligation.	maintained by the Applicant to be confirmed and secured through the DCO.	
	5.8.29 The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. Vulnerable aspects of the development should be located on parts of the site at lower risk and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife.	More vulnerable elements of the development have been sequentially located within the Order Limits, in areas of lower flood risk. There is no electrical infrastructure located in Flood Zone 3b, and the two on-site substations and BESS have been located outside of Flood Zone 2 and 3, and outside of the pluvial and design flood extents, ensuring they remain operational even in times of flood.	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	5.8.30 Where a development may result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere through the loss of flood storage, on-site level-for-level compensatory storage, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change over the lifetime of the	The Proposed Development would not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere and will not materially remove floodplain volume and not require compensatory storage to be provided. A requirement in the DCO will ensure that the detailed design is	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]**

	development, should be provided.	substantially in accordance with the Outline Design Parameters.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7:Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
	5.8.31 Where it is not possible to provide compensatory storage on site, it may be acceptable to provide it off-site if it is hydraulically and hydrologically linked. Where development may cause the deflection or constriction of flood flow routes, these will need to be safely managed within the site.		
	5.8.32 Where development may contribute to a cumulative increase in flood risk elsewhere, the provision of multifunctional sustainable drainage systems, natural flood management and green infrastructure can also make a valuable contribution to mitigating this risk whilst providing wider benefits.	The Cumulative Effects Assessment sets out that there is the potential for cumulative effects. However, with the embedded mitigation measures in place, and considering there are no significant effects identified for the Site, it is considered that there are no significant cumulative overall effects on the water environment receptors.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]**
	5.8.33 The receipt of and response to warnings of floods is an essential element in the management of the residual risk of flooding. Flood Warning and evacuation plans should be in	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology Assessment sets out that the Contractor and the Applicant will be required to produce a CEMP, OEMP, and DEMP, which ensure that site managers are registered with the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	place for those areas at an identified risk of flooding.	Environment Agency's Flood Warning system to provide adequate forewarning in the event of a predicted flood for site personal within the northeastern region of the Site to evacuate to an area of safe refuge, upgradient, to the west.	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**
	5.8.35 Flood resistant and resilient materials and design should be adopted to minimise damage and speed recovery in the event of a flood.	The Proposed Development has been designed to safeguard the water environment where possible to be resilient to flooding now and in the future. However, due to the flood risk in the local area, the opportunity to completely design out flood risk for all panels is not possible. This has been discussed in detail with the Environment Agency and further information around this can be found within the Design Approach Document and Hydrology ES chapter.	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
Secretary of State decision making	5.8.36 In determining an application for development consent, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that where relevant: • the application is supported by an appropriate FRA	A site-specific flood risk assessment has been provided with the application the Order Limits are both over 1ha and is located within Flood Zone 2 and 3. The FRA provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk	**Appendix 1, Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and**

	• the Sequential Test has been applied and satisfied as part of site selection • a sequential approach has been applied at the site level to minimise risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk • the proposal is in line with any relevant national and local flood risk management strategy • SuDS (as required in the next paragraph on National Standards) have been used unless there is clear evidence that their use would be inappropriate • in flood risk areas the project is designed and constructed to remain safe and operational during its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere (subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph 5.8.42)	will be managed during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The FRA meets all requirements set out within the policy. The Sequential Test has been applied and is set out within the Planning Statement. To summarise, the secured grid connection at High Marnham power station has been used as the starting point for site selection. Existing grid connection points with spare capacity are finite and should be utilised wherever possible to fulfil the need for new renewable energy development. A 10km radius from the point of connection was used to search for suitable areas of land for NSIP scale solar development, driven by the desire to be as close to the point of connection as possible, in order to minimise the risk of environmental impacts, disruption to multiple landowners, challenges with crossings and process losses, and the cost and delay of a longer cable route. The majority of land to the north, east and south within the 10km radius capable of siting large areas of	**Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	• the project includes safe access and escape routes where required, as part of an agreed emergency plan, and that any residual risk can be safely managed over the lifetime of the development • land that is likely to be needed for present or future flood risk management infrastructure has been appropriately safeguarded from development to the extent that development would not prevent or hinder its construction, operation or maintenance	Solar PV Development were also located in areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3. Areas of Flood Zone 1 were identified, however were not of a size that could accommodate NSIP scale solar development or were not available or suitable for the Proposed Development. Larger areas of land to the west within the 10km radius were located in Flood Zone 1, however accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, there is clear reasoning for discounting development within these areas, as set out in detail within the Planning Statement, including In light of the above, the Sequential Tests required by paragraph 5.8.9 has been applied and satisfied as part of site selection. Following the completion of the Sequential Test and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5.8.9, the Applicant has applied the Exception Test to the proposed electrical infrastructure within Flood Zones 2 and 3. In accordance with paragraph 5.8.10, the Applicant considers it appropriate to apply the Exception Test as the Sequential Test	

		has demonstrated that, at a site specific level taking into account wider sustainable development objectives, there are no reasonably available lower risk sites to locate the required electrical infrastructure that would deliver the same amount of renewable energy to fully utilise the available grid connection within the same time period. The Exception Test needs to be passed in order for essential development to be considered acceptable in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Paragraph 5.8.11 further replicates the tests set out in Paragraph 178 of the NPPF which state that: • Development that has to be in a flood risk area will provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk, and • the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where	

		possible, will reduce flood risk overall. In relation to the first bullet point, above, the Applicant considers that the substantial benefits that the Proposed Development would deliver would clearly outweigh the flood risk. As articulated in the Statement of Need these are considered to be sustainability benefits to the wider community because significant renewable energy schemes at scale are required to be able to meet the legal binding commitment to Net Zero and make energy more affordable and reliable for all. The Proposed Development also delivers local community benefits through the additional proposed permissive paths, biodiversity net gain and environmental enhancements (see Section 3 of this Planning Statement). Significant socio-economic effects are also anticipated through an investment of approximately £1billion during construction and 4,000 FTE jobs across the whole value chain. In relation to the second bullet point, the mitigation measures included as	

		part of the Proposed Development, as well as the removal of all electrical infrastructure from Flood Zone 3b, will ensure that the Proposed Development will be safe for its lifetime. It is therefore considered that the Sequential Test and Exception Test have been met. More vulnerable elements of the development have been sequentially located within the Order Limits, in areas of lower flood risk. There is no electrical infrastructure located in Flood Zone 3b, and The two on-site substations and BESS have been located outside of Flood Zone 2 and 3, and outside of the pluvial and design flood extents, ensuring they remain operational even in times of flood. An Outline Drainage Strategy has been prepared, accounting for predicted impacts of climate change, setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. A full Strategy is	

		secured through the DCO Requirements. The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Outline Drainage Strategy demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant to be confirmed and secured through the DCO. Chapter 7 Hydrology and Hydrogeology confirms that flood risk during construction and at decommissioning will be managed through the CEMP and DEMP, which will be secured by the DCO and required to be in substantial accordance with the oCEMP and oDEMP. There are a number of formal flood defences associated with the River Trent. These defences are predominantly in the form of raised embankments and are shown broadly to be in a fair to good condition. To ensure that impacts on the existing defences are minimised and that access is not restricted, significant	

		offsets (minimum of 16m) have been provided between the defences and any built development. It is understood that the EA conducts regular inspections and maintenance of these flood defences to ensure their continued effectiveness in mitigating flood risks. These inspections help to verify that the defences are capable of withstanding both current conditions and potential future challenges, such as the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.	
	5.8.37 For energy projects which have drainage implications, approval for the project's drainage system, including during the construction period, will form part of the development consent issued by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will therefore need to be satisfied that the proposed drainage system complies with any National Standards published by Ministers under	The Drainage Strategy has been prepared, accounting for predicted impacts of climate change, setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Drainage Strategy demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.	maintained by the Applicant to be confirmed and secured through the DCO. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology Assessment has considered the Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in its assessment of the Proposed Development.	
	5.8.38 In addition, the Development Consent Order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for appropriate operation and maintenance of any SuDS throughout the project's lifetime. Where this is secured through the adoption of any SuDS features, any necessary access rights to property will need to be granted.	The Drainage Strategy has been prepared, accounting for predicted impacts of climate change, as well as setting out how surface water will be managed across the Proposed Development to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere. The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Drainage Strategy demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant to be confirmed and secured through the DCO.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	5.8.39 Where relevant, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the most appropriate body is being given the responsibility for maintaining any SuDS, taking into account the nature and security of the infrastructure on the proposed site. Responsible bodies could include, for example the landowner, the relevant lead local flood authority or water and sewerage company (through the Ofwat approved Sewerage Sector Guidance), or another body, such as an Internal Drainage Board.	The commitments set out in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy include that all SuDS features to be designed in accordance with the CIRIA C753 SuDS Manual, to ensure that surface water runoff discharged from the Site will be of an acceptable standard by following best design practices.	**Volume 2, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	5.8.40 If the EA, NRW or another flood risk management authority continues to have concerns and objects to the grant of development consent on the grounds of flood risk, the Secretary of State can grant consent, but would need to be satisfied before deciding whether or not to do so that all reasonable steps have been taken by the applicant and the	The Applicant considers that there is no flood risk related grounds that may trigger this clause, and this has been agreed through consultation with the Environment Agency who raised no concerns.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	authority to try to resolve the concerns.		
	5.8.41 Energy projects should not normally be consented within Flood Zone 3b, or Zone C2 in Wales, or on land expected to fall within these zones within its predicted lifetime. This may also apply where land is subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water). However, where essential energy infrastructure has to be located in such areas, for operational reasons, they should only be consented if the development will not result in a net loss of floodplain storage, and will not impede water flows.	The River Trent runs through the Site on a general south-north alignment flowing from Staffordshire northwards toward the Humber Estuary. The river effectively separates the Site into those parcels to the west and those to the east of the River Trent. Approximately 56% of the Site is within Flood Zones 2 and 3, indicating a medium to high probability of flooding from tidal and fluvial sources. Of the Flood Zone area of the Site, 46% is situated within Flood Zone 3a and 10% in Flood Zone 2. It should be noted that we have removed development from Flood Zone 3b where possible but it is not possible to remove all Flood Zone 3b from the Order Limits. Following the completion of the Sequential Test and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5.8.9 of EN-1, the Applicant has applied the Exception Test to the proposed Solar PV Development within Flood Zone 3. In accordance	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 3-4 [EN010159/APP/6.20]**

		with paragraph 5.8.10 of EN-1, the Applicant considers it appropriate to apply the Exception Test as the Sequential Test has demonstrated that, at a site specific level, there are no reasonably available lower risk sites to locate the required Solar PV Development that would deliver the same amount of renewable energy in the same time period. The Applicant considers that the substantial benefits that the Proposed Development would deliver, as set out in Section 3 of the Planning Statement and considered further in the planning balance at, would clearly outweigh the flood risk, particularly given that this risk would be entirely removed through design.	
	5.8.42 Exceptionally, where an increase in flood risk elsewhere cannot be avoided or wholly mitigated, the Secretary of State may grant consent if they are satisfied that the increase in present and future flood risk can be mitigated to an acceptable and safe level and taking	The FRA confirms that the Proposed Development would not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere. In any event, the Proposed Development will provide wider sustainability benefits to the community, including job creation in the local area during construction and decommissioning, that outweigh its	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and**

	account of the benefits of, including the need for, nationally significant energy infrastructure as set out in Part 3 above. In any such case the Secretary of State should make clear how, in reaching their decision, they have weighed up the increased flood risk against the benefits of the project, taking account of the nature and degree of the risk, the future impacts on climate change, and advice provided by the EA or NRW and other relevant bodies.	impacts on flood risk. Through the generation of renewable and low carbon electricity, the Proposed Development is considered nationally significant and will contribute to the critical and urgent need to decarbonise electricity generation and contribute to the UKs obligations for Net Zero. Appropriate mitigation measures have been considered to ensure the Proposed Development is safe for its lifetime.	**Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
Part 5.9 - Historic Environment *Applicant Assessment*	5.9.9 The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA, and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES (see Section 4.3). This should include consideration of heritage assets above, at, and below the surface of the ground. Consideration will also need to be given to the possible impacts, including cumulative,	The Cultural Heritage assessment provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above ground assets. The Buried Heritage assessment provided an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including below ground assets. They conclude that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

	on the wider historic environment. The assessment should include reference to any historic landscape or seascape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing impacts relevant to the proposed project. 5.9.10 As part of the ES the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the applicant should have consulted the relevant Historic Environment Record (or, where the development is in English or Welsh waters, Historic England or Cadw) and assessed the heritage assets themselves using expertise where necessary according to	Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. Heritage was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document (DAD)-incorporating the design principle to protect and enhance places of value. The iterative design process has sought to protect heritage assets, including three Grade I listed buildings and two Scheduled Monuments, namely the Roman Vexillation Fortress and Whimpton Moor medieval village.	

	the proposed development's impact.		
	5.9.11 Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation. Where proposed development will affect the setting of a heritage asset, accurate representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact.	The Cultural and Buried Heritage assessments have been informed by the HER and set out detailed baselines. A Geophysical Survey Report has been submitted as a part of the application. The location of heritage assets used in the assessments, within the site, within the study area and those included in the EIA are provided. A first phase of the trial trenching evaluation was undertaken between September 2024 and December 2024. The results of the trial trenching evaluation are presented in the Trial Trenching Evaluation Report. The trial trenching targeted some of the areas of greatest archaeological potential, as identified during the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, and the areas selected as options for the substation and BESS parameters. The trial trenching evaluation provided critical insights into the required suite of mitigation measures essential for ensuring the viability of the proposed development, while	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 3, Figures Supporting Volumes 1 and 2 [EN010159/APP/6.20]:** • **Figure 9.1: Study Area.** • **Figure 9.2: Prehistoric Receptors** • **Figure 9.3: Roman Receptors** • **Figure 9.4: Saxon and Medieval Receptors** • **Figure 9.5: Post-Medieval and Undated Receptors** • **Figure 10.1: Designated Heritage Asset Mapping in**

		concurrently evaluating the design's capacity to address and accommodate any archaeological constraints that have been, or may in the future be, identified. The information collected during the trial trenching evaluation also confirmed that any effect arising from the construction of the Proposed Development on buried heritage deposits can be successfully mitigated to a non-significant level by a combination of embedded environmental measures and a proportionate and targeted archaeological mitigation.	**1km and 2km Radius of the Site.** • **Figure 10.2: Non-Designated Heritage Asset Mapping in 1km and 2 km Radius of the Site.** • **Figure 10.3: Designated Heritage Asset ZTV Mapping with 1km and 2km Radius.** • **Figure 10.4: Non-Designated Heritage Asset ZTV Mapping with 1km and 2km Radius.** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volume 2 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:** • **Geophysical Survey Report** • **Trial Trenching Evaluation Report**

	5.9.12 The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will be required on those heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light and indirect impacts, the extent and detail of these studies will be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.	The Cultural Heritage assessment provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above ground assets. The Buried Heritage assessment provided an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including below ground assets. They conclude that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms but is being mitigated where possible. The Cultural and Buried Heritage assessments are supported by a number of studies, submitted with the DCO as appendices to the assessments.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volume 2 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:** • **Appendix 9.3 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment** • **Appendix 9.4 Geophysical Survey Report** • **Appendix 9.5 Completion Statements of Trial Trenching Evaluation** • **Appendix 10.2 Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment.**

	5.9.13 The applicant is encouraged, where opportunities exist, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and to consider how their scheme takes account of the significance of heritage assets affected. This can include, where possible: • enhancing, through a range of measures such a sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or setting affected • considering where required the development of archive capacity which could deliver significant public benefits • considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments describe the heritage assets within the Study Area for the Proposed Development and their significance, and the contribution of their significance to the setting. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5.4 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme		
	5.9.14 Careful consideration in preparing the scheme will be required on whether the impacts on the historic environment will be direct or indirect, temporary, or permanent.	The Cultural Heritage assessment provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above ground assets. The Buried Heritage assessment provided an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including below ground assets. They conclude that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. Effects arising during the construction stage will be temporary, limited to the construction period only and reversible. Decommissioning is anticipated to commence 60 years after final commissioning. The effects to all identified heritage assets during the decommissioning phase are likely to be similar to construction effects,	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]**

		including being temporary and reversible. Effects arising during operation will be long-term, for the period of the Proposed Development.	
	5.9.15 Applicants should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.	There are no World Heritage Sites affected by the Proposed Development. The Cultural Heritage Assessment identifies that there is 1 Conservation Area within the 1km study area: South Clifton, which contains 8 of the Grade II listed buildings. There is 1 Conservation Area within the 2km study area: East Drayton, which contains the Grade I listed Church of St Peter and 5 of the Grade II listed buildings. All are outside of the Site. Mitigation measures documented within and secured by the Works Plans, oCTMP, and the oCEMP will ensure that construction phase impacts on the conservation areas will be avoided. The Cultural Heritage assessment concludes that there will be an effect of the Proposed Development on the conservation areas that is no greater	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

		than Minor-Negligible Adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms.	
Mitigation	5.9.16 A documentary record of our past is not as valuable as retaining the heritage asset, and therefore the ability to record evidence of the asset should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted, and whether or not consent should be given. 5.9.17 Where the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, the Secretary of State will require the applicant to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost (wholly or in part). The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the asset's importance and significance and the impact. The applicant should be required to publish this evidence and to deposit copies of the reports with the relevant Historic Environmental Record. They should also be required to deposit the archive	The Cultural and Buried Heritage Assessments sets out the environmental measures embedded in the Proposed Development to mitigate the impacts on heritage assets. An oCEMP has been prepared to mitigate the likely adverse effects during the Construction Phase. The measures to reduce likely significant effects – including control of noise, dust, lighting, traffic management and vegetation management – are included in the oCEMP. The oLEMP set out key measures to protect and enhance landscaping throughout the Site, including protecting and retaining existing vegetation and trees, where relevant. Existing vegetation along the boundary will be retained and managed where practicable to aid screening and reduce visual presence of the Proposed Development in the settings of heritage assets.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	generated in a local museum or other public repository willing to receive it.	The following design measures have been incorporated within the Proposed Development to mitigate potential harm: • Substantial setbacks and removal of developable land around North Clifton / South Clifton to ensure that the Proposed Development does not interrupt the connection between the settlements afforded by gaps and glimpsed views, including preserving the visual and perception connection between Church of St George The Martyr (Grade II*) and both settlements. • No development is proposed on the part of the Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument that is within the Site and most of this Scheduled Monument is excluded from the site boundary. The land featuring the Roman Vexillation Fortress Scheduled Monument and its surroundings has also been removed from the Site.	
	5.9.18 Where appropriate, the Secretary of State will impose requirements on the Development Consent Order to ensure that the work is undertaken in a timely manner, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that complies with the policy in this NPS and which has been agreed in writing with the relevant local authority, and to ensure that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.		
	5.9.19 Where the loss of significance of any heritage asset has been justified by the applicant on the merits of the new development and the significance of the asset in question, the Secretary of State should consider: • imposing a requirement in the Development Consent Order		

	• requiring the applicant to enter into an obligation 5.9.20 That will prevent the loss occurring until the relevant part of the development has commenced, or it is reasonably certain that the relevant part of the development is to proceed. 5.9.21 Where there is a high probability (based on an adequate assessment) that a development site may include, as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Secretary of State will consider requirements to ensure appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and treatment of such assets discovered during construction.	• Setbacks incorporated around Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument which have been based on an understanding of the topography here to reduce the potential visual and experiential effects of development in the setting of the Monument. • Setbacks incorporated in Fledborough to the north, south and west of the Church of St Gregory (Grade I listed). This is to manage the presence of the Proposed Development in the setting of the Church and neighbouring Manor House (Grade II listed), including mitigating any visual impact from the approach to these assets and in views from public footpaths and Fledborough Viaduct. • Setbacks incorporated to east and west of Ragnall to reduce visual presence of development in settings of heritage assets here. Setbacks to the west are based on understanding of	

		topography and views out from the Church of St Leonard (Grade II* listed) and setbacks to the east approximately follow the line of former historic field boundaries (which would be 'reinstated'). • Substantial setbacks and removable of developable land to the south of Newton on Trent and to west of Thorney to reduce visual impact and likely significant effects on settings of heritage assets in these locations. • Tree and native vegetation planting (c.3m in height and 2-3m in width) to be included at sensitive edges of the Site to manage potential visual (and to some extent experiential) likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, including potential for glint and glare, within the settings of heritage assets. This includes to east and west of Ragnall assets, to south of Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument, to west and south of	

		Fledborough assets and to north-east of Skegby Manor (Grade II listed). • Existing tree and vegetation to be strengthened and managed to heights of c.3m and width of 2.3m • Control of lighting and noise during operational phase to minimise intrusion in the context of heritage assets. • Beyond the cable routing (below ground) for the Grid Connection, the area north of High Marnham (National High Marnham Substation) is not proposed for any further development. This will reduce or avoid any effects to heritage assets in High Marnham and Low Marnham. • The proposed eastern and western substation locations are at a distance from designated heritage assets to reduce intrusive visual presence in their settings,	

		including from sensitive views and key approaches. • The cabling between the east and west sides of the Site across the River Trent will be undertaken by trenchless crossing (Directional Drilling) which is considered to have a lesser impact on built heritage assets due to its lack of visual presence in their settings once operational. The option to route cabling via Fledborough Viaduct is no longer being pursued, therefore there would be no direct alterations to the Viaduct. The following setbacks are currently incorporated in the Proposed Development design to mitigate potential harm on buried heritage assets: • No development is proposed on or directly adjacent to the two Scheduled Monuments in the vicinity of the Site (the Roman Vexillation Fortress Scheduled Monument and Whimpton Moor Scheduled	

		Monument). Substantial 50m setbacks around these designated heritage assets are incorporated into the design. The embedded buffer would also mitigate or remove any adverse effect on any known and unknown buried heritage assets included in the buffer areas;
		• Substantial setbacks and the removal of developable land around:
		  • North Clifton (approximatively 100m to Work No. 1);
		  • South Clifton- (approximatively 500m to Work No. 1);
		  • To the south of Newton-on-Trent (approximatively 100m to Work No. 1);
		  • To the north, south and west of the Church of St Gregory in Fledborough (approximatively 160m to Work No. 1);	

		• To the east and west of Ragnall (approximatively 150m to Work No. 1); • West of Thorney (approximatively 800m to Work No. 1); and, • The area north of High Marnham (National High Marnham Substation) is proposed only for the cable routing for the Grid Connection, but no further development is expected in the area. An oDEMP has been prepared to mitigate the likely significant adverse effects during the Decommissioning Phase. Where no appropriate design measure can be applied to the management of the archaeological resource, mitigation measures will be applied, including but not limited to: • A programme of archaeological mitigation through record, such as strip and map and sample. or detailed excavation, to a level	

		commensurate with the significance of the asset, will be implemented for archaeological remains within the footprint of the Proposed Development prior to the construction works targeting the assets identified during the DBA, geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation and outlined in this Chapter. • A programme of archaeological mitigation field work and recording may be undertaken during the construction works. These are industry standard (mitigation) and good practice responses to discovered (and important) buried archaeological remains and these responses are secured by the requirements to the DCO. All archaeological mitigation works will be undertaken by an appropriately experienced and competent Archaeological Contractor in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that has been	

		agreed with the Archaeological Advisors to Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council and approved in writing by the relevant Local Planning Authorities.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.9.22 In determining applications, the Secretary of State should seek to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by the proposed development, including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset (including assets whose setting may be affected by the proposed development), taking account of: • relevant information provided with the application and, where applicable, relevant information submitted during the examination of the application • any designation records, including those on the National Heritage List for	The Cultural and Buried Heritage Assessments set out the criteria for assessing the importance of heritage assets. The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of non-designated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor with reference to national and local guidance and the planning policy tests. Historic England guidance also refers to an asset's "level of significance" which in this usage has the same meaning as importance. The significance of heritage assets within the study area is detailed in the Cultural and Buried Heritage Assessments.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

	England, or included on Cof Cymru for Wales. • historic landscape character records • the relevant Historic Environment Record(s), and similar sources of information • representations made by interested parties during the examination process • expert advice, where appropriate, and when the need to understand the significance of the heritage asset demands it		
	5.9.23 The Secretary of State must also comply with the requirements on listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, set out in Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010.	It has been demonstrated that a decision to grant a DCO for the Proposed Development would have regard to the matters prescribed by Regulation 3 and 7 of the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (as amended) (Ref 15). The Proposed Development has regard to preserving heritage assets and their setting as set out in Section 8 of the Planning Statement and the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9**] **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

		Cultural and Buried Heritage Assessments.	
	5.9.25 The Secretary of State should consider the desirability of sustaining and, where appropriate, enhancing the significance of heritage assets, the contribution of their settings and the positive contribution that their conservation can make to sustainable communities, including to their quality of life, their economic vitality, and to the public's enjoyment of these assets.	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**
	5.9.26 The Secretary of State should also consider the desirability of the new development making a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. The consideration of design should include scale, height, massing, alignment, materials, use and landscaping (for example, screen planting).		
	5.9.27 When considering the impact of a proposed	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments describe the	

	development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give great weight to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss, or less than substantial harm to its significance. 5.9.28 The Secretary of State should give considerable importance and weight to the desirability of preserving all heritage assets. Any harm or loss of significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting) should require clear and convincing justification. 5.9.29 Substantial harm to or loss of significance of a grade II Listed Building or a grade II Registered Park or Garden should be exceptional.	heritage assets within the Study Area for the Proposed Development and their significance, and the contribution of their significance to the setting. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9**] **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	5.9.30 Substantial harm to or loss of significance of assets of the highest significance, including Scheduled Monuments; Protected Wreck Sites; Registered Battlefields; grade I and II* Listed Buildings; grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens; and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.		
	5.9.31 Where the proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset the Secretary of State should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm to, or loss of, significance is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all the following apply: • the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site • no viable use of the heritage asset itself can		

	be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation • conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible • the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use		
	5.9.32 Where the proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate securing its optimum viable use.		
	5.9.33 In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and		

	the significance of the heritage asset.		
	5.9.34 Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.30 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.32, as appropriate, considering the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.	There are no World Heritage Sites affected by the Proposed Development. The Cultural Heritage Assessment identifies that there is 1 Conservation Area within the 1km study area: South Clifton, which contains 8 of the Grade II listed buildings. There is 1 Conservation Area within the 2km study area: East Drayton, which contains the Grade I listed Church of St Peter and 5 of the Grade II listed buildings. All are outside of the Site. Mitigation measures documented within and secured by the Works Plans, oCTMP, and the oCEMP will ensure that construction phase impacts on the conservation areas will be avoided. The Cultural Heritage assessment concludes that there will be an effect of the Proposed Development on the conservation areas that is no greater than Minor-Negligible Adverse, which is not significant in EIA term.	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	5.9.35 Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the Secretary of State should not take its deteriorated state into account in any decision.	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments describe the heritage assets within the Study Area for the Proposed Development and their significance, and the contribution of their significance to the setting. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at section 10.5 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	5.9.36 When considering applications for development affecting the setting of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to the desirability of preserving the setting such assets and treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, the Secretary of State should give great weight to any negative effects, when weighing them against the wider benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset, the greater the		

	benefits that will be needed to justify approval.		
Part 5.10 - Landscape and Visual *Applicant Assessment*	5.10.5 Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation. 5.10.6 Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.	The Landscape and Visual Assessment assesses the visual impact of the Proposed Development. The Design Approach Document explains how the design of the Proposed Development has responded over time to increased understanding of the Site and its context as well as in response to consultation feedback including how the relevant Project Principles have helped frame that design. This approach includes the general approach but also the specific design approach to individual properties, PRoW and other landscape related factors and responds directly to the requirements of paragraph 5.10.6 of EN-1. It is considered that while a significant effect remains for a period of the Proposed Development lifetime, until planting has been established and matured, the Applicant has demonstrated a thorough, environment led and robust	**Design Approach Document [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		design process. This process has had due regard to local constraints and sensitive receptors and has proactively sought to address potential significant impacts. The success of the approach is demonstrated in the lowering of significance of effects for the vast majority of the receptors from a landscape and visual impact perspective. It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development is compliant with the aims and intentions of the relevant NPS, NPPF and local policy, as set out above. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of a significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths and outweigh these impacts and that the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.	

	5.10.7 National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes. Projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. For development proposals located within designated landscapes the Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.	The Site has been selected and designed to avoid designated areas. It is not covered by any statutory ecological designations and no ancient woodland. None of the land within the Site is covered by any statutory landscape designations, i.e., National Parks, or National Landscapes.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.10.8 The duty to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. In these locations, projects should be		

	designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. The Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further the purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.		
	5.10.11 Development within a Heritage Coast (that is not also a National Park, The Broads or an AONB) is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with the natural beauty and special character of the area.	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment concludes that no part of the Site or its immediately surrounding context falls within a Heritage Coast.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**
	5.10.12 Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued	The Site has been selected and designed to avoid designated areas. It is not covered by any statutory ecological designations and no ancient woodland. None of the land within the Site is covered by any statutory landscape designations, i.e., National Parks, or National Landscapes.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.		
	5.10.13 All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites.	Landscape and Visual Assessment assesses the visual impact of the Proposed Development. The figures that accompany the assessment demonstrate the landscape and visual receptors of the Proposed Development. While the NPS recognises that there will be visual effects for many receptors, a range of measures have been incorporated into the design and a mitigation package for the Proposed Development has been produced that avoid or mitigate these potential impacts. Such measures include planting, siting of components and inclusion of setbacks from residential properties etc.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 3 [EN010159/APP/6.20]:** • **Figure 11.1: Site Location and Study Area;** • **Figure 11.2: Topography;** • **Figure 11.3: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – combined substation and solar panels - bare earth;** • **Figure 11.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – combined substation and solar panels with screening;** • **Figure 11.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility –**

			substation with screening; • **Figure 11.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – solar panels with screening;** • **Figure 11.7: Regional Landscape Character Areas;** • **Figure 11.8: District Landscape Character Areas and Policy Zones;** • **Figure 11.9: Local Village Character Areas;** • **Figure 11.10: Representative Viewpoint Locations;** • **Figure 11.11: Scoping Viewpoint Locations;**
	5.10.14 The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment assesses the visual impact of the Proposed Development. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11:Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

	area, outweigh the benefits of the project.	of a significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths can outweigh these impacts and that the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.	
Applicant assessment	5.10.16 The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues. 5.10.17 The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with paragraph 5.10.16. It also includes references to local and national landscape character assessments and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts. The cumulative effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual are assessed within the Cumulative Effects Assessment.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]**

	project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales.		
	5.10.18 For seascapes, applicants should consult the Seascape Character Assessment and the Marine Plan Seascape Character Assessments, and any successors to them.	There are no Seascape Character Assessment and the Marine Plan Seascape Character Assessments relevant to the Proposed Development.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**
	5.10.19 The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.	The Landscape and Visual Assessment assesses the visual impact of the Proposed Development. The study area for the LVIA has been informed through a combination of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis and site work. A series of ZTVs for different elements of the Proposed Development are presented in the Figures 11.3 - 11.6 of the ES. Potential landscape and visual effects and mitigation measures have been considered from the outset of the Proposed Development. This	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 3, , Figures 11.3 – 11.6 [EN010159/APP/6.20]**

	5.10.20 The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an AONBs the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas.	included early landscape and visual feasibility appraisal which fed into the site selection. Options appraisals helped to avoid adverse landscape and visual effects where possible and appropriate. Landscape and visual considerations have been one of the critical drivers for design decisions at all stages of the project. Landscape and visual matters have been addressed in the design as set out in the Design Approach Document.	
	5.10.21 The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation.	The Landscape and Visual Assessment assesses the visual impact of the Proposed Development. Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, 63 assessment viewpoints were selected. The assessment viewpoint locations were agreed with the host authorities to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the study area. The CPRE mapping of the character of the night sky illustrates the study area as a generally ’darker’ night sky, due to the mainly arable land uses and therefore limited lighting sources.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

		The mapping illustrates the larger settlements, including North Clifton and Low Marnham as areas of 'brighter' night skies, due to residential lighting. The A156 road corridor is also illustrated as an area of 'brighter' sky. From fieldwork undertaken to date, the CPRE mapping is considered to be a fair reflection of the character of the night-sky.	
	5.10.22 The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of noise and light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, how these will be minimised.	The Landscape and Visual Assessment sets out that the following sensitive approach has been embedded in the design of lighting: • No visible lighting will be utilised at the site perimeter fence. IR lighting will be provided by the CCTV/security system. • Lighting at Power Conversion Stations (PCSs) will be manually operated used only in fault or emergency situations. • Lighting at the project substation and BESS will be operated by passive infrared	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

		(PIR) calibrated to trigger on vehicle and personnel, or via manual operation. • Lighting would be installed at a maximum height and fitted with cowls to prevent light spillage. The Noise and Vibration Assessment considers the effects of the impact of noise and vibration of the Proposed Development.	
	5.10.24 Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality.	The DCO will secure a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan based on the oLEMP which would be implemented, and this would cover the establishment and long-term management of all new structural planting as well as other habitats. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment includes an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on local amenity. While the appearance of solar panels is largely determined by their	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		function, the site layout, landscaping and access have all been designed to reflect principles of good design. Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process, informed by the LVIA. The Proposed Development layout has been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment and fieldwork analysis. The design mitigation has been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity as outlined in the oLEMP. As set out in the Design Approach Document, the landscape design principles incorporate the following: • Protect and enhance places of value; • Protect and improve the local environment; • Protect features that are important to the local community; and	

		• Enhance local recreational assets.	
	5.10.25 In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on equally sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development.	The Landscape and Visual Assessment establishes an environmental baseline for the assessment, including a reservoir and associated water works are located either side of the A1133. There are several poultry land uses also to the east of the A1133, consisting of large-scale rectangular hen houses. Fields to the west of the River Trent are generally medium scale and geometric in form between the river and Ragnall, before becoming more rectangular in form to the west of Ragnall. There are several farm tracks and minor roads across the Order Limits, including small sections of Moor Lane and Vicarage Road, to the south-east of South Clifton. The A1133 crosses the eastern part of the Solar PV Site, between the A57 and Moor Lane and Vicarage Road. A dismantled railway line extends across the south-west and south-east	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11:Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

		parts of the Order Limits. The south-west part of the Order Limits is also crossed by overhead pylons and associated wires, which connect to the High Marnham electrical sub-station.	

Mitigation	5.10.26 Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.	The environmental measures included in the Proposed Development relating to landscape and visual, are set out in the Landscape and Visual assessment, oLEMP and Design Approach Document. These measures include:
		• The siting of all features within the existing vegetation structure to retain the scale and pattern of the landscape;
		• Appraisal of the setting of local villages and the integration corresponding offsets to minimise, wherever possible, impacts on their character. This has included:
		  • The removal of all land from between North Clifton and South Clifton;
		  • Embedding offsets from Ragnall in the order of
			Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]
			Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]
			ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]
			oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]

	5.10.27 Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its development site and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.	200m east of Main Street and utilisation of existing landform to the west to screen visibility of Work Area 1; • Integration of offsets from Fledborough, including 130m from the Access Road to Fledborough and retention of a clear view corridor extending for over 700m between residential properties within the village and Fledborough Viaduct, requiring the removal of over 46 acres from Work Area 1 and inclusion in Work Area 8, as secured on the Works Plans and • The removal of land west of Thorney from the Order limits, avoiding visual impact on residential receptors and changes to the character of the village.	

		• Utilisation of a Height Parameter Plan • Identification of land either side of the River Trent as an important recreational and ecological corridor, as well as providing an important management function in flood events. Such land was therefore excluded from the developable area to maintain (and where possible enhance) the land's current appearance, character and function. • The Proposed Development has been designed in response to the subtle topographical variations across the Order limits, for example: • Offsets west of Ragnall and south of the Medieval Scheduled Monument were designed to utilise minor ridgelines to screen the proposed solar PV panels in residential views and to protect the setting of heritage assets.	

		• The A1133 follows a minor ridgeline running north/south. The majority of land west of this minor ridge was excluded from Work Area 1, thereby utilising the existing topography to provide visual screening and separation from the River Trent and villages of North and South Clifton. • Land east of the A1133 falls towards eastwards. The project's eastern substation (Work Area 3) has been sited on the lower part of the hill to minimise its appearance and retain the integrity of the skyline beyond. New planting proposed across the Order Limits has also been included to mitigate adverse effects and provide enhancement associated with other environmental topics such as: • new hedgerows, that include some evergreen species, to	

		mitigate glint and glare impacts, as secured in the OLEMP • offsets occupied by Work Number 8, as secured in the Works Plans to protect the setting of heritage assets, such as St. Leonard Church, Ragnall; and • the reinstatement of coastal grazing marsh on the eastern bank of the River Trent, as secured in the OLEMP The Proposed Development presents the opportunity for the enhancement vegetation across the Order limits, benefitting ecological connectivity, diversity and biosecurity. The Proposed Development will include the following new planting: • Species-rich grassland and wildflower meadow – 237.5ha • Species-rich grassland under solar modules – 909.7ha • Hedgerow margin/species-rich grassland – 81.4ha • Riparian zones/species-rich grassland – 9.9ha	

		• Native woodland and tree belts – 4.2ha • Proposed native hedgerows – 5.9km • Proposed native hedgerows with trees – 9.6km •	
	5.10.28 Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	The Proposed Development will not undertake any landscaping off site as this is not considered necessary to mitigate the impacts of the Proposed Development.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
Secretary of State decision making	5.10.29 The Secretary of State should take into consideration the level of detailed design which the applicant has provided and is secured in the Development Consent Order, and the extent to which design details are subject to future approvals.	The applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development. The extent of flexibility required is described in the Description of the Proposed Development and set out in the Design Approach Document. Good design outcomes will be secured in the detailed design of the Proposed Development, in accordance with the	**Guide to the Application [EN010159/APP/1.3]** **Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

		ES assessment, via Control Documents contained within the Draft DCO. These documents provide sufficient certainty about the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Adherence to the Control Documents will secure good design outcomes, uphold the conclusions of the ES and provide for flexibility. A full list of Control Documents is set out in the Guide to the Application.	
	5.10.30 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that local authorities will have sufficient design content secured to ensure future consenting will meet landscape, visual and good design objectives.	Good design outcomes will be secured in the detailed design of the Proposed Development, in accordance with the ES assessment, via Control Documents contained within the Draft DCO. These documents provide sufficient certainty about the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Adherence to the Control Documents will secure good design outcomes, uphold the conclusions of the ES and provide for flexibility. A full list of Control Documents is set out in the Guide to the Application.	**Guide to the Application [EN010159/APP/1.3]** **Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**

	5.10.31 When considering visual impacts of thermal combustion generating stations, the Secretary of State should presume that the adverse impacts would be less if a hybrid or direct cooling system is used. The Secretary of State should therefore expect information in the application justifying BAT for the use of a cooling system that involves visible steam plumes or has a high visible structure, such as a natural draught cooling tower, and be satisfied that the application of modern hybrid cooling technology or other technologies is not reasonably practicable before giving consent to a development with natural draught cooling towers.	The Proposed Development is not a thermal combustion generating station.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.10.32 When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and AONBs the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty should be given substantial weight by the Secretary of State in deciding	The Site has been selected and designed to avoid designated areas. It is not covered by any statutory ecological designations and no ancient woodland. None of the land within the Site is covered by any statutory landscape designations,	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	on applications for development consent in these areas. The Secretary of State may grant development consent in these areas in exceptional circumstances. Such development should be demonstrated to be in the public interest and consideration of such applications should include an assessment of: • the need for the development, including in terms of national considerations, and the impact of consenting or not consenting it upon the local economy; • the cost of, and scope for, developing all or part of the development elsewhere outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, taking account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3; and • any detrimental effect on the environment, the	i.e., National Parks, or National Landscapes.	

	landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.		
	5.10.33 For development proposals located within designated landscapes the Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development. The Secretary of State should ensure that any projects consented in these designated areas should be carried out to high environmental standards, including through the application of appropriate requirements where necessary.		
	5.10.34 The duty to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas, which may have		

	impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid harming the purposes of designation or to minimise adverse effects on designated landscapes, and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the Secretary of State to refuse consent.		
	5.10.35 The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.	It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of a significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths and outweigh these impacts and that the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

	5.10.36 In reaching a judgement, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.	Construction and decommissioning stage impacts will be for a relatively short duration, and operational effects beginning at Year 1 will reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes. The change to the landscape character, via the introduction of solar panels and associated infrastructure is considered to be localised. The reduction of effects over time and the reversibility of effects should be taken into consideration when reaching a judgement on the Application. All operational effects will be reversed following 60 years of operation which will be secured by the DCO, and all adverse landscape and visual effects identified during the construction and decommissioning phases are short term and temporary. The Proposed Development has sought to minimise impacts through design iteration. The substantial benefits and need for the Proposed Development as set out in Part 4 of the Planning Statement, including the delivery of Critical National Priority (CNP) Infrastructure to contribute	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

		towards meeting national energy objectives outweighs the residual landscape effects when applying the planning balancing exercise to the Proposed Development with no requirement to demonstrate exceptional circumstances given that the presumption for allowing the DCO.	
	5.10.37 The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation.	The Proposed Development has been designed taking into account the environmental effects on the landscape, siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise adverse impacts on the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation. This is outlined in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, and the oLEMP.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	5.10.38 The Secretary of State should consider whether requirements to the consent are needed requiring the incorporation of particular design details that are in keeping with the statutory and technical requirements for landscape and visual impacts.	The oLEMP will secure the design of the Proposed Development through the DCO, in line with statutory and technical requirements	**oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

Part 5.11 Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Green Belt *Applicant Assessment*	5.11.8 The ES (see Section 4.3) should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the preferred scheme and its likely impacts on such receptors. For developments on previously developed land, the applicant should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination and how it is proposed to address this.	The Socio-Economics Assessment identifies the existing land uses within the Order limits, confirming that majority of the land is under agricultural use. The Planning Statement identifies the Local Development Plan allocations and designations within and adjacent to the end Order limits. The site has been selected and designed to avoid designated areas. A proportion of the Site is located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) through a Local Plan Policy requirement. The surrounding land is also predominantly agricultural. The Proposed Development is not considered to impact the continued use of this land for agricultural purposes. In terms of land contamination, the submitted ES has considered the potential risk of land contamination as a result of the Proposed Development. Measures to minimise damage to land, soil and groundwater during the construction phase are detailed in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP). These	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]**

		include procedures to mitigate against erosion, procedures to prevent disturbance of contamination, and emergency procedures to manage accidental spillages and leaks.	
	5.11.9 Applicants will need to consult the local community on their proposals to build on existing open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Taking account of the consultations, applicants should consider providing new or additional open space including green and blue infrastructure, sport or recreation facilities, to substitute for any losses as a result of their proposal. When considering proposals for green infrastructure, Applicant's should refer to the Green Infrastructure Framework.	The Proposed Development does not impact any open space, sports or recreational buildings or land.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.11.10 Applicants should use any up-to-date local authority assessment or, if there is none, provide an independent assessment to show whether the existing open space, sports		

	and recreational buildings and land is surplus to requirements.		
	5.11.11 During any pre-application discussions with the applicant the LPA should identify any concerns it has about the impacts of the application on land use, having regard to the development plan and relevant applications and including, where relevant, whether it agrees with any independent assessment that the land is surplus to requirements.	Appendix J1-J2 of the Consultation Report sets out the discussions between the applicant and the following LPAs about land use: • Bassetlaw District Council • Newark and Sherwood District Council • North Kesteven District Council • West Lindsey District Council • Lincolnshire County Council The points of discussion around land use have focused on the loss of agricultural land within both Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire which have seen a vast number of solar proposals appear recently.	**Consultation Report - Applicant Response Tables (ARTs) [EN010159/APP/5.1]**
	5.11.12 Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of	The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to prioritise the use of BMV land for arable production where possible. This has been assessed throughout the relevant ES aspect chapters. The Planning Statement submitted has set out how the Applicant has	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8, Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]**

	poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).	sought to avoid and reduce the amount of BMV land used for hard infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development where practicable. However, given the context of the quality of land locally and within the Order Limits it has not been practicable to remove all BMV.	
	5.11.13 Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed.	The Land and Soils Assessment identifies potential effects on soil health and sets out the embedded mitigation measures which minimise impacts on soil health protect and improve soil quality. The Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) has been prepared which sets out the measures to manage any potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during the construction, operational (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases, and will be secured by DCO requirement. The oSMP identifies those areas within the Site which may be more susceptible to damage, for example, the temporary access tracks, construction compounds and steep slopes and qualities of the soil, for	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.10]**
	5.11.14 Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination.		

		example when it is wet or after periods of heavy rainfall or high winds and it will advise on when soils are suitable for being handled or trafficked. The oSMP also details measures for soil management and follow the principles of best practice to maintain the physical properties of the soil, with the aim of restoring the land to its pre-construction condition following the temporary construction use and at the end of the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	
	5.11.15 Developments should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing developments from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.	The effects of Proposed Development on the natural and local environment is considered in the Aspect Chapters of the ES. The Proposed Development does not anticipate any adverse or beneficial significant effects in its own right or cumulatively with other developments on air quality, noise, water resources, land contamination or land instability. Opportunities for environmental enhancement are further detailed in the Design Approach Document and	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**
	5.11.16 Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account		

	relevant information such as river basin management plans.	will be secured in the oLEMP, oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP.	**oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	5.11.17 Applicants should ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use, taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination.	The Planning Statement identifies that a proportion of the Site is located within Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) designated by both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Councils. A Mineral Safeguarding Report is provided as support to the DCO application. However, it should be noted that best practice and bespoke mitigation measures will be carried out during the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning to reduce nuisance impacts from dust generation, soil removal and waste generation and avoid impact on ground conditions where possible.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]**
	5.11.18 For developments on previously developed land, applicants should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination, and where contamination is	The Land and Soils Assessment outlines that the Site has largely remained undeveloped throughout its entire history, except for localised construction of farm buildings, tracks,	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]**

	present, applicants should consider opportunities for remediation where possible. It is important to do this as early as possible as part of engagement with the relevant bodies before the official pre-application stage.	roads, footpaths and Sustrans cycling route. There are overhead power lines crossing some areas of the Order Limits, associated with High Marnham Power Station (coal fired), as well as sewage treatment works adjacent to High Marnham Power Station. This is understood to have operated from 1959 until 2003, with the demolition of the cooling towers in 2012. Pumping stations are shown in some locations within the Order Limits, associated with the drainage network. A now non-operational oil well facility is located on land that is outside the Order Limits, but within the study area.	
	5.11.19 Applicants should safeguard any mineral resources on the proposed site as far as possible, taking into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place.	The Planning Statement identifies that a proportion of the Site is located within Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) designated by both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Councils. A Mineral Safeguarding Report is provided as support to the DCO application. It is demonstrated that the Proposed Development will be	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]**

		decommissioned in 60 years and any impacts that are caused by the Proposed Development are considered to be temporary. As such, the minerals within the Order Limits will not be permanently sterilised and post decommissioning the land could be worked for minerals.	
Mitigation	5.11.23 Although in the case of most energy infrastructure there may be little that can be done to mitigate the direct effects of an energy project on the existing use of the proposed site (assuming that some of that use can still be retained post project construction) applicants should nevertheless seek to minimise these effects and the effects on existing or planned uses near the site by the application of good design principles, including the layout of the project and the protection of soils during construction.	The existing use of the site is mainly agricultural land. The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to prioritise the use of BMV land for arable production where practicable. This has been assessed through the Land and Soils Assessment and has included amendments to the Order Limits and potential areas for Solar Development. Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document (DAD). The agricultural land design principles incorporate the following: • Protect and Improve the local environment;	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]**

		• Create new places of amenity and ecological value The Proposed Development will be temporary with a Requirement in Schedule 2 of the draft DCO securing a time limited consent for 60 years.	
	5.11.24 Where green infrastructure is affected, the Secretary of State should consider imposing requirements to ensure the functionality and connectivity of the green infrastructure network is maintained in the vicinity of the development and that any necessary works are undertaken, where possible, to mitigate any adverse impact and, where appropriate, to improve that network and other areas of open space including appropriate access to National Trails and other public rights of way and new coastal access routes.	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within the Order Limits or immediately adjacent. In addition, the Order Limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. The Proposed Development presents a new type of built form within a predominantly rural landscape. The form of development, while temporary, has the potential to alter the way in which the landscape is experienced and viewed. The LVIA considers the extent and significance of the potential impacts on key receptors and concludes that, with mitigation, significant impacts are expected to occur across all stages	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 3, , Appendices 6.2-6.10 [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11, Biodiversity Net Gain**

		of the development albeit not simultaneously nor at all receptors. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths outweigh these impacts. The LVIA includes an evaluation of the effect of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on landscape. The environmental measures included in LVIA, Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) and the Design Approach Document includes: • Species-rich grassland and wildflower meadow – 237.5ha • Species-rich grassland under solar modules – 909.7ha • Hedgerow margin/species-rich grassland – 81.4ha • Riparian zones/species-rich grassland – 9.9ha • Native woodland and tree belts – 4.2ha	**Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Environmental (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		• Proposed native hedgerows – 5.9km • Proposed native hedgerows with trees – 9.6km In terms of the ecological features and proposed green corridors, the Biodiversity assessment evaluates the Proposed Development's impact on important ecological features and is supported by extensive survey work to confirm the ecological habitats and species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or	

		locally designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to biodiversity, which is secured by the oLEMP and oCEMP. The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms. Opportunities for environmental enhancement in relation to water are detailed in the Design Approach	

		Document, particularly with the relatively few panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3. Additionally, a number of existing PRoW traverse the Proposed Development as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. The Proposed Development includes opportunities for enhancement such as proposals to provide new permissive paths, as well as improvements to existing PRoW. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible. The Proposed Development would therefore incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area.	

	5.11.27 Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible. In the EIP, the Government committed to increase the tree canopy and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area of England by 2050. The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured	The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to trees and hedgerows, including that: • Trees will be planted individually and linearly, creating tree lines, and within existing and newly created hedgerows. Trees of a variety of nursery stock sizes will be planted to provide difference in age structure. Tree lines and hedgerows with trees will improve connectivity across the Site and the wider landscape, they will provide habitat for fungi, invertebrates (as living, standing deadwood and fallen deadwood), nesting and food provision for birds and mammals, and roosting opportunities for bats. A range of native species typical of the region will be selected to provide a variety of conditions for multiple flora (fungi and epiphytes) and fauna, with a range of wood types (soft and hard to encourage varying rot rate and cavity features) and longevity. Proposed tree planting locations are presented in Figure 6.1 and typically form boundaries	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		around proposed solar PV fields. Additional tree planting, will occur within three mitigation (species-rich grassland) fields in the area to the east of the River Trent.
		• Tree planting and hedgerow planting will take place over the winters of each of the three year construction programme. The aims will be to:
		  • Gap up and plant standards in one third of the defunct hedgerows each winter
		  • Plant one third of new hedgerows (including standards) each winter
		  • Take existing hedgerows into positive management for biodiversity at least 3 months ahead of construction activity commencing (other than at access points and other areas where vegetation	

		management will be needed to aid delivery). Habitat creation and enhancement measures will be detailed within the oLEMP.	
	5.11.28 Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources.	The Planning Statement identifies that a proportion of the Site is located within Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) designated by both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Councils. A Mineral Safeguarding Report is provided as support to the DCO application.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]**
	5.11.29 Where a project has a sterilising effect on land use (for example in some cases under transmission lines) there may be scope for this to be mitigated through, for example, using or incorporating the land for nature conservation or wildlife corridors or for parking and storage in employment areas.	The Mineral Safeguarding Report has demonstrated that the Proposed Development will be decommissioned in 60 years and any impacts that are caused by the Proposed Development are considered to be temporary. As such, the minerals within the Order Limits will not be permanently sterilised and post decommissioning the land could be worked for minerals.	
	5.11.30 Public Rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for	The Transport and Access Assessment provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on public rights of way within	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

	example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Secretary of State should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve or create new access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way, consideration should be given to the use, character, attractiveness, and convenience of the right of way.	the Order Limits, or that will be impacted by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development has a number of existing PRoW traverse the Proposed Development as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. However, there are also opportunities for enhancement such as proposals to provide new permissive paths, as well as improvements to existing PRoW, in order to provide recreational facilities to be supportive of the NPS. An oPRWMP has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**
	5.11.31 The Secretary of State should consider whether the mitigation measures put forward by an applicant are acceptable	The Transport and Access Assessment sets out the mitigation measures embedded in the Proposed Development, including that the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

	and whether requirements or other provisions in respect of these measures should be included in any grant of development consent.	Proposed Development seeks to protect and enhance the existing PRoW network and ensure the provision of new and improved multi-user routes. These PRoW are outlined in the oPRWMP.	**oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**
Secretary of State Decision Making	5.11.32 The Secretary of State should not grant consent for development on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land unless an assessment has been undertaken either by the local authority or independently, which has shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements or the Secretary of State determines that the benefits of the project (including need), outweigh the potential loss of such facilities, taking into account any positive proposals made by the applicant to provide new, improved or compensatory land or facilities.	The Proposed Development does not propose development on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.11.33 The loss of playing fields should only be allowed where applicants can	The Proposed Development does not involve the loss of playing fields.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the**

	demonstrate that they will be replaced with facilities of equivalent or better quantity or quality in a suitable location.		**Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.11.34 The Secretary of State should ensure that applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. Where schemes are to be sited on best and most versatile agricultural land the Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of that land. Where development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.	The Land and Soils assessment and the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development. The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to avoid, reduce or mitigate the requirement to use BMV land where possible. As set out in the Site Selection Report, the Applicant, from an early stage, conducted a site selection process that sought to avoid land of higher agricultural quality. The Applicant has sought to identify available land of lower grade close to the point of connection which met the project objectives; however, there is an abundance of Grade 3 and some Grade 2 land in relative proximity to the Proposed Development meaning it couldn't all be avoided if the capacity needed to be met. Therefore, there is a	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**

		significant percentage of BMV land as part of the Proposed Development, but the Site represents a better than characteristic snapshot of the predominating land mix, and certainly significantly less BMV than the county wide mix of ALC grades. Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document (DAD). The agricultural land design principles incorporate the following: • Protect and Improve the local environment; • Create new places of amenity and ecological value	
Part 5.12 - Noise and Vibration *Applicant Assessment*	5.12.6 Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment: • a description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts,	The Noise and Vibration Assessment presents an assessment in accordance with the requirements of this policy, including a description of the noise generating aspects of the development. The assessment outlines the noise-sensitive receptors that have been identified through a desktop study of aerial imagery and mapping. The effect of noise and	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

	including the identification of any distinctive tonal characteristics, if the noise is impulsive, whether the noise contains particular high or low frequency content or any temporal characteristics of the noise
	• identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected
	• the characteristics of the existing noise environment
	• a prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development
	  ○ in the shorter term, such as during the construction period
	  ○ in the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure
		vibration on these receptors have been considered during the construction, operational (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.
		
		The Noise and Vibration Assessment describes the existing characteristics of the noise environment for the Proposed Development and surrounding areas.
		
		The Assessment describes the embedded design mitigation relevant to the Proposed Development with respect to noise and vibration, encompassing the construction, operational (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases and assesses the noise and vibration likely effects and residual effects, respectively, on receptors arising during the lifecycle of the infrastructure including at particular times of the day and at night on the noise environment. The Applicant can confirm that following this assessment, all reasonable steps have been taken towards mitigating	

	○ at particular times of the day, evening and night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year • an assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise-sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and quality of life / well-being where appropriate, particularly among those disadvantaged by other factors who are often disproportionately affected by noise-sensitive areas • if likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise • all reasonable steps taken to mitigate and minimise potential	and minimising any potential adverse effects on health and quality of life.	

	adverse effects on health and quality of life		
	5.12.7 The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.	The noise assessment is proportionate to the likely noise impact, which would be managed through the oCEMP during construction, the oOEMP during operation, and oDEMP during decommissioning, would be limited by the nature of the Proposed Development and very small amount of traffic generated during operation.	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN/010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**
	5.12.8 Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation.	The Noise and Vibration Assessment considers the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation. It concludes that with the implementation of mitigation measures significant adverse noise and vibration effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be avoided no greater than minor adverse which is not significant in EIA terms.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

	5.12.9 Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance. Further information on assessment of particular noise sources may be contained in the technology specific NPSs. In particular, for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. For the prediction, assessment and management of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.	The Noise and Vibration Assessment assesses operational noise at the identified sensitive noise receptors following BS 4142 guidance, BS 8233:2014 and World Health Organisation guidance. Construction and decommissioning noise and vibration impacts have been assessed per Annex E of British Standards 5228-1.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**
	5.12.10 Some noise impacts will be controlled through environmental permits and parallel tracking is encouraged where noise impacts determined by an environmental permit interface with planning issues (i.e. physical design and location of development). The	The Details of other consents and licences has been prepared as part of the DCO application and should be read in conjunction with the other documents submitted with the DCO Application. The purpose of this document is to provide information on the additional consents and licences	**Consultation Report - Applicant Response Tables (ARTs) [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Details of other consents and licences [EN010159/APP/5.4]**

	applicant should consult the EA and/or the SNCB, and other relevant bodies, such the MMO or NRW, as necessary, and in particular regarding assessment of noise on protected species or other wildlife. The results of any noise surveys and predictions may inform the ecological assessment. The seasonality of potentially affected species in nearby sites may also need to be considered.	potentially required for the Proposed Development, in addition to the DCO. The Consultation Report sets out the Natural England did not comment on noise during consultation.	
	5.12.11 In the marine environment, applicants should consider noise impacts on protected species, as well as other noise sensitive receptors, both at the individual project level and in-combination with other marine activities.	The Proposed Development does not affect the marine environment.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	5.12.12 Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation.	The Noise and Vibration Assessment provides a detailed impact assessment and proposed mitigations for noise and vibration impacts.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

Mitigation	5.12.13 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction noise over and above any which may form part of the project application. In doing so the Secretary of State may wish to impose mitigation measures. Any such mitigation measures should take account of the NPPF or any successor to it and the Planning Practice Guidance on Noise. 5.12.14 Mitigation measures may include one or more of the following: • engineering: reducing the noise generated at source and/or containing the noise generated • lay-out: where possible, optimising the distance between the source and noise-sensitive receptors and/or incorporating good design to minimise noise transmission through the use of screening by natural or	The Noise and Vibration Assessment details the embedded environmental measures that have been embedded into the Proposed Development's design and construction methodology to minimise adverse effects where practicable. The Applicant is specifically committing to noise related design principles including locating the substation and BESS equipment at a distance of at least 300 m from residential properties and locating the PCS units at least 200m from residential properties in order to reduce the likelihood of disturbance. The likely noise impact would be managed through the oCEMP during construction and would be limited by the nature of the Proposed Development and very small amount of traffic generated during operation. In addition, consideration has been given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Proposed Development to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors and the management of construction traffic on the highway network through the oCTMP.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	purpose-built barriers, or other buildings • administrative: using planning conditions/obligations to restrict activities allowed on the site at certain times and/or specifying permissible noise limits/noise levels, differentiating as appropriate between different times of day, such as evenings and late at night, and taking into account seasonality of wildlife in nearby designated sites • insulation: mitigating the impact on areas likely to be affected by noise including through noise insulation when the impact is on a building.		
	5.12.15 The project should demonstrate good design through selection of the quietest or most acceptable cost-effective plant available; containment of noise within	The Design Approach Document set out that alongside the refinement of the spatial extent of elements within the Proposed Development, as set out in the previous section, the parameters controlling the design of	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

	buildings wherever possible, taking into account any other adverse impacts that such containment might cause (e.g. on landscape and visual impacts; optimisation of plant layout to minimise noise emissions; and, where possible, the use of landscaping, bunds or noise barriers to reduce noise transmission).	the proposal have also been refined in line with findings from environmental surveys and consultation. This has included the location of Power Conversion Stations (PCS) to embed mitigation with respect to noise impacts. With respect to noise considerations, PCS will not be located within 100m of residential dwellings, and not within 50m of public rights of way without acoustic mitigation. The following offsets have therefore been embedded in the Outline Design Parameters: • Inverters will not be located within 50m of public rights of way without acoustic mitigation; • The substation will not be located within 100m of public rights of way; and • BESS will not be located within 100m of public rights of way. The Proposed Development has demonstrated good design through the inclusion of noise and vibration mitigation measures. The Noise and	

		Vibration Assessment outlines the environmental measures included in the Proposed Development including: • Implementing a CEMP, the oCEMP CEMP defines the key construction activity principles that will be adhered to and developed during construction activities, including recommendations that represent good practice specific to the noise and vibration assessment. • The trenchless crossing compounds for the cable across the River Trent will be located as far as is reasonably practicable, and not within 100 m of noise sensitive receptors. • The Applicant is committed to locating the substation and BESS equipment at a distance of at least 300 m from residential properties and locating the PCS units at least 200m from residential properties in order to reduce the likelihood of disturbance. • An oDEMP has been prepared to mitigate the likely significant	

		adverse effects during the Decommissioning Phase.	
	5.12.16 A development must be undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements for noise. Due regard must be given to the relevant sections of the Noise Policy Statement for England, the NPPF, and the government's associated planning guidance on noise. In Wales the relevant policy will be PPW and the TANs, as well as the Welsh Government's Noise and Soundscape Action Plan	Section 15.2 of the Noise and Vibration Assessment considers relevant sections of the Noise Policy Statement, the NPPF, and the government's associated planning guidance on noise, within its assessment.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**
Secretary of State decision making	5.12.17 The Secretary of State should not grant development consent unless they are satisfied that the proposals will meet the following aims, through the effective management and control of noise: • avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise	The Noise and Vibration Assessment assesses the likely impacts of the Proposed Development of noise and vibration, including temporary and permanent effects. The Noise and Vibration Assessment outlines that there are no significant effects associated with construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. Therefore, there will be no significant effects to human	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

	• mitigate and minimise other adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise • where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise.	receptors as a result of noise and vibration.	
	5.12.18 When preparing the Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State should consider including measurable requirements or specifying the mitigation measures to be put in place to ensure that noise levels do not exceed any limits specified in the development consent. These requirements or mitigation measures may apply to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the energy infrastructure development.	The Noise and Vibration Assessment outlines the environmental measures included in the Proposed Development including: • Implementing a CEMP, the oCEMP CEMP defines the key construction activity principles that will be adhered to and developed during construction activities, including recommendations that represent good practice specific to the noise and vibration assessment. • The trenchless crossing compounds for the cable across the River Trent will be located as far as is reasonably	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

		practicable, and not within 100 m of noise sensitive receptors. • The Applicant is committed to locating the substation and BESS equiptment at a distance of at least 300 m from residential properties and locating the PCS units at least 200m from residential properties in order to reduce the likelihood of disturbance. • An oDEMP has been prepared to mitigate the likely significant adverse effects during the Decommissioning Phase. The Noise and Vibration Assessment ensures that by adopting the additional control measures outlined above, it is considered that noise levels from all construction activities would not exceed 93 dB LAeq,T at any of the receptors considered. Through inclusion of the embedded mitigation and optimisation of proposed operational plant items, predicted noise levels throughout daytime and night-time periods from the operational Proposed Development would not exceed 35 dB LAr at any receptors.	

Part 5.13 - Socio-economic *Applicant Assessment*	5.13.2 Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES (see Section 4.3).	An assessment of these impacts is undertaken in the Socio-Economics chapter of the ES.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]**
	5.13.3 The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with relevant local authorities during early stages of project development so that the applicant can gain a better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities.	The Applicant has engaged with Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), West Lindsey District Council (WLDC), North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) gain to better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities.	**Consultation Report - Applicant Response Tables (ARTs) [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]**

	5.13.4 The applicant's assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: • the creation of jobs and training opportunities. Applicants may wish to provide information on the sustainability of the jobs created, including where they will help to develop the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero • the contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally • the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities • any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation to	The Socio-Economics assessment provides an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development, in accordance with this policy. To help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational (including maintenance) phase, an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan supports the DCO application. At peak construction time, creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. The Applicant is committed to work with partners and the local and regional construction supply chain to enhance the proportion of activities that can be accessed by local people	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	use of local support services and supply chains • effects (positive and negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted • the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. This could change the local population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change	(both in employment, unemployed and economically inactive or outside of the current labour market) and firms with relevant experience and competencies. This Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan proposes how the Applicant will work with local stakeholders to achieve this. This includes focusing on: • The opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain; • The ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development; and • The ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector. The Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan seeks to promote local employment and supply chain	

	as a result of the development • cumulative effects - if development consent were to be granted for a number of projects within a region and these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short-term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region	activities such that leakage may be reduced, promoting more local and targeted opportunities for employment. The Socio-Economic assessment assesses the impacts of the Proposed Development on and leisure facilities. The assessment concludes that the impact will be no greater than negligible, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Cumulative Effect assessment asses the cumulative impact on socio-economics.	

	5.13.5 Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.	The Socio-Economics assessment describes the existing socio-economic baseline conditions of the Site. The land use within the Order Limits comprises mostly land that is used for agricultural purposes. The main businesses in the vicinity of the Site are agricultural, with a small number of visitor attractions and other community facilities. There are a number of PRoWs which pass through or are within 500m of the Site. These include routes along both the eastern and western banks of the River Trent, extending to the north of North Clifton, as well as several other, shorter routes that pass either through or close to the Site. There are no published data on visitor accommodation or vacancy rates in the Local Area. However, data indicates some 155 employees in the Local Area were in the accommodation and food services sector in 2022, which provides an approximate indication. UK business Count data also shows the numbers	**Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17:Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]**

		of hotels/guest houses businesses. These data are not available for the Local Area but are available for slightly larger *"middle level"* SOAs. This suggests there may be some 55 business in the accommodation and food services sector as of 2023 in the three MSOAs that intersect the site. The same data suggests 285 business in Bassetlaw; 300 in Newark and Sherwood and 210 in West Lindsay. The Proposed Development's compliance with local policies is considered in this Policy Compliance Document within tables 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.	
	5.13.6 Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example visual impacts considered in Section 5.10 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain.	An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared to help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational phase. A detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be secured by way of a DCO requirement. The jobs created by the Proposed Development will be in the renewable energy sector, specifically relating to solar	**Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

		installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain, and will focus on the employment of local suppliers where possible. Where possible, there will be a preference for local staffing, and it is possible that the appointed contractors will employ trainees and apprentices as part of the construction workforce.	
	5.13.7 Applicants should consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required.	The Socio-Economics assessment assesses the Proposed Development's impact on occupancy rates as a result of increased workforce visitors numbers to the area. There are no published data on visitor accommodation or vacancy rates in the Local Area. However, data indicates some 155 employees in the Local Area were in the accommodation and food services sector in 2022, which provides an approximate indication. UK business Count data also shows the numbers of hotels/guest houses businesses. These data are not available for the Local Area but are available for slightly larger *"middle level"* SOAs.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]**

		This suggests there may be some 55 business in the accommodation and food services sector as of 2023 in the three MSOAs that intersect the site. The same data suggests 285 business in Bassetlaw; 300 in Newark and Sherwood and 210 in West Lindsay. For the purpose of this chapter, the assessment focuses on the knock-on effects on tourism. Whilst it is possible that the temporary amenity impacts may impact on visitor numbers in the Local Area during construction, the accommodation required for the construction workers (554 full-time average and a peak of 750 workers over two years) is expected to offset this. An accommodation strategy is not proposed for the Proposed Development as there is considered to be sufficient local supply to facilitate all construction workers.	
Mitigation	5.13.8 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are necessary to mitigate any adverse socio-economic	The Socio-Economics assessment concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects in relation to socio-economics following the implementation of environmental	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]**

	impacts of the development. For example, high quality design can improve the visual and environmental experience for visitors and the local community alike.	measures as a part of the Proposed Development, including: • Employment opportunities for trades and associated supply chains during construction. Measures are set out in the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan; • Employment opportunities during the operation and maintenance and its decommissioning; • Educational opportunities through apprenticeships and training, at construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning stages (the Applicant is committed to and working with local educational institutions to identify how the Proposed Development can support and provide suitable skilled training opportunities); • New permissive paths through the Site, creating routes connecting the villages;	**Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

		• Local amenity enhancement, including provision of land for new grassland, wildflower meadow, hedgerow and tree planting; • The diversification of revenue for landowners; and • An increase in renewable energy production and resultant contributions towards achieving net zero targets reduction of GHG emissions and energy security.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.13.9 The Secretary of State should have regard to the potential socio-economic impacts of new energy infrastructure identified by the applicant and from any other sources that the Secretary of State considers to be both relevant and important to its decision. 5.13.10 The Secretary of State may conclude that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence (particularly in view	The Socio-Economics assessment provides an assessment of all potential socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development, in accordance with this policy. The Socio-Economics assessment undertakes an assessment of the likely effects arising from the construction and operation (including maintenance) of the Proposed Development upon socio-economics. The likely level of effect during decommissioning is expected to be similar to or less than that experienced during construction. Therefore the significance of effect	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in this NPS).	during construction is expected to represent the level of effect during decommissioning. The Socio-Economics assessment concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects in relation to socio-economics, following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures as a part of the Proposed Development. An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared to help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational phase. A detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be secured by way of a DCO requirement. The Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan sets out that the economic benefits that the Proposed Development could generate are: • Access to employment, upskilling and re-skilling opportunities for people; • Enhanced business growth and productivity and potential	

		to increase capabilities and specialisms in green construction and manufacturing; and • Engagement in the ethical procurement of the supply chain. •	
	5.13.11 The Secretary of State should consider any relevant positive provisions the applicant has made or is proposing to make to mitigate impacts (for example through planning obligations) and any legacy benefits that may arise as well as any options for phasing development in relation to the socio-economic impacts.	The Proposed Development provides the following, economic, social and community benefits: • The delivery of a substantial Critical National Priority (CNP) infrastructure that will deliver large amounts of cheap, secure and low-carbon electricity both during and beyond the critical 2020s timeframe. Maximising the capacity of generation in the resource-rich, well-connected and technically deliverable proposed location for the Proposed Development represents a significant and economically rational step forwards in the fight against the global climate emergency;	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**
	5.13.12 The Secretary of State may wish to include a requirement that specifies the approval by the local authority of an employment and skills plan detailing arrangements to promote local employment and skills development opportunities, including apprenticeships, education, engagement with local schools		

	and colleges and training programmes to be enacted.	• The provision of new permissive paths; • At peak construction time, creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. • The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. • On a national level, a £30,891 Gross Value Added per construction worker. An Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan has been prepared to help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational phase. A detailed Skills and Employment Plan will be secured by way of a DCO requirement. The jobs created by the Proposed Development will be in the renewable energy sector, specifically	

		relating to solar installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain. Where possible, there will be a preference for local staffing, and it is likely that the appointed contractors will employ trainees and apprentices as part of the construction workforce.	
Part 5.14 - Traffic and Transport *Applicant Assessment*	5.14.5 If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES (see Section 4.3) should include a transport appraisal. The DfT's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) and Welsh Governments WelTAG provides guidance on modelling and assessing the impacts of transport schemes.	The Transport and Access assessment has been prepared in accordance with appropriate guidance including the Department for Transport's guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements in Decision Taking (2014). The applicant has consulted with the relevant Highways Authorities regarding the assessment.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**
	5.14.6 National Highways and Highways Authorities are statutory consultees on NSIP applications including energy infrastructure where it is expected to affect the strategic road network and / or have an impact on the local road network. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment	The Transport and Access assessment has been submitted following consultation with the relevant Highways Authorities.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

	and mitigation to inform the application to be submitted.		
	5.14.7 The applicant should prepare a travel plan including demand management and monitoring measures to mitigate transport impacts. The applicant should also provide details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport to: • reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal; • contribute to decarbonisation of the transport network; • improve user travel options by offering genuine modal choice.	As set out in the oCTMP, A Staff Travel Plan will be developed, to manage the arrival and departure profile of staff and to encourage sustainable modes of transport, especially car-sharing. A package of measures would include: • Provision of public transport information to access where staff will be resident so there is no need for non-local staff to bring cars to the wider area; • Mini-bus service for transport of Site staff from Lincoln, Worksop and Newark; • Promotion of a car sharing scheme; and • Car parking management. The Staff Travel Plan will be developed to reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys to and from the Proposed Development	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.14.8 The assessment should also consider any possible disruption to services and infrastructure (such as road, rail and airports).		

	5.14.9 If additional transport infrastructure is needed or proposed, it should always include good quality walking, wheeling and cycle routes, and associated facilities (changing/storage etc.) needed to enhance active transport provision.	during construction and will minimise traffic on the local road network. The Staff Travel Plan will be administered by the CTMP Co-ordinator and would be a contractual requirement as part of the Principal Contractor's contract with the Applicant. The Staff Travel Plan will include targets to reduce car use during construction and will apply to Site visitors, where it is practical to do so.	
Mitigation	5.14.11 Where mitigation is needed, possible demand management measures must be considered. This could include identifying opportunities to: • reduce the need to travel by consolidating trips; • locate development in areas already accessible by active travel and public transport; • provide opportunities for shared mobility; • re-mode by shifting travel to a sustainable mode	The Transport and Access assessment confirms that due to measures proposed for construction, the Proposed Development will not result in residual adverse effects upon highway safety or generate any highway capacity issues. Embedded mitigation measures to be used in the construction period will include the following measures: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of "Construction Access Ahead"	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP.3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	that is more beneficial to the network; • retime travel outside of the known peak times; • reroute to use parts of the network that are less busy. 5.14.12 If feasible and operationally reasonable, such mitigation should be required, before considering requirements for the provision of new inland transport infrastructure to deal with remaining transport impacts. All stages of the project should support and encourage a modal shift of freight from road to more environmentally sustainable alternatives, such as rail, cargo bike, maritime and inland waterways, as well as making appropriate provision for and infrastructure needed to support the use of alternative fuels including charging for electric vehicles.	and “Slow Ahead” signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; • A ‘Wear & Tear’ agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions.	

		These measures are included in the oCTMP and will be secured by a requirement in the draft Development Consent Order.	
	5.14.13 Regard should always be given to the needs of freight at all stages in the construction and operation of the development including the need to provide appropriate facilities for HGV drivers as appropriate.	The Transport and Access assessment confirms that due to measures proposed for construction, the Proposed Development will not result in residual adverse effects upon highway safety or generate any highway capacity issues.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.14.14 The Secretary of State may attach requirements to a consent where there is likely to be substantial HGV traffic that: • control numbers of HGV movements to and from the site in a specified period during its construction and possibly on the routing of such movements; • make sufficient provision for HGV parking, and associated high quality drive facilities either on the site or at dedicated facilities elsewhere, to support driver welfare,	As set out in the oCTMP, to ensure the highest standards of safety for all road users and contractors, all HGVs frequently arriving at Site shall be required to comply with the following standards: • Prominent hazard warning signage, advising other road users not to get too close to the vehicle; • A camera system for blind spots; • Audible or visual front nearside driver alerts; • Audible nearside left turn warning; • Reversing external warning; and	

	avoid 'overspill' parking on public roads, prolonged queuing on approach roads and uncontrolled on-street HGV parking in normal operating conditions; • ensure satisfactory arrangements for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption, in consultation with network providers and the responsible police force.	• A Mobile Digital Recover capable of storing two weeks' worth of data, which may be viewed by the Principal Contractor on a 'just cause' basis. Quarterly reviews of the CTMP will be undertaken and where modifications are required, these would be discussed with the Council and Police and agreed before changes occur on the ground. Updates would then be advised to the Traffic Management Group.	
	5.14.15 The Secretary of State should have regard to the cost-effectiveness of demand management measures compared to new transport infrastructure, as well as the aim to secure more sustainable patterns of transport development when considering mitigation measures.	The Transport and Access assessment outlines measures proposed to mitigate the traffic and transport impacts of the Proposed Development, including sustainable patterns of transport development. The oCTMP will be developed into a CTMP prior to commencement and will be secured by the DCO.	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.14.16 Applicants should consider the DfT policy guidance "Water Preferred Policy Guidelines for the movement of abnormal	A review of the potential for access to the Proposed Development using the River Trent has been undertaken. The Site does not feature any suitable river quay facilities to offload	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

	indivisible loads" when preparing their application.	materials, and it is considered that the movement of bulk materials is not feasible. The river transport network may however be used for the movement of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) associated with the Proposed Development, wherever this is possible. To address the potential impact on these users, potential mitigation is proposed. These measures are detailed in the operational CTMP (CTMP – the finalised CTMP to be agreed with all stakeholders prior to works commencing on site), appended to the Transport Assessment, and the oOEMP. The CTMP will include a variety of measures to address traffic management, including an AIL Traffic Management Plan.	**oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	5.14.17 If an applicant suggests that the costs of meeting any obligations or requirements would make the proposal economically unviable this should not in itself justify the relaxation by the Secretary of State of any obligations or	Given the conclusions of the Transport and Access assessment, the mitigation measures embedded into the design of the Proposed Development and measures to minimise impacts out in the oCTMP, it is considered that impacts related to traffic and transport are acceptable and development consent should not	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	requirements needed to secure the mitigation.	be withheld. These are secured by DCO Requirement so no separate planning obligation is required.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.14.18 A new energy NSIP may give rise to substantial impacts on the surrounding transport infrastructure and the Secretary of State should therefore ensure that the applicant has sought to mitigate these impacts, including during the construction phase of the development and by enhancing active, public and shared transport provision and accessibility. 5.14.19 Where the proposed mitigation measures are insufficient to reduce the impact on the transport infrastructure to acceptable levels, the Secretary of State should consider requirements to mitigate adverse impacts on transport networks arising from the development, as set out below. 5.14.20 Development consent should not be withheld provided that the applicant is willing to	The Transport and Access assessment confirms that due to measures proposed for construction, the Proposed Development will not result in residual adverse effects upon highway safety or generate any highway capacity issues. As secured through the Streets, rights of way, and access plans and oCTMP, proposed environmental measures include: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of “Construction Access Ahead” and “Slow Ahead” signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to	**Streets, rights of way, and access plans [EN010159/APP/2.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	enter into planning obligations for funding new infrastructure or requirements can be imposed to mitigate transport impacts. In this situation the Secretary of State should apply appropriately limited weight to residual effects on the surrounding transport infrastructure. 5.14.21 The Secretary of State should only consider refusing development on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe, or it does not show how consideration has been given to the provision of adequate active public or shared transport access and provision.	be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions. To ensure a commitment to ensuring that the transport and access matters will be properly addressed at decommissioning, a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be required and should be secured in the DCO. It is proposed that the DTMP is based upon the measures contained in the oCTMP at present. The Transport and Access assessment concludes that overall, the effect on road safety is considered to be not significant.	
Part 5.15 – Resource and Waste Management	5.15.6 Applicants must demonstrate that development proposals are in line with Defra's policy position on the	In response to all of section 5.15 of the NPS, the Proposed Development has been designed and will be constructed and operated to minimise	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5,:Description of the**

Applicant Assessment	role of energy from waste in treating residual waste. 5.15.7 The proposed plant must not compete with greater waste prevention, re-use, or recycling, or result in over-capacity of EfW or similar processes for the treatment of residual waste at a national or local level. 5.15.8 The applicant should set out the arrangements that are proposed for managing any waste produced and prepare a report that sets out the sustainable management of waste and use of resources throughout any relevant demolition, excavation, and construction activities. 5.15.9 The arrangements described and a report setting out the sustainable management of waste and use of resources should include information on how re-use and recycling will be maximised in addition to the proposed waste recovery and disposal system for all waste generated by the	the creation of waste, maximise the use of recycled materials and assist the collection, separation, sorting, recycling and recovery of waste arising from the development during its use. The Proposed Development includes embedded design measures to reduce its impact on waste and materials. As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the likely estimates, type and quantities of waste generated during the operational phase, relating to the maintenance of the Proposed Development, as well as the measures to reduce waste are presented in the outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP). It is considered all of the solar PV Modules and batteries used as part of the Proposed Development will be recycled. This is considered within the waste assessment detailed in the oSWMP. The Description of the Proposed Development sets out that any equipment that needs to be replaced during the operational	**Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.12]**

	development. They should also include an assessment of the impact of the waste arising from development on the capacity of waste management facilities to deal with other waste arising in the area for at least five years of operation.	(including maintenance) phase will be disposed in accordance with the oSWMP in order to reduce waste. Table 5.6 in the Description of the Proposed Development sets out the anticipated service life of the Proposed Development components.	
	5.15.10 The applicant is encouraged to refer to the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Maximising Resources Minimising Waste and 'Towards Zero Waste: Our Waste Strategy for Wales' and should seek to minimise the volume of waste produced and the volume of waste sent for disposal unless it can be demonstrated that this is the best overall environmental outcome.	As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the DCO is seeking time limited consent and the Proposed Development will be operational for up to 60 years, after which time it will be decommissioned. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations. Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners.	
	5.15.11 If the applicant's assessment includes dredged material, the assessment should also include other uses of such material before disposal to sea, for example through re-use in the construction process.	The decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be subject to measures and procedures defined within a DEMP as secured	

	5.15.12 The UK is committed to moving towards a more 'circular economy'. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to source materials from recycled or reused sources and use low carbon materials, sustainable sources and local suppliers. Construction best practices should be used to ensure that material is reused or recycled onsite where possible.	through the DCO. An oDEMP is submitted with the DCO application.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.15.14 The Secretary of State should consider the extent to which the applicant has proposed an effective system for managing hazardous and non-hazardous waste arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. 5.15.15 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that: • any such waste will be properly managed, both on-site and off-site. • the waste from the proposed facility can be dealt with appropriately	The Proposed Development has been designed and will be constructed and operated to minimise the creation of waste, maximise the use of recycled materials and assist the collection, separation, sorting, recycling and recovery of waste arising from the development during its use. The ES sets out the arrangements that have been proposed for managing any waste produced by the Proposed Development, in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Measures include:	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.12]**

	by the waste infrastructure which is, or is likely to be, available. Such waste arisings should not have an adverse effect on the capacity of existing waste management facilities to deal with other waste arisings in the area. • adequate steps have been taken to minimise the volume of waste arisings, and of the volume of waste arisings sent for recovery or disposal, except where that is the best overall environmental outcome.	• Any equipment that needs to be replaced during the operational period will be disposed of following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible Before the operation phase starts, the contractor will prepare a Site Waste Management Plan, following on from the oSWMP, which will provide waste estimates and specify key responsibilities, reporting and auditing requirements and waste recovery targets. The SWMP will use, as a starting point, the measures detailed within the oSWMP updated to reflect the circumstances prevailing during the period in which operational and maintenance activities are to be carried out.	
	5.15.16 Where necessary, the Secretary of State should use requirements or obligations to ensure that appropriate measures for waste management are applied.		
	5.15.17 The Secretary of State may wish to include a condition on revision of waste management plans at		

	reasonable intervals when giving consent.		
	5.15.18 Where the project will be subject to the Environmental Permitting regime, waste management arrangements during operations will be covered by the permit and the considerations set out in Section 4.12 will apply.		
	5.15.19 The Secretary of State should have regard to any potential impacts on the achievement of resource efficiency and waste reduction targets set under the Environment Act 2021 or wider goals set out in the government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.		
Part 5.16 - Water Quality and Resources *Applicant assessment*	5.16.3 Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment presents an assessment of the likely significant effects on the water environment including surface water features such as rivers, streams, ditches, lakes, groundwater assets, and demand for water	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent (see Section 4.3 and 4.10).	resources, taking into account impacts from climate change.	
	5.16.5 Where possible, applicants are encouraged to manage surface water during construction by treating surface water runoff from exposed topsoil prior to discharging and to limit the discharge of suspended solids e.g. from car parks or other areas of hard standing, during operation. 5.16.6 Applicants are encouraged to consider protective measures to control the risk of pollution to groundwater beyond those outlined in River Basin Management Plans and Groundwater Protection Zones – this could include, for	The implementation of embedded mitigation measures and best practice control measures to manage surface water during the construction of the Proposed Development will be secured via a detailed CEMP which is to be substantially in accordance with the oCEMP and a Drainage Strategy, which is to be substantially in accordance with the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy. The Land and Soils Chapter of the ES, and Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) report, set out that there are no active landfills recorded within the study area.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volume 2, [EN010159/APP/6.21]** • **Appendix 7.2 Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy** • **Appendix 8.5 Preliminary Risk Assessment** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]**

	example, the use of protective barriers.		
	5.16.7 The ES should in particular describe: • the existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges • existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to • abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on flood risk and water receptors. The Chapter provides an overview of the existing environment of the Site, followed by an assessment of likely significant effects for the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development. Potential impacts on water quality, and water resources, are considered in the Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment and Flood Risk Assessment. A WFD is not being undertaken as part of the submission, but will follow post-acceptance. The depth of flooding and reasonable assumptions for the impacts of climate change on flood depths have been assessed as part of a Flood Risk Assessment using the data available on flooding. The Cumulative assessment considers the cumulative effects of	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** **ES Volume 3, , Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance • existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics • any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions • how climate change could impact any of the above in the future	the Proposed Development on Water. The Chapter concludes that potential construction and operational cumulative effects could arise in terms of hydrology. In terms of construction, this includes: - As with the Proposed Development a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will ensure that potential impacts to hydrology and hydrogeology are managed and minimised as far as practicable. As such no significant cumulative effect interaction is anticipated during construction. During operational stage, the potential could be: - A site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) along with supporting Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be required and agreed with the Environment Agency (EA) and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). This will demonstrate no increase to flood risk as a	

	• any cumulative effects	result of the proposals. As such no significant cumulative effect interaction is anticipated.	
Mitigation	5.16.8 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage. 5.16.9 The risk of impacts on the water environment can be reduced through careful design to facilitate adherence to good pollution control practice. For example, designated areas for storage and unloading, with appropriate drainage facilities, should be clearly marked. 5.16.10 The impact on local water resources can be minimised through planning and design for the efficient use of water, including water recycling. If a development needs new	Mitigation measures during the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be according to best practice and implemented through the oCEMP. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment sets out the measures propped to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment, including: • Any potential changes to the existing fluvial or surface water flow routes will be addressed within the oCEMP which will outline any temporary measures that would be put in place to control flood flows (such as preventing flows from entering open excavations). No machinery or spoil/materials would be stored within the identified flood extent, to ensure no impact to contractors, or deviation in flow routes due to the proposed works.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]**

	water infrastructure, significant supplies or impacts other water supplies, the applicant should consult with the local water company and the EA or NRW.	• Although there will be some changes to the drainage regime as a result of construction and decommissioning activities within the Order Limits (i.e. due to storage areas, facilities, and temporary changes in ground level), these will be addressed within the oCEMP. The oCEMP will outline any temporary measures that will be put in place to control surface water runoff (such as through temporary attenuation features) and reduce the risk of polluted surface water from discharging to ground or entering the ordinary watercourses within the Order Limits (such as through the use of environmental capture techniques and silt traps).	
Secretary of State decision making	5.16.11 Activities that discharge to the water environment are subject to pollution control. The considerations set out in Section 4.12 on the interface between planning and pollution control therefore apply. These considerations will also apply in	Following the application of mitigation measures set out in the Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment no significant adverse effects on water have been identified during construction, operation or	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	an analogous way to the abstraction licensing regime regulating activities that take water from the water environment, and to the control regimes relating to works to, and structures in, on, or under controlled waters. 5.16.12 The Secretary of State will need to give impacts on the water environment more weight where a project would have an adverse effect on the achievement of the environmental objectives established under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.	decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment sets out the measures proposed to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment, including: • Any potential changes to the existing fluvial or surface water flow routes will be addressed within the oCEMP which will outline any temporary measures that would be put in place to control flood flows (such as preventing flows from entering open excavations). No machinery or spoil/materials would be stored within the identified flood extent, to ensure no impact to contractors, or deviation in flow routes due to the proposed works. • Although there will be some changes to the drainage regime as a result of construction and decommissioning activities within the Order Limits (i.e. due to storage areas, facilities,	

		and temporary changes in ground level), these will be addressed within the oCEMP. The oCEMP will outline any temporary measures that will be put in place to control surface water runoff (such as through temporary attenuation features) and reduce the risk of polluted surface water from discharging to ground or entering the ordinary watercourses within the Order Limits (such as through the use of environmental capture techniques and silt traps). Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, it is not considered likely that any issues to the watercourses will be present, as these will be dealt with through the inclusion of environmental measures and future permitting. However, a WFD screening assessment will be submitted following post-acceptance of the application.	
	5.16.13 The Secretary of State must also consider duties under other legislation including duties under the Environment Act 2021	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment undertakes assessment	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and**

	in relation to environmental targets and have regard to the policies set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.	with regard to The Environment Act 2021.	**Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
	5.16.14 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to current River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The Secretary of State must refuse development consent where a project is likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public Interest test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not cause	Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, it is not considered likely that any issues to the watercourses will be present, as these will be dealt with through the inclusion of environmental measures and future permitting. However, a WFD screening assessment will be submitted following post-acceptance of the application.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**

	deterioration or compromise the achievement of good status or good potential.		
	5.16.15 The Secretary of State should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans.	The Proposed Development does not interact with any Water Resources Management Plans or Shoreline Management Plans.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
	5.16.16 The Secretary of State should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary	Mitigation measures during the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be according to best practice and implemented through the oCEMP. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment sets out the measures propped to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment, including: • Any potential changes to the existing fluvial or surface water flow routes will be addressed within the oCEMP which will outline any temporary measures that would be put in place to control flood flows (such as preventing flows from entering open excavations). No machinery or	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]**

		spoil/materials would be stored within the identified flood extent, to ensure no impact to contractors, or deviation in flow routes due to the proposed works. • Although there will be some changes to the drainage regime as a result of construction and decommissioning activities within the Order Limits (i.e. due to storage areas, facilities, and temporary changes in ground level), these will be addressed within the oCEMP. The oCEMP will outline any temporary measures that will be put in place to control surface water runoff (such as through temporary attenuation features) and reduce the risk of polluted surface water from discharging to ground or entering the ordinary watercourses within the Order Limits (such as through the use of environmental capture techniques and silt traps).	

One Earth Solar Farm

Table 2 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) – Table of Compliance

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) **Assessment and Technical Specific Information – Assessment of the specific impacts as set out in Part 2 of EN-3 (2023) is considered below.**			
Policy	**EN-3 Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Part 2.4 Climate change adaptation	2.4.11 Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in particular, how plant will be resilient to: • increased risk of flooding; and • impact of higher temperatures	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment evaluates flood risk and drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed environmental measures to be implemented as part of the CEMP, OEMP and DEMP, the impact of the Proposed Development is no greater than minor adverse, which is deemed as not significant in EIA terms. As noted above, the Proposed Development incorporates an oCEMP which sets out the best practice measures to be followed to minimise the environmental impacts of the construction works. A high-level summary of items that are covered in the oCEMP include: • Any potential changes to the existing fluvial or surface water flow routes will be addressed within the oCEMP which will outline any temporary measures that would be put in place to control flood flows (such as preventing flows	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan**

		from entering open excavations). No machinery or spoil/materials would be stored within the identified flood extent, to ensure no impact to contractors, or deviation in flow routes due to the proposed works. • Although there will be some changes to the drainage regime as a result of construction and decommissioning activities within the Order Limits (i.e. due to storage areas, facilities, and temporary changes in ground level), these will be addressed within the oCEMP and oDEMP. The oCEMP will outline any temporary measures that will be put in place to control surface water runoff (such as through temporary attenuation features) and reduce the risk of polluted surface water from discharging to ground or entering the ordinary watercourses within the Order Limits (such as through the use of environmental capture techniques and silt traps). The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy Report demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques will be incorporated into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant and	**(oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

		secured through the DCO. Given that a proportion of the Site is situated within a Flood Risk area, the design of the panels has been altered to be resilient to the potential risk of flooding, meaning that they will sit higher than normal panels. The FRA expands upon the above and provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and how the requirements of the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test are satisfied. The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms.	
Part 2.5 – Consideration of good design for	2.5.1 Section 4.7 of EN-1 sets out the criteria for good design that should	As detailed in section 5 of the Planning Statement, good design has been a	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**

energy infrastructure	be applied to all energy infrastructure.	fundamental consideration from the outset of the Proposed Development.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**
	2.5.2 Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	The Design Approach Document demonstrates how the design of the Proposed Development has been developed in accordance with a clear design framework, based on the criteria for good design set out in EN-1. This has included the adoption of project level design principles, Design Principles, to guide decision making and embed good design outcomes to the Proposed Development. Project Principles have evolved throughout the design process, being informed and refined by stakeholder engagement, consultation feedback, technical studies and environmental assessments. They have been used to steer and influence the design of the Proposed Development to both avoid and reduce adverse impacts wherever possible, make the most of opportunities for enhancement and balance the need for flexibility and certainty within the DCO Application. Throughout the design process, the Applicant maintained an interdisciplinary approach to design and considered both the opportunities and constraints of the Proposed Development. This included analysis of the	**Design Approach Document [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**

		existing physical, environmental, social and cultural context of the Site by a broad range of technical disciplines (including landscape and visual, noise, ecology and heritage) as set out and assessed by the topic chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES). This approach has enabled the Applicant to understand the complexities of the Site and identify where multiple opportunities and constraints have the potential to stack up with one another to provide a good design response and allow for co-existence and co-location with other terrestrial uses. Engagement with landowners and statutory consultees including Local Planning Authorities, Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency has formed an important part of the design process and helped to identify opportunities for co-existence and co-location with other terrestrial uses. As a result of the design approach adopted by the Applicant, the Proposed Development would deliver a number of environmental, social and economic benefits in addition to the generation of secure, low cost, decarbonised, clean, renewable energy. These include significant areas of new habitats that respect and enhance features within the landscape, including over 1240ha of grassland (including	

		calcareous grassland), 15km of new hedgerows and 5.5ha of woodland planting delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain and improvements in ecological connectivity. The Proposed Development would also provide benefits to the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-connected footpath and cycle network and access to open space and recreational spaces. The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the OLEMP. Permissive paths will be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The extent and location of the paths is as follows: • 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join	

		the Trent Valley Way, enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with the existing PRoW network this would create a circular route for pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km. If consent is granted, these design outcomes will be secured and implemented post-consent, via the various management plans and the Outline Design Parameters secured by the Draft DCO and set out within the Guide to the Application. Adherence to the Control Documents will secure good design outcomes, uphold the conclusions of the Environmental Statement, and provide for flexibility.	
2.6 Flexibility in the project details	2.6.1 Where details are still to be finalised, applicants should explain in the application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised,	The Applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development. The extent of flexibility sought by the Applicant	**Guide to the Application [EN010159/APP/1.3]**

	and the reason why this is the case. 2.6.2 Where flexibility is sought in the consent as a result, applicants should, to the best of their knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed. 2.6.3 Full guidance on how applicants and the Secretary of State should manage flexibility is set out in Section 4.3 of EN-1.	is described within the Description of the Proposed Development. With the above need for flexibility in mind, the Applicant confirms that the ES has assessed the likely worst-case development scenario. Establishing the maximum parameters enables a robust assessment of likely significant environmental effects to be undertaken within the ES for topics where the nature of the assessment requires a specific level of detail, such as maximum heights, massing, or noise levels. Thus, the assessment parameters form the basis of the assessment. The assessment parameters are detailed in the works descriptions which are linked to Schedule 1 within the Draft DCO, and set out in the Outline Design Parameters, in the Works Plan and several Control Documents as listed within the Guide to the Application.	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
Part 2.10 Solar Photovoltaic Generation			
Applicant Assessment – Irradiance and site topography	2.10.19 Irradiance will be a key consideration for the applicant in identifying a potential site as the amount of electricity generated on site is	Irradiance in the local area is high to support solar development. As set out in the Site Selection Report, the Proposed Development is located in an area with solar irradiation levels above average for the UK, and initial studies suggest that an average annual load	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**

	directly affected by irradiance levels. Irradiance of a site will in turn be affected by surrounding topography, with an uncovered or exposed site of good elevation and favourable south-facing aspect more likely to increase year-round irradiance levels. This in turn affects the carbon emission savings and the commercial viability of the site.	factor before degradation at the Site is sufficiently high to support the development of a large-scale ground mounted solar facility at the proposed location. Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire are generally flat with some areas of gently undulating topography, which has been confirmed to be suitable and beneficial for solar developments. Topographically, the land which is the subject of the Proposed Development is considered highly suitable for solar development. The local area is subject to large open areas of undeveloped land, which is predominantly made up of gently undulating topography land with some areas being flat around the High Marnham substation. Due to the fast-evolving pace of solar PV technology, the Proposed Development allowed flexibility to be able to choose specific technology closer to the construction within the parameters defined in the Draft DCO and Outline Parameter Document. They will enable the optimum production of renewable energy within the Proposed Development. As detailed in Description of the Proposed Development, the mounting structure will include fixed panels within the PV Array Areas, which will be installed to face south at	**Appendix 1, Site Selection Report, [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Outline Design Parameter [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	2.10.20 In order to maximise irradiance, applicants may choose a site and design its layout with variable and diverse panel types and aspects, and panel arrays may also follow the movement of the sun in order further to maximise the solar resource.		

		a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight absorption. The ES takes account of the impacts of Solar PV modules facing southwards on a fixed platform.	
Applicant Assessment – Network Connection	2.10.21 Applicants should consider important issues relating to network connection at Section 4.11 of EN-1 and in EN-5. In particular, and where appropriate, applicants should proceed in a manner consistent with the regulatory regime for offshore transmission networks established by Ofgem, details of which are set out in EN-5. 2.10.22 Many solar farms are connected into the local distribution network. The capacity of the local grid network to accept the likely output from a proposed solar farm is critical to the technical and commercial feasibility of a development proposal.	The Applicant started engagement with the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) as the contact for new connection requests to discuss the potential opportunities for a connection offer within the target region identified above. Grid connections with spare capacity are finite, and no connection offers were provided that could deliver the output proposed by NGESO to the Applicant for already available capacity at already existing substations in the target region/geography. This is somewhat inevitable given the context of the urgent national need for renewable energy (specifically solar), as developments have already been proposed to make use of existing substation capacity where it occurs. The Statement of Need sets out that there is no capacity at any existing NGESO infrastructure within 50km of the Site to accommodate new connections of the Proposed Development's magnitude before 2032. As detailed in the Site Selection Report, the Site was selected because it presents the	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Grid Connection Statement [EN010159/APP/7.2]**

	2.10.23 Larger developments may seek connection to the transmission network if there is available network capacity and/or supportive infrastructure. 2.10.24 In either case the connection voltage, availability of network capacity, and the distance from the solar farm to the existing network can have a significant effect on the commercial feasibility of a development proposal. 2.10.25 To maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs, applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity. 2.10.26 Where this is the case, applicants should consider the cumulative	physical characteristics which are highly supportive in terms of the ability to deliver a NSIP scale solar development. The Site: • has a grid connection offer which will see energy transported to the national transmission network by 2030 • lies within an area of suitable irradiance and favourable topography • includes a proportion of BMV land which is characteristic of the predominating mix in the general locality, and was predicted to be lower based on the mapping provided at the time of the site selection process • has sufficient land to enable the grid connection offer to be maximised while maintaining sufficient offsets to sensitive residential receptors • is located away from key environmental and cultural heritage related designations • is accessible from the road network namely the A57 which provides direct access into the Site and has suitable access to land not immediately adjacent the strategic road network	

	impacts of situating a solar farm in proximity to other energy generating stations and infrastructure.	The Proposed Development has secured a grid connection agreement to allow export and import of electricity to and from the National Grid. The proposed High Marnham Substation would facilitate the export and import of electricity from the Proposed Development to the National Grid. Alternatives and Design Evolution chapter of the ES, and the Grid Connection Statement provide further discussion on the process of securing the agreed network connection. The Cumulative assessment sets out the short list of other existing development and/or approved development accounted for in the chapter's cumulative assessment. The short list includes energy generating stations and infrastructure including: • Installation of a Solar Farm and Battery Storage Facility with Associated Infrastructure (app ref. 21/01147/FUL) • The Construction and Operation of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farm with other Associated Infrastructure Including Sub Stations, Security Cameras, Fencing, Storage Containers, Access Tracks and Landscaping (app ref. 22/00707/FUL) • Cottam - NSIP development comprising four electricity generating	

		stations, with a capacity of up to 600MW, comprising of ground mounted solar arrays, with associated development comprising energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the NSIPs. (app ref. EN010133) • Gate Burton Energy Park - The Scheme comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities and grid connection infrastructure. The Scheme would allow for the generation, storage and export of up to 500 (MW) electrical generation capacity (app ref. EN010131) • Installation of a Solar Farm with an Output of Approximately 45.4MW and Ancillary Works (app ref. 23/00656/FUL) • Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure (app ref. 21/01577/FULM) • West Burton Solar Project (app ref. EN010132) • Fosse Green Energy (app ref. EN010154)	

Applicant Assessment – Proximity of site to dwellings	2.10.27 Utility-scale solar farms are large sites that may have a significant zone of visual influence. The two main impact issues that determine distances to sensitive receptors are therefore likely to be visual amenity and glint and glare. These are considered in Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity (paragraphs 2.10.93-2.10.101) and Glint and Glare (paragraphs 2.10.102 – 2.10.106) impact sections below.	As set out in the Site Selection Report, the Order Limits provide a mixture of rural land between settlements. There are also a relatively small number of individual dwellings in close proximity to the Order Limits. The Applicant considered that there was sufficient land available to be able to provide offsets to residential receptors through a combination of setbacks, natural screening as well as existing and proposed landscape improvements. During the site selection process, there was a minimum offset assumed from residential properties in the knowledge that once the Applicant understood more about the specific nature of the Site, bespoke mitigation could be provided. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, which forms part of the ES, assesses the visual impacts of the Proposed Development. Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, 63 assessment viewpoints were selected. These assessment viewpoints are further illustrated within the ES. The mitigation embedded into the design which is outlined in the Landscape and Visual assessment, as secured through the oLEMP and design commitments, includes, but is not limited to, hedgerow planting, woodland planting (where viable), establishment of wildflower rich	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 19: Summary of Significant Environmental Effects [EN010159/APP/6.19]** **ES Volume 3, Figures Supporting Volumes 1 and 2 [EN010159/APP/6.20]:** • **Figure 12.3: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – combined substation and solar panels - bare earth;** • **Figure 12.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – combined substation and solar panels with screening;**

		grassland, offsets from residential properties and PRoWs. The planting proposed will integrate the Proposed Development into the existing landscape setting, mitigating adverse landscape and visual effects where possible. The cumulative assessment considers cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development across all topics assessed within the ES and concludes that no cumulative significant adverse effects will arise. A Glint and Glare Assessment was undertaken to assess the potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The solar photovoltaic glint and glare study concludes that no significant impact is predicted upon road safety, residential amenity, and railway operations and infrastructure and further mitigation is not recommended.	• **Figure 12.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – substation with screening;** • **Figure 12.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – solar panels with screening;** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**
Applicant Assessment – Agriculture Land Classification and land type	2.10.28 Solar is a highly flexible technology and as such can be deployed on a wide variety of land types. 2.10.29 While land type should not be a	The Site Selection Report explains the Applicant's approach to selection of an appropriate site to take forward as part of an application for a NSIP scale solar project. The report explains that initially there are three fundamental attributes required to develop	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location applicants should, where possible, utilise suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of “Best and Most Versatile” agricultural land where possible. ‘Best and Most Versatile agricultural land is defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification	NSIP scale solar: suitable irradiance and topography; a connection to the National Grid, and available land. These three attributes identified locations which may be suitable for such solar development and focused the Applicant's search on sites within the East Midlands distribution network region, which is where the Applicant was aware there was capacity in the National Grid infrastructure. Once the search area was determined, the Applicant applied specific environmental search criteria, including agricultural land grade to find appropriate land which would be able to deliver its objectives. The Applicant required a large site but has a preference for a larger landholding under single ownership to maximise the potential energy generation and to assist with deliverability and management of potential impacts of a proposed solar development. An 10km radius was established from the Point of Connection for the purposes of site selection. 10km represents a viable distance from point of connection for the proposed development. Potential sites beyond this were not considered due to the significant	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8, Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**
	2.10.30 Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, or sites designated for their natural beauty, or		

	recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.73 – 92 and 2.10.107 – 2.10.126.	constraints associated with cabling and connection. The Applicant has taken into account agricultural land quality when identifying the Solar PV Site, based on publicly available information. The Applicant, from an early stage, sought to avoid land of higher agricultural quality. However, given the nature of the sites which were able to meet the Applicant's objectives, agricultural land formed part of each potential site identified. Consideration was given as to whether alternative land could be found with less impacts on agricultural land in proximity to the High Marnham Substation. The general quality of the land across the sites considered was similar. Given the similarities, the land type did not represent a differentiating factor in the site selection process. The applicant found that there are not many areas, if any, that could have less of an impact when looking for a parcel of land the size One Earth requires. The Land and Soils assessment and the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development, the Proposed Development's embedded mitigation measures, and principles on how the soils will be managed and protected	
	2.10.31 It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land.		
	2.10.32 Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind		

	generation, storage, hydrogen electrolysers) to maximise the efficiency of land use.	during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document. The site selection assessment and the Design Approach Document set out how fields that were identified as comprising solely of Grade 2 land were discounted from the area of Solar PV development to reduce the impact on BMV agricultural land. Large areas of species-rich grassland will be provided beneath the solar panels and across the broader Solar PV Site in order to boost biodiversity and create new habitats for a range of species including pollinators and ground nesting birds.	
	2.10.33 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is the only approved system for grading agricultural quality in England and Wales and, if necessary, field surveys should be used to establish the ALC grades in accordance with the current, or any successor to it, grading criteria and identify the soil types to inform soil management at the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases in line with the Defra Construction Code.		
	2.10.34 Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Resources and Management Plan which could help to use and manage soils sustainably		

	and minimise adverse impacts on soil health and potential land contamination. This should be in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan to bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soils into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this up to 60% by 2030.		
Applicant Assessment – Accessibility	2.10.35 Applicants will need to consider the suitability of the access routes to the proposed site for both the construction and operation of the solar farm with the former likely to raise more issues.	The suitability of the routes to be used during both construction and once operational vehicular access arrangements for the Proposed Development are presented in the Transport Assessment. This confirms the use of several access points serving the Site. The Alternatives and Design Evolution chapter sets that a number of changes to the Proposed Development access design occurred as a result of consideration to the siting of the solar farm, and its impact on traffic and transport. The Design Approach Document sets out that the location of the Order Limits adjacent to two A roads allows for most construction traffic to avoid local	**Streets, rights of way, and access plans [EN010159/APP/2.4]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.10]** **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]**
	2.10.36 Given that potential solar farm sites are largely in rural areas, access for the delivery of solar arrays and associated infrastructure during construction can be		

	a significant consideration for solar farm siting. 2.10.37 Developers will usually need to construct on-site access routes for operation and maintenance activities, such as footpaths, earthworks, or landscaping. 2.10.38 In addition, sometimes access routes will need to be constructed to connect solar farms to the public road network. 2.10.39 Applications should include the full extent of the access routes necessary for operation and maintenance and an assessment of their effects.	roads, instead turning off the major road network onto internal access tracks. Led by design principle Climate 4, to protect and improve the local environment, the design of the Proposed Development protected the character of local villages from the introduction of large vehicles during construction through the design of primary site access points along existing A-roads. Once on-site, vehicles will use a series of internal access tracks wherever possible. The Streets, rights of way, and access plans illustrates the primary access points to the Proposed Development. During the construction phase, access to the Proposed Development will be from existing and upgraded strategic points on the public road network, with access achieved via upgraded farm access tracks and new access tracks. Access tracks will be 6.5 metres wide in order to enable two-way access for construction vehicles, specifically to allow for construction vehicles to travel in either direction from the primary compound to the secondary compounds. The Proposed Development's design incorporates environmental measures to reduce adverse effects and minimise impacts of traffic and transport. These measures are	**Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Transport Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

		included in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) and will be secured by a requirement in the draft Development Consent Order, and include: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of "Construction Access Ahead" and "Slow Ahead" signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; • A 'Wear & Tear' agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and	

		• Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions. A review of the potential for access to the Proposed Development using the River Trent has been undertaken. The Site does not feature any suitable river quay facilities to offload materials, and it is considered that the movement of bulk materials is not feasible. The river transport network may however be used for the movement of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) associated with the Proposed Development, wherever this is possible. Access plans are set out in the Streets rights of way and access plans demonstrating the ability of the Proposed Development to create a safe and well-designed access with suitable geometry to allow safe manoeuvring in and out of the Site and with appropriate visibility splays informed by speed survey data for construction.	
Applicant Assessment – Public Rights of Way	2.10.40 Proposed developments may affect the provision of public rights of way networks. 2.10.41 Public rights of way may need to be temporarily closed or diverted to enable construction, however,	A number of existing PRoW traverse the Proposed Development as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. The Proposed Development includes opportunities for enhancement such as proposals to provide new permissive paths.	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

	applicants should keep, as far as is practicable and safe, all public rights of way that cross the proposed development site open during construction and protect users where a public right of way borders or crosses the site. 2.10.42 Applicants are encouraged to design the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreational use of public rights of way where possible during construction, and in particular during operation of the site. 2.10.43 Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual impacts of the development for those using existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities	An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area. The Design Approach Document sets out design principles to mitigate the visual impacts of the Proposed Development for those using existing public rights of way, including: • Protect and enhance places of value; • Protect and improve the local environment; • Protect features that are important to the local community; and • Enhance local recreational assets.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

	in the surrounding landscape.		
	2.10.44 Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the inclusion, through site layout and design of access, of new opportunities for the public to access and cross proposed solar development sites (whether via the adoption of new public rights of way or the creation of permissive paths), taking into account, where appropriate, the views of landowners.		
	2.10.45 Applicants should set out detail on how public rights of way would be managed to ensure they are safe to use in an outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan.	An oPRWMP has been submitted alongside the application which sets out detail on how PRoW will be managed to ensure they are safe to use. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure.	**oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

Applicant Assessment – Security and Lighting	2.10.46 Security of the site is a key consideration for developers. Applicants may wish to consider not only the availability of natural defences such as steep gradients, hedging and rivers but also perimeter security measures such as fencing, electronic security, CCTV and lighting, with the measures proposed on a site-specific basis. 2.10.47 Applicants should assess the visual impact of these security measures, as well as the impacts on local residents, including for example issues relating to intrusion from CCTV and light pollution in the vicinity of the site.	The Description of the Proposed Development outlines the security measures incorporated in the design of the Proposed Development design. Efforts have been made to reduce the impact of security fencing and lighting, as set out in detail in the oLEMP, oCEMP, oOEMP, and oDEMP. Final versions of these documents will be produced and secured as part of the draft DCO.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
Technical Considerations – Site layout design, and appearance	2.10.59 Applicants should consider the criteria for good design set out in EN-1 Section 4.7 at an early stage when developing projects.	As set out in the Planning Statement, the location and design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection process that was environmental, and planning led to avoid and minimise impacts as early as possible. Following this,	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Appendix 1: Site Selection Report,**

	2.10.60 As set out above applicants will consider several factors when considering the design and layout of sites, including proximity to available grid capacity to accommodate the scale of generation, orientation, topography, previous land–use, and ability to mitigate environmental impacts and flood risk.	the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient Proposed Development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using solar PV modules, whilst also being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The Applicant's site selection process demonstrates that land was identified for the Site within an area of good solar irradiance and relatively low and flat topography landscape to maximise energy generation. The starting point for the Applicant was to understand where capacity existed in existing substations or the transmission network that would be sufficient to enable the connection of a utility scale solar development. Capacity at existing substations is finite but there remains capacity in the transmission network notably in the East Midlands distribution network region. Once the East Midlands area was identified, the Applicant started engagement with the NGESO in to discuss the potential opportunities for a new connection offer within the target region. In parallel to the search for grid capacity the Applicant also sought to align the search with general conditions that allow	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**
	2.10.61 For a solar farm to generate electricity efficiently the panel array spacing should seek to maximise the potential power output of the site. The type, spacing and aspect of panel arrays will depend on the physical characteristics of the site such as site elevation.		

		for the development of utility scale solar development, notably, suitable irradiance and topography. The Statement of Need sets out that there is no capacity at any existing NGESO infrastructure within 50km of the Site to accommodate new connections of the Proposed Development's magnitude before 2032. The design process and basis of design are set out in Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES and the Design Approach Document, which sets out the design approach and evolution of the Proposed Development which has been shaped by the Project Principles and has responded to the environmental assessment process, consultation feedback and engagement with stakeholders via an iterative design process. Consider the ability to avoid, minimise and mitigate environmental impacts, such as flood risk or BMV land. As detailed in Description of the Proposed Development, the mounting structure will include fixed panels within the PV Array Areas, which will be installed to face south at a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight absorption.	

	2.10.62 In terms of design and layout, applicants may favour a south-facing arrangement of panels to maximise output although other orientations may be chosen. For example, an east-west layout, whilst likely to result in reduced output compared to south-facing panels on a panel-by-panel basis, may allow for a greater density of panels to compensate and therefore for generation to be spread more evenly throughout the day.	As detailed in Description of the Proposed Development, the mounting structure will include fixed panels within the PV Array Areas, which will be installed to face south at a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight absorption. These details will be further developed through detailed design and engineering details to maximise the development area within Works No.1 to achieve the available capacity.	**Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
	2.10.63 It is likely that underground and overhead cabling will be required to connect the electrical assets of the site, such as from the substation to the panel arrays or storage facilities. 2.10.64 In the case of underground cabling, applicants are expected to provide a method statement describing cable	As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the works contained in Works No. 4 include the grid connection cable route. The electricity generated by the Proposed Development is to be exported via a 400kV connection between the onsite Substations and the National Grid High Marnham Substation via underground cables. The grid connection cables will comprise 400kV cables buried within a trench up to 3m BGL, and up to 10m wide. These will be buried in accordance with British Standard and National Grid boundary recommendations, which sets	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Export Cable Route Concept Method Statement [EN010159/APP/7.13]**

	trench design, installation methodology, as well as details of the operation and maintenance regime.	out recommended separation depths to minimise the risks of magnetic field effects on relevant receptors. The oCEMP describes the grid connection and internal cable corridor, cable trench design, installation methodology, equipment, and details of construction and operation. The Application has submitted an Export Cable Route Concept Method Statement which details of how the grid connection corridor is likely to be constructed.	
Technical Considerations – Project Lifetime	2.10.65 Applicants should consider the design life of solar panel efficiency over time when determining the period for which consent is required. An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time-period or for differing time-periods of operation. 2.10.66 Time limited consent, where granted, is described as temporary because there is a finite period for which it exists,	As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the DCO is seeking time limited consent and the Proposed Development will be operational for up to 60 years, after which time it will be decommissioned. This will allow the land (that has previously been intensively farmed) to recover ultimately safeguarding the agricultural usage of this land for future generations. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations. Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.12]**

	after which the project would cease to have consent and therefore must seek to extend the period of consent or be decommissioned and removed.	remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners. It is considered all of the solar PV Modules and batteries used as part of the Proposed Development will be recycled. This is considered within the waste assessment detailed in the outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP). At this stage, it is considered decommissioning will occur over two years. The Solar PV Site will be reinstated in accordance with the oDEMP. A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning.	
	2.10.67 Solar panel efficiency deteriorates over time and applicants may elect to replace panels during the lifetime of the site.	The Description of the Proposed Development sets out that any equipment that needs to be replaced during the operational (including maintenance) phase will be disposed in accordance with the oSWMP in order to reduce waste. Table 5.6 in the Description of the Proposed Development sets out the anticipated service life of the Proposed Development components.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **oSWMP [EN010159/APP/7.12]**
Technical Considerations – ***Decommissioning***	2.10.68 Solar panels can be decommissioned relatively easily and cheaply. The nature and	As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the DCO is seeking time limited consent and the Proposed Development will be operational for up to 60 years, after which	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the**

	extent of decommissioning of a site can vary. Generally, it is expected that the panel arrays and mounting structures will be decommissioned, and underground cabling dug out to ensure that prior use of the site can continue.	time it will be decommissioned. This will allow the land (that has previously been intensively farmed) to recover ultimately safeguarding the agricultural usage of this land for future generations. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations. Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners. It is considered all of the solar PV Modules and batteries used as part of the Proposed Development will be recycled. This is considered within the waste assessment detailed in the outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP). At this stage, it is considered decommissioning will occur over a two year period. The Solar PV Site will be reinstated in accordance with the oDEMP. A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning.	**Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oSWMP [EN010159/APP/7.12]**
	2.10.69 Applicants should set out what would be decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station, considering instances where it may be less harmful for the ecology of the site to keep or retain certain types of infrastructure, for example underground cabling, and where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation.		

Technical Considerations – Flexibility in the project details	2.10.70 In many cases, not all aspects of the proposal may have been settled in precise detail at the point of application. Such aspects may include: • the type, number and dimensions of the panels; • layout and spacing; • the type of inverter or transformer; and • whether storage will be installed (with the option to install further panels as a substitute). 2.10.71 Applicants should set out a range of options based on different panel numbers, types and layout, with and without storage.	The Applicant wishes to retain flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development. The extent of flexibility sought by the Applicant is described in Description of the Proposed Development. With the above need for flexibility in mind, the Applicant confirms that the ES has assessed the likely worst-case development scenario. Establishing the maximum parameters enables a robust assessment of likely significant environmental effects to be undertaken within this ES for topics where the nature of the assessment requires a specific level of detail, such as maximum heights, massing, or noise levels. Thus, the assessment parameters form the basis of the assessment.	**Guide to the Application [EN010159/APP/1.3]** **Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
Impacts – Biodiversity, ecological, geological	2.10.76 The applicant's ecological assessments should identify any ecological risk from	The Biodiversity assessment evaluates the Proposed Development's impact on important ecological features and is supported by extensive survey work to confirm the	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and**

conservation and water management	developing on the proposed site.	ecological habitats and species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity assessment identifies ecological risks from developing the Proposed Development. It has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by competent ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised, as set out in the Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the	**Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendices 6.2-6.10 [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	2.10.77 Issues that need assessment may include habitats, ground nesting birds, wintering and migratory birds, bats, dormice, reptiles, great crested newts, water voles and badgers.		
	2.10.78 The applicant should use an advising ecologist during the design process to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided, minimised or mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised.		
	2.10.79 The assessment may be informed by a ‘desk study’ of existing ecological records, an evaluation of the likely impacts of the solar farm upon ecological features, and should specify mitigation to avoid or		

	minimise these impacts, and any further surveys required.	proposals in the oLEMP. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to biodiversity, which is secured by the oLEMP and oCEMP.	
	2.10.80 Applicants should consider earthworks associated with construction compounds, access roads and cable trenching.	The Description of the Proposed Development describes the works required for construction of the Proposed Development, including installation of cables which will include earthworks. An Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) identifies the importance and sensitivity of the soil resource and provides specific guidance to ensure that there is no significant adverse effect on the soil resource as a result of the Proposed Development. The oSMP includes details of: • A description of the soil types and their resilience to being trafficked; • Soil handling; • Description of works and how soil damage will be minimised;	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**
	2.10.81 Where soil stripping occurs, topsoil and subsoil should be stripped, stored, and replaced separately to minimise soil damage and to provide optimal conditions for site restoration. Further details on minimising impacts on soil and soil handling are above at paragraphs 2.10.33 and 2.10.34.		

		• Monitoring measures for soil condition and criteria against which compliance will be assessed; and • Remediation and aftercare measures. A detailed Soil Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction as secured by DCO Requirement 18. The Soil Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the oSMP, as set out in Draft DCO.	
	2.10.82 Applicants should consider how security and lighting installations may impact on the local ecology. Where pole mounted CCTV facilities are proposed the location of these facilities should be carefully considered to minimise impact. If lighting is necessary, it should be minimised and directed away from areas of likely habitat.	The Proposed Development's security and lighting have been designed to respond sensitively to ecology and the landscape features. Environmental measures pertaining to biodiversity and security are discussed in the Biodiversity assessment and include: • Working hours will be limited to 07:00 until 19:00 in the construction period and 08:00 until 18:00 during the operational period to avoid the need for artificial lighting, other than at the HDD crossing of the River Trent, where 24 hour working may be required for a short period when drilling. Where necessary, e.g. emergency requirements, lighting will be designed in line with principles set out in guidance from the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Bat	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		Conservation Trust to avoid impacts on bats and other light averse animals • Security fencing will be installed throughout the Site, around solar PV fields and supporting infrastructure. They will be constructed of wire mesh and wooden posts and designed to be stock proof, with a minimum height of 2m. To avoid fragmentation of habitats, there will be ground level holes/gates at strategic locations, large enough to allow movement of badgers, hedgehogs and foxes. Strategic locations will be adjacent to habitat parcels of medium or high distinctiveness (woodland, mixed scrub, ponds) and on or close to established mammal runs. Specific locations will be identified during the pre-construction surveys, due to the potential for commuting routes to change frequently, however, a minimum of one hole per 150m of fencing will be created, with a higher frequency around suitable habitats and identified badger sett locations. Security, lighting and CCTV required for the Proposed Development are described in detail in the Description of the Proposed	

		Development, the oLEMP, oCEMP, oOEMP, and oDEMP.	
	2.10.83 Applicants should consider how site boundaries are managed. If any hedges/scrub are to be removed, further surveys may be necessary to account for impacts. Buffer strips between perimeter fencing and hedges may be proposed, and the construction and design of any fencing should account for enabling mammal, reptile and other fauna access into the site if required to do so in the ecological report.	As set out in the Biodiversity assessment, the ES takes account of all works boundaries and hedgerows. Buffers to woodland and hedgerow are included, and proposals for fencing incorporate features to enable the movement of mammals, reptiles and other fauna.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **Vegetation Removal Plan, oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	2.10.84 Where a Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out this must be submitted alongside the applicant's ES. This will need to consider the impact of drainage. As solar PV panels will drain	The DCO application is supported by a Flood Risk Assessment which considers the impacts of the Proposed Development on drainage.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant.		
	2.10.85 Where access tracks need to be provided, permeable tracks should be used, and localised Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), such as swales and infiltration trenches, should be used to control any run-off where recommended.	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment considers the potential likely effects of the Proposed Development on water, including the assessment of establishment of construction compounds and access tracks. The recommendations set out in the Outline Drainage Strategy include that all SuDS features are to be designed in accordance with the CIRIA C753 SuDS Manual, to ensure that surface water runoff discharged from the Site will be of an acceptable standard by following best design practices. New access tracks will be impermeable, also incorporating appropriate Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) which could include ditches and swales. The makeup of the access tracks will be unbound stone over a geotextile membrane, or similar. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment presents a summary of the existing baseline conditions for the receptors scoped into further assessment. The Proposed Development is assessed to have no more than a negligible impact on any water receptors, which is not significant in EIA terms.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	2.10.86 Given the temporary nature of solar PV farms, sites should be configured or selected to avoid the need to impact on existing drainage systems and watercourses.		

	2.10.87 Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided.	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment sets out steps taken to ensure existing water assets are conserved through a sustainable drainage strategy, including environmental measures such as a minimum 10m buffer from all ordinary watercourse and field drains/ditches will be provided to any built development. The proposed offset provides a buffer for any sediment entrained within surface water runoff where sediment can deposit. The proposed offset ensures no erosion of the banking of the watercourses which could result in degradation of water quality. The Design Approach Document sets out Project Principles which have influenced the design evolution to avoid and minimise effects on existing watercourses/drainage ditches.	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
	2.10.88 Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period.		
	2.10.89 Solar farms have the potential to increase the biodiversity value of a site, especially if the land was previously intensively managed. In some instances, this can result in significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	environmental gains which is encouraged		
	2.10.90 For projects in England, applicants should consider enhancement, management, and monitoring of biodiversity in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.		
Impacts – Landscape, Visual and residential amenity	2.10.93 Generic landscape and visual impacts are covered in Section 5.10 of EN-1.	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment includes an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on local amenity.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**
	2.10.94 The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are likely to be in low lying		

	areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure.		
	2.10.95 However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, which forms part of the ES, assesses the visual impacts of the Proposed Development. Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, 63 assessment viewpoints were selected. These assessment viewpoints are further illustrated within the ES, and agreed through consultation with the relevant local planning authority. These viewpoint assessments have allowed for a review of where further mitigation is required to reduce impacts upon the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis. A series of ZTVs for different elements of the Proposed Development are provided within the application. The LVIA includes an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects where the approach to the assessment is explained.	**ES Volume 3, Figure 11.13: Photomontages [EN010159/APP/6.20]**
	2.10.96 Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre-application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a part of the pre-application process.		

	2.10.97 Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints		
	2.10.98 Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes. 2.10.99 Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing	While the appearance of solar panels is largely determined by their function, the site layout, landscaping and access have all been designed to reflect principles of good design. Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process, informed by the LVIA. The Proposed Development layout has been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment and fieldwork analysis. The design mitigation has been embedded into the Proposed Development to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity as outlined in the oLEMP.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact (see paragraphs 2.10.46 – 2.10.48 above).	As set out in the Design Approach Document, the landscape design principles incorporate the following: • Protect and enhance places of value; • Protect and improve the local environment; • Protect features that are important to the local community; and • Enhance local recreational assets.	
	2.10.100 The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity. 2.10.101 The impact of the proposed development on	The Landscape and Visual Impact assessment conducts an assessment of the visual impact of the Proposed Development, including assessing the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands. In terms of vegetation removal, a worst- case assumption has been made that all vegetation shown in the Vegetation Removal Plan would be removed. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to trees and hedgerows, including that: • Trees will be planted individually and linearly, creating tree lines, and within existing and newly created hedgerows. Trees of a variety of nursery stock sizes will be planted to provide difference in age structure. Tree lines and hedgerows with trees will improve connectivity across the Site and the	**Vegetation Removal Plan [EN010159/APP/2.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**

	established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural/hedge assessment as appropriate.	wider landscape, they will provide habitat for fungi, invertebrates (as living, standing deadwood and fallen deadwood), nesting and food provision for birds and mammals, and roosting opportunities for bats. A range of native species typical of the region will be selected to provide a variety of conditions for multiple flora (fungi and epiphytes) and fauna, with a range of wood types (soft and hard to encourage varying rot rate and cavity features) and longevity. Proposed tree planting locations are presented in Figure 6.1 and typically form boundaries around proposed solar PV fields. Additional tree planting, will occur within three mitigation (species-rich grassland) fields in the area to the east of the River Trent. • Tree planting and hedgerow planting will take place over the winters of each of the two-year construction programme. The aims will be to: ○ Gap up and plant standards in one third of the defunct hedgerows each winter ○ Plant one third of new hedgerows (including standards) each winter ○ Take existing hedgerows into positive management for biodiversity at least 3 months	

		ahead of construction activity commencing (other than at access points and other areas where vegetation management will be needed to aid delivery). Habitat creation and enhancement measures will be detailed within the oLEMP.	
Impacts – Glint and Glare	2.10.104 When a quantitative glint and glare assessment is necessary, applicants are expected to consider the geometric possibility of glint and glare affecting nearby receptors, and provide an assessment of potential impact and impairment based on the angle and duration of incidence and the intensity of the reflection. 2.10.105 The extent of reflectivity analysis required to assess potential impacts will depend on the specific project site and design. This may need to account for 'tracking' panels if they	Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. Bridleways are regarded as less sensitive to glint and glare, and considered of minor significance. Therefore, mitigation is not recommended as an open view of the landscape is generally more appreciated. The methodology used within the glint and glare study considers permanent addresses of residences (dwellings) within the surrounding area. Commercial properties are not	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	are proposed as these may cause differential diurnal and/or seasonal impacts. 2.10.106 When a glint and glare assessment is undertaken, the potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality may need to be assessed, although the glint and glare of the frames and supports is likely to be significantly less than the panels.	considered with regard to glint and glare as residential amenity is not a significant concern. This methodology has been widely accepted in planning submission for UK projects, including NSIPs, and internationally. As detailed in Description of the Proposed Development, the mounting structure will include fixed panels within the PV Array Areas, which will be installed to face south at a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight absorption. The ES takes account of the impacts of Solar PV modules facing southwards on a fixed platform.	
Impacts – Cultural Heritage	2.10.107 The impacts of solar PV developments on the historic environment will require expert assessment in most cases and may have effect both above and below ground. 2.10.108 Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets	The Cultural Heritage assessment provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above ground assets. The Buried Heritage assessment provided an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including below ground assets. Both assessments concluded that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. As noted throughout	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

	as well as on Historic Landscape Character. 2.10.109 Below ground impacts, although generally limited, may include direct impacts on archaeological deposits through ground disturbance associated with trenching, cabling, foundations, fencing, temporary haul routes etc. 2.10.110 Equally, solar PV developments may have a positive effect, for example archaeological assets may be protected by a solar PV farm as the site is removed from regular ploughing and shoes or low-level piling is stipulated. 2.10.111 Generic historic environment impacts are covered in Section 5.9 of EN-1.	the relevant ES chapters, a number of design measures have been incorporated within the Proposed Development including: • Substantial setbacks and removal of developable land around North Clifton / South Clifton to ensure that the Proposed Development does not interrupt the connection between the settlements afforded by gaps and glimpsed views, including preserving the visual and perception connection between Church of St George The Martyr (Grade II*) and both settlements • No development is proposed on the part of the Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument that is within the Order Limits and most of this Scheduled Monument is excluded from the Order Limits boundary. The land featuring the Roman Vexillation Fortress Scheduled Monument and its surroundings has also been removed from the Order Limits • Setbacks incorporated around Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument which have been based on an understanding of the topography here to reduce the potential visual and	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		experiential effects of development in the setting of the Monument • Setbacks incorporated in Fledborough to the north, south and west of the Church of St Gregory (Grade I listed). This is to manage the presence of the Proposed Development in the setting of the Church and neighbouring Manor House (Grade II listed), including mitigating any visual impact from the approach to these assets and in views from public footpaths and Fledborough Viaduct • Setbacks incorporated to east and west of Ragnall to reduce visual presence of development in settings of heritage assets here. Setbacks to the west are based on understanding of topography and views out from the Church of St Leonard (Grade II* listed) • Substantial setbacks and removable of developable land to the south of Newton on Trent and to west of Thorney to reduce visual impact and likely significant effects on settings of heritage assets in these locations • Tree and native vegetation planting (c.3m in height and 2-3m in width) to be included at sensitive edges of the Order Limits to manage potential visual (and to some extent experiential) likely	

		significant effects of the Proposed Development, including potential for glint and glare, within the settings of heritage assets. This includes to east and west of Ragnall assets, to south of Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument, to west and south of Fledborough assets and to north-east of Skegby Manor (Grade II listed) • Existing tree and vegetation to be strengthened and managed to heights of c.3m and width of 2.3m • Control of lighting and noise during operational phase to minimise intrusion in the context of heritage assets • Beyond the cable routing (below ground) for the Grid Connection, the area north of High Marnham (National High Marnham Substation) is not proposed for any further development. This will reduce or avoid any effects to heritage assets in High Marnham and Low Marnham • The proposed eastern and western substation locations are at a distance from designated heritage assets to reduce intrusive visual presence in their settings, including from sensitive views and key approaches • The cabling between the east and west sides of the Order Limits across the	

		River Trent will be undertaken by trenchless crossing (Directional Drilling) which is considered to have a lesser impact on built heritage assets due to its lack of visual presence in their settings once operational. The option to route cabling via Fledborough Viaduct is no longer being pursued, therefore there would be no direct alterations to the Viaduct Heritage was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document (DAD) incorporating the design principle to protect and enhance places of value. The iterative design process has sought to protect heritage assets, including three Grade I listed buildings and two Scheduled Monuments, namely the Roman Vexillation Fortress and Whimpton Moor medieval village.	
	2.10.112 Applicant assessments should be informed by information from Historic Environment Records (HERs) or the local authority. 2.10.113 Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has	The Cultural and Buried Heritage assessments have been informed by the HER and set out detailed baselines. A Geophysical Survey Report has been submitted as a part of the application. The location of heritage assets used in the assessments, within the site, within the study	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 3, Figures [EN010159/APP/6.20]:**

	the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. These should be carried out using expertise where necessary and in consultation with the local planning authority, and should identify archaeological study areas and propose appropriate schemes of investigation, and design measures, to ensure the protection of relevant heritage assets.	area and those included in the EIA are provided. A first phase of the trial trenching evaluation was undertaken between September 2024 and December 2024. The results of the trial trenching evaluation are presented in the Trial Trenching Evaluation Report. The trial trenching targeted some of the areas of greatest archaeological potential, as identified during the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, and the areas selected as options for the substation and BESS parameters. The trial trenching evaluation provided critical insights into the required suite of mitigation measures essential for ensuring the viability of the proposed development, while concurrently evaluating the design's capacity to address and accommodate any archaeological constraints that have been, or may in the future be, identified. The information collected during the trial trenching evaluation also confirmed that any effect arising from the construction of the Proposed Development on buried heritage deposits can be successfully mitigated to a non-significant level by a combination of embedded environmental measures and a proportionate and targeted archaeological	• **Figure 9.1: Study Area.** • **Figure 9.2: Prehistoric Receptors** • **Figure 9.3: Roman Receptors** • **Figure 9.4: Saxon and Medieval Receptors** • **Figure 9.5: Post-Medieval and Undated Receptors** • **Figure 10.1: Designated Heritage Asset Mapping in 1km and 2km Radius of the Site.** • **Figure 10.2: Non-Designated Heritage Asset Mapping in 1km and 2 km Radius of the Site.**

		mitigation The proposed mitigation measures include: • No development is proposed on or directly adjacent to the two Scheduled Monuments in the vicinity of the Order Limits (the Roman Vexillation Fortress Scheduled Monument and Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument). Substantial 50 m setbacks around these designated heritage assets are incorporated into the design. The embedded buffer would also mitigate or remove any adverse effect on any known and unknown buried heritage assets included in the buffer areas; • Substantial setbacks and the removal of developable land around: ○ North Clifton (approximatively 100 m to Work No. 1); ○ South Clifton- (approximatively 500 m to Work No. 1); ○ To the south of Newton-on-Trent (approximatively 100 m to Work No. 1); ○ To the north, south and west of the Church of St Gregory in Fledborough (approximatively 160 m to Work No. 1);	• **Figure 10.3: Designated Heritage Asset ZTV Mapping with 1km and 2km Radius.** • **Figure 10.4: Non-Designated Heritage Asset ZTV Mapping with 1km and 2km Radius.** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volume 2 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:** • **Geophysical Survey Report** • **Trial Trenching Evaluation Report**
	2.10.114 In some instances, field studies may include investigative work (and may include trial trenching beyond the boundary of the proposed		**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9, Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting**

	site) to assess the impacts of any ground disturbance, such as proposed cabling, substation foundations or mounting supports for solar panels on archaeological assets.	○ To the east and west of Ragnall (approximatively 150 m to Work No. 1); ○ West of Thorney (approximatively 800 m to Work No. 1); and, ○ The area north of High Marnham (National High Marnham Substation) is proposed only for the cable routing for the Grid Connection, but no further development is expected in the area.	**ES Volume 2, Trial Trenching Evaluation Report [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	2.10.115 The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of, proposed ground disturbance in the associated study area.		
	2.10.116 Applicants should take account of the results of historic environment assessments in their design proposal.	The Design Approach Document sets out how the Proposed Development has considered the results of historic assessment in its design. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments describe the heritage assets within the Study Area for the Proposed Development and their significance, and the contribution of their significance to the setting. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments set out steps taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
	2.10.117 Applicants should consider what steps can be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting.		

	2.10.118 As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms which depending on their scale, design, and prominence, may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset. 2.10.119 Applicants may need to include visualisations to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets.	environmental measures detailed in the oLEMP, and oOEMP. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the likely effects of the Proposed Development on heritage assets. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from noise, vibration and dust, the majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets. The oLEMP sets out key measures to protect and enhance landscaping throughout the Order Limits, including protecting and retaining existing vegetation and trees, where relevant. Existing vegetation along the boundary will be retained and managed where practicable to aid screening and reduce visual presence of the Proposed Development in the settings of heritage assets.	
Impacts – Construction including traffic and transport noise and vibration	2.10.123 Applicants should assess the various potential routes to the site for delivery of materials and components where the source of the materials is known at the time of the application, and select the	As set out in the Description of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development includes works for the creation of permanent accesses from the public highway, which also includes the creation of visibility splays, works to alter highway layouts temporarily, and also offsite works for the facilitation of movement of any abnormal loads. These are shown on	**Streets, rights of way, and access plans [EN010159/APP/2.4]** **Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**

	route that is the most appropriate. 2.10.124 Where the exact location of the source of construction materials, such as crushed stone or concrete is not be known at the time of the application, applicants should assess the worst-case impact of additional vehicles on the likely potential routes. 2.10.125 Applicants should ensure all sections of roads and bridges on the proposed delivery route can accommodate the weight and volume of the loads and width of vehicles. Although unlikely, where modifications to roads and/or bridges are required, these should be identified, and potential effects addressed in the ES. 2.10.126 Where a cumulative impact is likely	the outline Design Parameters. Site access and routing strategies have been discussed and agreed in consultation with the Highways Authorities as set out within the oCTMP. The Proposed Development design incorporates environmental measures to reduce adverse effects and minimise impacts of traffic, and transport noise and vibration. These are set out in the Transport and Access Assessment, and include: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of "Construction Access Ahead" and "Slow Ahead" signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site;	**Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.10]** **Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	because multiple energy infrastructure developments are proposing to use a common port and/or access route and pass through the same towns and villages, applicants should include a cumulative transport assessment as part of the ES. This should consider the impacts of abnormal traffic movements relating to the project in question in combination with those from any other relevant development. Consultation with the relevant local highways authorities is likely to be necessary.	• A 'Wear & Tear' agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions. These measures are included in the oCTMP and will be secured by a requirement in the draft Development Consent Order. To ensure a commitment to ensuring that the transport and access matters will be properly addressed at decommissioning, a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be developed in accordance with the oDEMP and will be secured in the DCO. It is proposed that the DTMP is based upon the measures contained in the oCTMP at present. A review of the potential for access to the Proposed Development using the River Trent has been undertaken. The Site does not feature any suitable river quay facilities to offload materials, and it is considered that the movement of bulk materials is not feasible. The river transport network may however be used for the movement of Abnormal Indivisible	

		Loads (AIL) associated with the Proposed Development, wherever this is possible. Access designs are included in the Rights of Way and Streets and Access Plans demonstrating the ability of the Proposed Development to create a safe and well-designed access with suitable geometry to allow safe manoeuvring in and out of the Site and with appropriate visibility splays informed by speed survey data for construction.	
Mitigations – Agriculture Land classification and land type	2.10.127 The Defra Construction code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites provides guidance on ensuring that damage to soil during construction is mitigated and minimised. Mitigation measures focus on minimising damage to soil that remains in place, and minimising damage to soil being excavated and stockpiled. The measures aim to preserve soil health and soil structure to minimise soil carbon loss and maintain water infiltration and soil	The Land and Soils assessment and the oSMP set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development, the Proposed Development's embedded mitigation measures, and principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Environmental measures relating to land and soils are set out in section 8.5 of the Land and Soils assessment, and secured through the oCEMP, oSMP, oCTMP, oOEMP, and oDEMP.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	biodiversity. Mitigation measures for agricultural soils include use of green cover, multispecies cover crops - especially during the winter minimising compaction and adding soil organic matter.		
Mitigations – Biodiversity and ecological conservation	2.10.128 In England, proposed enhancements should take account of the above factors and as set out in Sections 4.6 and 5.4 of EN-1 aim to achieve environmental and biodiversity net gain in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum of 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	2.10.129 This might include maintaining or extending existing habitats and potentially creating new important habitats, for example by installing	The Proposed Development includes measures to extend existing habitats and create new important habitats. These are set out in the oLEMP.	**oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	cultivated strips/plots for rare arable plants, rough grassland margins, bumble bee plant mixes, and wild bird seed mixes.		
	2.10.130 Applicants are advised to develop an ecological monitoring programme to monitor impacts upon the flora of the site and upon any particular ecological receptors (such as bats and wintering birds). Results of the monitoring will then inform any changes needed to the land management of the site, including, if appropriate, any livestock grazing regime.	Appropriate monitoring will be undertaken during construction, operation and decommissioning as set out in the oLEMP, oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP.	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
Mitigations – Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity	2.10.131 Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands.	The environmental measures included in the Proposed Development relating to landscape and visual, are set out in the Landscape and Visual assessment, oLEMP and Design Approach Document. These measures include:	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and**

		• The siting of all features within the existing vegetation structure to retain the scale and pattern of the landscape;
		• Appraisal of the setting of local villages and the integration corresponding offsets to minimise, wherever possible, impacts on their character. This has included:
		  ○ The removal of all land from between North Clifton and South Clifton;
		  ○ Embedding offsets from Ragnall in the order of 200m east of Main Street and utilisation of existing landform to the west to screen visibility of Work Area 1;
		  ○ Integration of offsets from Fledborough, including 130m from the Access Road to Fledborough and retention of a clear view corridor extending for over 700m between residential properties within the village and Fledborough Viaduct, requiring the removal of over 46 acres from Work Area 1 and inclusion in Work Area 8, as secured on the Works Plans and
			Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]
			oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]

		○ The removal of land west of Thorney from the Order limits, avoiding visual impact on residential receptors and changes to the character of the village. • Utilisation of a Height Parameter Plan • Identification of land either side of the River Trent as an important recreational and ecological corridor, as well as providing an important management function in flood events. Such land was therefore excluded from the developable area to maintain (and where possible enhance) the land's current appearance, character and function. • The Proposed Development has been designed in response to the subtle topographical variations across the Order limits, for example: • Offsets west of Ragnall and south of the Medieval Scheduled Monument were designed to utilise minor ridgelines to screen the proposed solar PV panels in residential views and to protect the setting of heritage assets.	

		• The A1133 follows a minor ridgeline running north/south. The majority of land west of this minor ridge was excluded from Work Area 1, thereby utilising the existing topography to provide visual screening and separation from the River Trent and villages of North and South Clifton. • Land east of the A1133 falls towards eastwards. The project's eastern substation (Work Area 3) has been sited on the lower part of the hill to minimise its appearance and retain the integrity of the skyline beyond. New planting proposed across the Order Limits has also been included to mitigate adverse effects and provide enhancement associated with other environmental topics such as: • new hedgerows, that include some evergreen species, to mitigate glint and glare impacts, as secured in the OLEMP • offsets occupied by Work Number 8, as secured in the Works Plans to protect the setting of heritage assets, such as St. Leonard Church, Ragnall; and	

		• the reinstatement of coastal grazing marsh on the eastern bank of the River Trent, as secured in the OLEMP The Proposed Development presents the opportunity for the enhancement vegetation across the Order limits, benefitting ecological connectivity, diversity and biosecurity. The Proposed Development will include habitats proposed across the Order Limits comprising: • Over 9km of species-rich native hedgerow with trees (including existing hedgerow enhancement); • Approximately 6km of species-rich native hedgerow; • Approximately 1,240ha of species-rich grassland accounted for across the Order Limits in hedgerow and field margins, riparian zones, wildflower meadows and tussock mixes beneath solar panels; • 4.2ha of woodland and native tree belts; • Individual trees; and • Agricultural field margins.	

	2.10.132 Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security, or screen security fencing.	The perimeter fencing around the Solar PV Site would be implemented early in the construction phase where practicable, so as to physically secure the construction areas. This fencing would be 2.2 metres (m) in height and consists of a metal mesh stock fence with wooden posts. It would also exclude construction activity from retained vegetation and associated root protection areas.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11, Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]**
	2.10.133 Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.	The Description of the Proposed Development outlines the security measures, including lighting, incorporated in the design of the Proposed Development's design. The Proposed Development's security and lighting have been designed to respond sensitively to ecological and landscape features.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5, Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**
Mitigations – Glint and Glare	2.10.134 Applicants should consider using, and in some cases the Secretary of State may require, solar panels to comprise of (or be covered with) anti-glare/anti-reflective coating with a specified angle of maximum reflection attenuation for the lifetime of the permission.	Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	2.10.135 Applicants may consider using screening between potentially affected receptors and the reflecting panels to mitigate the effects. 2.10.136 Applicants may consider adjusting the azimuth alignment of, or changing the elevation tilt angle of, a solar panel within the economically viable range, to alter the angle of incidence. In practice this is unlikely to remove the potential impact altogether but in marginal cases may contribute to a mitigation strategy.	Bridleways are regarded as less sensitive to glint and glare, and considered of minor significance. Therefore, mitigation is not recommended as an open view of the landscape is generally more appreciated. The methodology used within the glint and glare study considers permanent addresses of residences (dwellings) within the surrounding area. Commercial properties are not considered with regard to glint and glare as residential amenity is not a significant concern. This methodology has been widely accepted in planning submission for UK projects, including NSIPs, and internationally. As detailed in Description of the Proposed Development, the mounting structure will include fixed panels within the PV Array Areas, which will be installed to face south at a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight absorption. The ES takes account of the impacts of Solar PV modules facing southwards on a fixed platform.	
Mitigations – Cultural Heritage	2.10.137 The ability of the applicants to microsite specific elements of the proposed development during the construction phase should be an important consideration by	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]**

	the Secretary of State when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology. 2.10.138 Where requested by the applicant, the Secretary of State should consider granting consents which allow for the micrositing within a specified tolerance of elements of the permitted infrastructure, so that precise locations can be amended during the construction phase if unforeseen circumstances, such as the discovery of previously unknown archaeology, arise.	environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5.4 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES. The Cultural Heritage provides an assessment of the likely effects and residual effects, respectively, of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from noise, vibration and dust, the majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets. Mitigation measures to reduce impact on heritage assets are developed throughout the design and is discussed in greater detail within the oCEMP, relevant ES chapters and oLEMP.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
Mitigation – Construction	2.10.139 In some cases, the local highway authority	Measures required to control any construction traffic impacts, including AIL Routing, and	

including traffic and transport noise and vibration	may request that the Secretary of State impose controls on the number of vehicle movements to and from the solar farm site in a specified period during its construction and, possibly, on the routeing of such movements particularly by heavy vehicles.	delivery routes and scheduling have been identified and are secured through the oCTMP and oCEMP.	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
	2.10.140 Where the Secretary of State agrees that this is necessary, requirements could be imposed on development consent.		
	2.10.141 Where cumulative effects on the local road network or residential amenity are predicted from multiple solar farm developments, it may be appropriate for applicants for various projects to work together to ensure that the number of abnormal loads and deliveries are minimised, and the timings of	The Cumulative Assessment concludes that in terms of transport and access cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development, there will be both construction and operational impacts. The Construction impacts are as follows – - Traffic flows are not available for the High Marnham Substation proposals and as such it is not yet possible to provide a	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]**

	deliveries are managed and coordinated to ensure that disruption to residents and other highway users is reasonably minimised.	detailed review of the potential impact. - However, construction flows are considered to be circa 100-150 movements per days. This is unlikely to result in significant cumulative impacts on the Proposed Development study area, assuming construction vehicle access is via the main A and B class road network. In terms of operational impacts, these are as follows – - Likely traffic levels are predicted to be very low and generally relate to occasional maintenance trips. No significant traffic impact will be associated with this phase.	
	2.10.142 It may also be appropriate for the highway authority to set limits for, and coordinate these deliveries through, active management of the delivery schedules through the abnormal load approval process.		
	2.10.143 Once consent for a scheme has been granted, applicants should liaise with the relevant local highway authority (or other coordinating body) regarding the start of construction and the broad	The Transport and Access assessment sets out that the principal contractor will liaise with local highways authorities and other parties in the event of other events (e.g., road closures, changes). The Description of the Proposed Development sets out the works included in	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	timing of deliveries. Applicants may need to agree a planning obligation to secure appropriate measures, including restoration of roads and verges. 2.10.144 Further, it may be appropriate for any non-permanent highway improvements carried out for the development (such as temporary road widening) to be made available for use by other subsequent solar farm developments.	Works No 7: Highways Works, as secured through the Works Plan.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**
Secretary of State decision making -* Factors *influencing site selection and design – Agriculture land classification and land type	2.10.145 The Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant has put forward appropriate mitigation measures to minimise	The Site Selection report explains the Applicant's approach to selection of an appropriate site to take forward as part of an application for a NSIP scale solar project. The report explains that initially there are three fundamental attributes required to develop NSIP scale solar: suitable irradiance and topography; a connection to the National Grid, and available land. These three attributes identified locations which may be suitable for such solar development and focused the Applicant's	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Appendix 1:Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

	impacts on soils or soil resources.	search on sites within the East Midlands distribution network region, which is where the Applicant was aware there was capacity in the National Grid infrastructure. Once the search area was determined, the Applicant applied specific environmental search criteria, including agricultural land grade to find appropriate land which would be able to deliver its objectives. The Applicant required a large site, but has a preference for a larger landholding under single ownership to maximise the potential energy generation and to assist with deliverability and management of potential impacts of a proposed solar development. An 10km radius was established from the Point of Connection for the purposes of site selection. 10km represents a viable distance from point of connection for the proposed development. Potential sites beyond this were not considered due to the significant constraints associated with cabling and connection. The Applicant has taken into account agricultural land quality when identifying the Solar PV Site, based on publicly available information. The Applicant, from an early stage, sought to avoid land of higher agricultural quality. However, given the nature	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**

		of the sites which were able to meet the Applicant's objectives, agricultural land formed part of each potential site identified. Consideration was given as to whether alternative land could be found with less impacts on agricultural land in proximity to the High Marnham Substation. The general quality of the land across the sites considered was similar. Given the similarities, the land type did not represent a differentiating factor in the site selection process. The applicant found that there are not many areas, if any, that could have less of an impact when looking for a parcel of land the size One Earth requires. The Land and Soils assessment and the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development, the Proposed Development's embedded mitigation measures, and principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document.	

		The site selection assessment and the Design Approach Document set out how fields that were identified as comprising solely of Grades 1 or 2 land were discounted from the area of Solar PV development to reduce the impact on BMV agricultural land. As set out in the Planning Statement, with the exception of the agricultural land required for green infrastructure, the land to be used will be used temporarily with the land being returned to agricultural use at the end of the Proposed Development's lifetime. Nevertheless, the ES has confirmed that significant effects are encountered, despite the context of that loss relating to green infrastructure, and limited weight may be applied against the Proposed Development in the planning balance. The limited adverse impacts of the Proposed Development are not considered to outweigh its substantial benefits.	
Secretary of State decision making – Technical Considerations – Project lifetime and decommissioning	2.10.146 The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant has put forward outline plans for decommissioning the generating station when no longer in use and restoring the land to a suitable use (taking into	As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the DCO is seeking time limited consent and the Proposed Development will be operational for up to 60 years, after which time it will be decommissioned and this is secured via a requirement in the draft DCO but will be in accordance with the approved DEMP. This will allow the land (that has previously been intensively farmed) to recover	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	account paragraphs 2.10.68 and 2.10.69).	ultimately safeguarding the agricultural usage of this land for future generations. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations. Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners. It is considered all of the solar PV Modules and batteries used as part of the Proposed Development will be recycled. This is considered within the waste assessment detailed in the outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP). At this stage, it is considered decommissioning will occur over two years. The Site will be reinstated in accordance with the oDEMP. A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning. The effects of decommissioning are often similar to, or of a lesser magnitude than, construction effects are considered in the	**ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters 6-19 [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.12]**
	2.10.147 Where the consent for a solar farm is to be time-limited, the DCO should impose a requirement setting that time-limit from the date the solar farm starts to generate electricity.		
	2.10.148 Such a requirement should also secure the decommissioning of the generating station after the expiration of its permitted operation to ensure that inoperative plant is removed after its operational life.		
	2.10.149 An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time period or for differing time-periods for operation.		
	2.10.150 The time limited nature of the solar farm,		

	where a time limit is sought as a condition of consent, is likely to be an important consideration for the Secretary of State. 2.10.151 The Secretary of State should consider the period of time the applicant is seeking to operate the generating station, as well as the extent to which the site will return to its original state, when assessing impacts such as landscape and visual effects and potential effects on the settings of heritage assets and nationally designated landscapes.	Aspect Chapters of the ES. An oDEMP has been produced as part of the ES to demonstrate how the mitigation measures will be implemented. It will also set out the monitoring and auditing activities designed to ensure that such mitigation measures are carried out, and that they are effective. This will be secured by a Requirement within the DCO. The potential impacts due to the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development are considered short-term in duration in any given location. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and decommissioning movements across the Site, and therefore, there would be a short period of relatively large impact similar to those of the construction phase. Effects on landscape and visual amenity and heritage assets during decommissioning would be temporary and short term. Following decommissioning the landscape will be largely restored to its pre-development state.	
Secretary of State decision making - Impacts – Biodiversity, ecological,	2.10.154 Water management is a critical component of site design for ground mount solar plants. Where previous	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment considers the potential likely effects of the Proposed Development on water, including the assessment of	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

geological conservation and water management	management of the site has involved intensive agricultural practice, solar sites can deliver significant ecosystem services value in the form of drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, and water quality management.	establishment of construction compounds and access tracks. The recommendations set out in the Outline Drainage Strategy include that all SuDS features are to be designed in accordance with the CIRIA C753 SuDS Manual, to ensure that surface water runoff discharged from the Site will be of an acceptable standard by following best design practices. New access tracks will be impermeable, also incorporating appropriate Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) which could include ditches and swales. The makeup of the access tracks will be unbound stone over a geotextile membrane, or similar. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment presents a summary of the existing baseline conditions for the receptors scoped into further assessment. The Proposed Development is assessed to have no more than a negligible impact on any water receptors, which is not significant in EIA terms.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**
	2.10.155 The Secretary of State must consider the worst-case effects in its consideration of the application and consent.	The impact assessment within the Aspect Chapters of the ES has been based on the worst-case parameters for each technical topic and justification is presented within the relevant chapter.	**ES Volume 2, Aspect Chapters 6-19 [EN010159/APP/6.6-6.19]**
Secretary of State decision making -	2.10.157 The Secretary of State will consider the	The LVIA concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and**

Impacts – Landscape, visual and residential amenity	landscape and visual impact of any proposed solar PV farm, taking account of any sensitive visual receptors, and the effect of the development on landscape character, together with the possible cumulative effect with any existing or proposed development. Nationally designated landscapes (National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Beauty) are afforded extra protection due their statutory purpose. Development in these areas needs to satisfy policy as set out in EN-1 Section 5.10.	local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within the Order Limits. The Order limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. The Proposed Development presents a new type of built form within a predominantly rural landscape. The form of development, while temporary, has the potential to alter the way in which the landscape is experienced and viewed. The LVIA considers the extent and significance of the potential impacts on key receptors and concludes that, with mitigation, significant impacts are expected to occur across all stages of the development albeit not simultaneously nor at all receptors. Impacts are expected to be reduced over time, as planting becomes more established. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths outweigh these impacts , and that the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.	**Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 3, Figures Supporting Volumes 1 and 2, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]**

Secretary of State decision making - Impacts – Glint and Glare	2.10.158 Solar PV panels are designed to absorb, not reflect, irradiation. However, the Secretary of State should assess the potential impact of glint and glare on nearby homes, motorists, public rights of way, and aviation infrastructure (including aircraft departure and arrival flight paths). 2.10.159 Whilst there is some evidence that glint and glare from solar farms can be experienced by pilots and air traffic controllers in certain conditions, there is no evidence that glint and glare from solar farms results in significant impairment on aircraft safety. Therefore, unless a significant impairment can be demonstrated, the Secretary of State is unlikely to give any more than limited weight to claims of aviation	Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur for an hour period during the summer month evenings, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. Bridleways are regarded as less sensitive to glint and glare, and considered of minor significance. Therefore, mitigation is not recommended as an open view of the landscape is generally more appreciated. The methodology used within the glint and glare study considers permanent addresses of residences (dwellings) within the surrounding area. Commercial properties are not considered with regard to glint and glare as residential amenity is not a significant concern. This methodology has been widely accepted in planning submission for UK projects, including NSIPs, and internationally. As detailed in Description of the Proposed Development, the mounting structure will include fixed panels within the PV Array Areas, which will be installed to face south at a 10-25 degree pitch, to optimise daylight	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5; Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	interference because of glint and glare from solar farms.	absorption. The ES takes account of the impacts of Solar PV modules facing southwards on a fixed platform.	
Secretary of State decision making - Impacts – Cultural Heritage	2.10.160 Solar farms are generally consented on the basis that they will be time-limited in operation. The Secretary of State should therefore consider the length of time for which consent is sought when considering the impacts of any indirect effect on the historic environment, such as effects on the setting of designated heritage assets.	The design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be 60 years. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5.4 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES. The Cultural Heritage provides an assessment of the likely effects and residual effects, respectively, of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from noise, vibration and dust, the	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

		majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets. As noted throughout the relevant ES chapters, a number of design measures have been incorporated within the Proposed Development including: • Substantial setbacks and removal of developable land around North Clifton / South Clifton to ensure that the Proposed Development does not interrupt the connection between the settlements afforded by gaps and glimpsed views, including preserving the visual and perception connection between Church of St George The Martyr (Grade II*) and both settlements • No development is proposed on the part of the Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument that is within the Order Limits and most of this Scheduled Monument is excluded from the Order Limits boundary. The land featuring the Roman Vexillation Fortress Scheduled Monument and its surroundings has also been removed from the Order Limits • Setbacks incorporated around Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument	

		which have been based on an understanding of the topography here to reduce the potential visual and experiential effects of development in the setting of the Monument • Setbacks incorporated in Fledborough to the north, south and west of the Church of St Gregory (Grade I listed). This is to manage the presence of the Proposed Development in the setting of the Church and neighbouring Manor House (Grade II listed), including mitigating any visual impact from the approach to these assets and in views from public footpaths and Fledborough Viaduct • Setbacks incorporated to east and west of Ragnall to reduce visual presence of development in settings of heritage assets here. Setbacks to the west are based on understanding of topography and views out from the Church of St Leonard (Grade II* listed) • Substantial setbacks and removable of developable land to the south of Newton on Trent and to west of Thorney to reduce visual impact and likely significant effects on settings of heritage assets in these locations • Tree and native vegetation planting (c.3m in height and 2-3m in width) to	

		be included at sensitive edges of the Order Limits to manage potential visual (and to some extent experiential) likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, including potential for glint and glare, within the settings of heritage assets. This includes to east and west of Ragnall assets, to south of Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument, to west and south of Fledborough assets and to north-east of Skegby Manor (Grade II listed) • Existing tree and vegetation to be strengthened and managed to heights of c.3m and width of 2.3m • Control of lighting and noise during operational phase to minimise intrusion in the context of heritage assets • Beyond the cable routing (below ground) for the Grid Connection, the area north of High Marnham (National High Marnham Substation) is not proposed for any further development. This will reduce or avoid any effects to heritage assets in High Marnham and Low Marnham • The proposed eastern and western substation locations are at a distance from designated heritage assets to reduce intrusive visual presence in	

		their settings, including from sensitive views and key approaches • The cabling between the east and west sides of the Order Limits across the River Trent will be undertaken by trenchless crossing (Directional Drilling) which is considered to have a lesser impact on built heritage assets due to its lack of visual presence in their settings once operational. The option to route cabling via Fledborough Viaduct is no longer being pursued, therefore there would be no direct alterations to the Viaduct	
Secretary of State decision making - Impacts – Construction including traffic and transport noise and vibration	2.10.161 Once solar farms are in operation, traffic movements to and from the site are generally very light, in some instances as little as a few visits each month by a light commercial vehicle or car. Should there be a need to replace machine components, this may generate heavier commercial vehicle	As recognised by EN-3, the Transport and Access assessment concludes that once the Proposed Development is operational, the effect on the local road system is expected to be minimal and significantly lower than the worst case scenario effects assessed at construction stage. For the operational phase there will be no significant adverse impacts.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12, Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

	movements, but these are likely to be infrequent.		
	2.10.162 The Secretary of State is unlikely to give any more than limited weight to traffic and transport noise and vibration impacts from the operational phase of a project.		

One Earth Solar Farm

Table 3 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN5) – Table of Compliance

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) **Assessment and Technical Specific Information – Assessment of the specific impacts as set out in Part 2 of EN-5 (2023) is considered below.**			
Policy	**EN-5 Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Relevant Application Documents**
Part 2.3 Climate change adaptation and resilience	2.3.2 As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it has been designed to be resilient to: • flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change; • the effects of wind and storms on overhead lines;	The minimum height of the lowest part of the mounting structure will be 0.7m above ground level (AGL) outside areas of potential flooding and 1.7m AGL in areas of potential flood. The maximum height of the Solar PV modules will be 3.8m AGL (existing levels) to ensure enough freeboard and climate resilience. Solar PV mounting structures are designed to withstand the wind and snow loading and other environmental impacts anticipated to occur during the operational life of the Proposed Development. Additionally, solar PV modules are constructed and tested to withstand wind loading and temperature in some of the harshest environments.	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]** **Appendix 1: Site Selection Report Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	• higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; • earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and • coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively.	The ES takes account of the effects of climate change, and such effects have been considered the design of the Proposed Development and its construction and decommissioning. Sustainability is a key aspect of good design and has been a key consideration in the development of One Earth. The Applicant adopted 10 Design Principles to guide the design of the Proposed Development at the early stages of the project, including to build resilience in a changing climate. This is demonstrated through the Design Principle Climate 3 to "*craft a scheme that is resilient to the effects of climate change"*. One of the major risks posed to new developments regarding climate change is flood risk. In seeking to minimise the use of flood risk land near the grid connection point as much as possible, the Applicant has opted to site potentially vulnerable infrastructure (i.e., Substations and BESS Units) regions of the Site where flood risk is considered to be 'very low'. Works Plans no. 2 and 3 demonstrate the locations for the Substations and BESS Units. There	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**

		will be two onsite BESS Compounds located within the Proposed Development, one on the east and one on the west of the River Trent. There will be two onsite substations operating at 400kV/33kV located within the Proposed Development. One substation compound will be located on the west of the River Trent and one will be located to the east of the River Trent. This infrastructure will be situated on raised platforms above ground level, to further minimise the residual flood risk. The Flood Risk Assessment takes into consideration the flood risk associated with the Proposed Development and demonstrates how flood risk will be managed, taking climate change into consideration. As set out in the ES areas of land underneath the Solar PV modules and within the field margins are expected to be used for ecological mitigation and enhancements, which would include planting and establishment of grassland, which would help to reduce soil degradation and erosion during the operational (including maintenance)	

		phase, which could lead to potential benefits. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) sets out measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during construction works. This includes procedures to mitigate against erosion. There is potential that soil health could be enhanced over the assumed 60-year period of operation of the Proposed Development due to the implementation of the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) and due to the permanent cover of grassland which would reduce the impact of soil erosion. The Climate Change Resilience Assessment assesses the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The Climate Change Resilience Assessment, as noted in the Carbon and Climate Change assessment of the ES, considers the mitigation	

		measures secured as part of the Proposed Development when assessing the significance of climate-related risks to the Proposed Development. The assessment concludes that the potential risk to the Proposed Development would result in a beneficial significant effect in EIA terms. NPS EN-1 has also been considered during the development of the Proposed Development, with an assessment of the EN-1 contained within Table 1 of this Policy Compliance Document.	
	2.3.3 Section 4.10 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to the effects of climate change must be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Sections 5.8 in EN-1). Consideration should also be given to coastal change (see sections 5.6 in EN1)	The Climate Change Resilience Assessment assesses the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The Climate Change Resilience Assessment, as noted in the Carbon and Climate Change assessment of the ES, considers the mitigation measures secured as part of the Proposed Development when assessing the significance of climate-	**Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14, Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]**

		related risks to the Proposed Development. The assessment concludes that the potential risk to the Proposed Development would result in a beneficial significant effect in EIA terms. NPS EN-1 has also been considered during the development of the Proposed Development, with an assessment of the EN-1 contained within Table 1 of this Policy Compliance Document.	
Part 2.4 – Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure	2.4.1 The Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to have regard, in designating an NPS, and in determining applications for development consent to the desirability of good design. 2.4.2 Applicants should consider the criteria for good design set out in EN1 Section 4.7 at an early stage when developing projects.	The Design Approach Document (DAD) demonstrates how the Proposed Development would fulfil the requirement for good design. It explains how good design has been embedded into clear design framework, how this has provided a shared understanding of desired outcomes for the project and informed decision making. The DAD sets out the 10 design principles adopted in the development of the Proposed Development's design. The DAD's approach to good design has been informed by The Planning Inspectorate's Advice on Good Design (October 2024).	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		It explains the way in which the design has evolved since inception, the rationale for the proposals contained within the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application, and the mechanism by which good design would be secured post-consent. The ES outlines how landscape and visual amenity has been considered in the preliminary site section and design of the Proposed Development. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES details the embedded design mitigation developed for the Proposed Development, including the development of an Outline Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (oLEMP).	
	2.4.3 However, the Secretary of State should bear in mind that electricity networks infrastructure must in the first instance be safe and secure, and that the functional design constraints of safety and security may limit an applicant's ability to influence the aesthetic appearance of that infrastructure. 2.4.4 While the above principles should govern the design of an	Security is an important consideration during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Each area of the Site has been assessed against its function and requirements for security measures, focused on being safe and secure by design. This has led to mitigation measures being put in place such as fencing, security gates, CCTV and	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	electricity networks infrastructure application to the fullest possible extent – including in its avoidance and/or mitigation of potential adverse impacts (particularly those detailed in Sections 2.9 below) – the functional performance of the infrastructure in respect of security of supply and public and occupational safety must not thereby be threatened.	lighting sensors. Despite these measures being included, the Applicant has still sought to minimise LVIA impacts as much as possible through design measures, including: • Fencing associated with Work Area 1 will be wooden post and wire, limiting its visual prominence, other than around the PCSs which will be palisade fencing to provide greater security. In this instance, the fence will be a muted colour sensitive to its surroundings. Details associated with fencing are secured in the Outline Design Parameters. • No visible lighting will be utilised at the site perimeter fence. Infrared lighting will be provided by the CCTV/security system. • Lighting at Power Conversion Stations (PCSs) will be manually operated used only in fault or emergency situations. • Lighting at the project substation and BESS will be operated by passive infrared (PIR) calibrated to trigger on	**oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.11]** **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPROWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

		vehicle and personnel, or via manual operation. • Lighting would be installed at a maximum height and fitted with cowls to prevent light spillage. Details of proposed security provisions are provided in the ES, the oCEMP, Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP). An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) sets out the approach to be taken to manage the safety of the BESS in accordance with regulatory requirements, guidance, and good industry practice. The oBSMP will address aspects such as safe design, construction, operation, and disposal and the strategy for firefighting and emergency planning. The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan **(**oPROWMP**)** sets out details on how PRoW and permissive paths will be managed to ensure users safety.	

Part 2.8 Strategic Network Planning	2.8.4 The Secretary of State should also take into account that Transmission Owners (TOs) and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) are required under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to bring forward efficient and economical proposals in terms of network design.	The Applicant has secured a connection to the National Grid that allows the export and import of 740MW of electricity to the new National Grid High Marnham Substation. As set out within the Site Selection Report, this was the only available substation with capacity for a grid connection within the timeframes of the Proposed Development. The available grid connection to the existing High Marnham 275kV substation is an important factor in the site selection for the Proposed Development. During the initial site selection process, it was intended that the Proposed Development was to connect to the existing High Marnham 275kV substation. NESO is developing plans to upgrade the High Marnham substation and the Chesterfield to High Marnham 275kV circuit to bring offshore wind power generation to the Midlands and beyond. The Proposed Development is not the triggering party for that proposed upgrade, but would connect to the upgraded infrastructure. It therefore remains a key benefit of the Proposed Development within the context of the significant need for new	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Grid Connection Statement [EN010159/APP/7.2]**
	2.8.5 TOs and DNOs are also required to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and electricity distributors have a statutory duty to provide a connection where requested.		

		electricity networks infrastructure, that efficient use will be made of existing infrastructure or of infrastructure which is required to be upgraded for other reasons. The proximity to, and availability of capacity on the National Grid Network is key to the feasibility of solar farms and a driving factor for the chosen Order Limits. The electricity generated by the Proposed Development is to be exported via a 400kV connection between the onsite Substations and the National Grid High Marnham Substation via underground cables. The grid connection cables will comprise 400kV cables buried within a trench up to 3m BGL, and up to 10m wide. These will be buried in accordance with British Standard and National Grid boundary recommendations, which sets out recommended separation depths to minimise the risks of magnetic field effects on relevant receptors.	
Part 2.9 – Applicant Assessment	2.9.46 All overhead power lines produce EMFs. These tend to be highest directly under a line and decrease to the sides at increasing distance. Although putting cables	The Applicant does not anticipate any significant adverse EMF effects on any receptors. EMFs are assessed as a health determinant. The health assessment finds the effect of EMF to	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	underground eliminates the electric field, they still produce magnetic fields, which are highest directly above the cable. EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health, aquatic and terrestrial organisms. 2.9.47 The direct effects occur in terms of impacts on the central nervous system resulting in its normal functioning being affected. Indirect effects occur through electric charges building up on the surface of the body producing a microshock on contact with a grounded object, or vice versa, which, depending on the field strength and other exposure factors, can range from barely perceptible to being an annoyance or even painful.	be no greater than minor adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms. For onsite cabling requirements, Low Voltage Distribution Cabling between PV modules and the proposed inverters will typically be secured to the PV mounting structure, and will otherwise be buried underground to a maximum depth of 1.2 metres in a trench up to 5 metres wide. Combiner boxes may be required to rationalise cabling between PV strings and inverters. If required, these would be mounted on the mounting structures beneath the PV modules.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]**

One Earth Solar Farm

Table 4 National Planning Policy – Table of Compliance

National Planning Policy Framework			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Section 2: Achieving sustainable development. **Paragraph 8**	Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives): a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure; b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering	The Planning Statement sets out how the Proposed Development achieves the three objectives of sustainable development set out in paragraph 8. The Planning Statement and Statement of Need sets out the need for large-scale ground mounted solar which is established within national planning policy, specifically NPS EN-1 and EN-3.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.		
Section 6: Building a strong, competitive economy. **Paragraph 85**	Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. This is particularly important	The Socio-Economic assessment evaluates the impacts on the economic objectives of the NPPF. The assessment found that the Proposed Development will have a moderate and minor beneficial impact therefore is not significant in EIA terms on existing employees during the construction and decommissioning phases. The Site is mainly agricultural and there are no other businesses or land	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **ES Volume 3: Scoping opinion [EN010159/APP/6.23]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation, and in areas with high levels of productivity, which should be able to capitalise on their performance and potential.	allocated for employment use (within a development plan) within the Order Limits. Local business activity has been scoped out of the assessment, and this is confirmed within the Scoping Opinion.	
Supporting a prosperous rural economy Paragraph 88	Planning policies and decisions should enable: a) the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed, new buildings; b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses; c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and d) the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship	As set out in the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, the Proposed Development will provide a number of construction job opportunities over the anticipated two-year construction programme. At peak construction time, creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to impact any local services and community facilities as these are not situated within the Order Limits. However, the idea of Open Space will be impacted but through the creation of relevant mitigation and enhancement strategies this is expected to be limited.	

Paragraph 103	Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well- being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.	A number of existing PRoWs traverse the Order Limits as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the OLEMP, as set out in the DAD, which will be connected to the existing PRoWs. Permissive paths will be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The extent and location of the proposed permissive paths is as follows: • 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join the Trent Valley Way,	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

		enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with the existing PRoW network this would create a circular route for pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km. An oPRWMP has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure.	
Paragraph 105	Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.	The Transport assessment provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on Public Rights of Way within the Order Limits, or that will be impacted by the Proposed Development. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) has	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

		been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 12.2: Transport Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**
Section 9: Promoting sustainable transport. **Paragraph 109**	Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, using a vision-led approach to identify transport solutions that deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places. This should involve: a) making transport considerations an important part of early engagement with local communities; b) ensuring patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places; c) understanding and addressing the potential impacts of development on transport networks; d) realising opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage – for example in relation to the	The Transport Assessment provides an assessment on traffic and transportation. The Assessment concludes that construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning impacts will have no more than negligible residual effects which is not significant in EIA terms. To achieve this, the Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) which is provided in support of the DCO application. The oCTMP includes outline travel plan measures, which would be developed further in consultation with the relevant highway authorities prior to the commencement of the Proposed Development. These measures include: • Provision of public transport information to access where staff will be resident so there is	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 12.2: Transport Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated; e) identifying and pursuing opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use; and f) identifying, assessing and taking into account the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains.	no need for non-local staff to bring cars to the wider area; • Mini-bus service for transport of Site staff from Lincoln, Worksop and Newark; • Promotion of a car sharing scheme; and • Car parking management. The production of a final Construction Traffic Management Plan is secured by Requirement 14 of the draft DCO. The Transport Assessment has been produced in accordance with current transport guidance. The assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not have a severe impact on the operation and safety of the surrounding highway network. The assessment proposes mitigations including: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of "Construction Access Ahead" and "Slow Ahead" signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards,	
Paragraph 115	In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that: a) sustainable transport modes are prioritised taking account of the vision for the site, the type of development and its location; b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; c) the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current		

	national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code48; and d) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree through a vision-led approach.	depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; • A 'Wear & Tear' agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions.	
Paragraph 116	Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network, following mitigation, would be severe, taking into account all reasonable future scenarios.		
Paragraph 118	All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a vision-led transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed and monitored.		

Section 11: Making effective use of land **Paragraph 125(a)**	Planning policies and decisions should 'encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through […] taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation […].'	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity Assessment of the ES sets out the proposed mitigation measures embedded in the Proposed Development including the creation of approximately 1,240 hectares (ha) of species-rich grassland to compensate for the habitat lost due to placement of Solar PV modules and improve habitat and SuDS. Habitat creation and enhancements are documented within and secured by the oLEMP.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity, [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
Section 12: Achieving well-designed and beautiful places. **Paragraph 131**	The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective	As detailed in the Design Approach Document and section 5 of the Planning Statement, the location and design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection process that was environmental, design, and planning led to both avoid and minimise impacts as early as possible. Following this, the Proposed Development has undergone an	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Policy Compliance Document [EN010159/APP/5.6]**

	engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.	iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient Proposed Development design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using solar PV arrays, whilst also being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. The Applicant's site selection process demonstrates that land was identified for the Site within an area of good solar irradiance and relatively low and flat topography landscape to maximise energy generation. Engagement with key stakeholders, including the host authorities, near neighbours and community organisations has helped to inform the design of the Proposed Development and the Applicant's approach to assessing environmental effects. A summary of engagement by stakeholder type, and how engagement has influenced the Proposed Development is provided in the Consultation Report. The Proposed Development has considered local planning policies, including design policies, as	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]**
Paragraph 137	Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should, where applicable, provide sufficient information to demonstrate how their proposals will meet the design expectations set out in local and national policy, and should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.		
Paragraph 139	Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and		

	codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to: a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings	demonstrated within policy tables 5 to 9 of the Policy Compliance Document. Alongside this, the PINS Advice on Good Design (October 2024) has been considered throughout the DCO Application assessments.	
Section 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. **Paragraph 161**	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	The Proposed Development will make a substantial contribution to the achievement of UK decarbonisation targets through aiding in the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by the UK energy sector. The ES presents a GHG assessment over the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The GHG impact during construction, operation and decommissioning is assessed as having a negligible /	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan**

	carbon energy and associated infrastructure.	beneficial effect as it will play a part in achieving the rate of transition required by nationally set policy commitments and supporting the trajectory towards net zero. The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and Outline LEMP have been prepared to accompany the DCO Application. These identify a range of mitigation measures that have been embedded into the Proposed Development to limit the GHG impact.	**(oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]**
Paragraph 164	New development should be planned for in ways that: a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through incorporating green infrastructure and sustainable drainage systems; and b) help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings in plans should reflect the Government's policy for national technical standards.		
Paragraph 168	When determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon energy developments	The Planning Statement and the Statement of Need set out how the Proposed Development would contribute substantially to the need to	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

	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; b) recognise that small-scale and community-led projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; c) in the case of applications for the repowering and life-extension of existing renewable sites, give significant weight to the benefits of utilising an established site.	supply low carbon energy, in order for the government to meet its objectives and commitments as mentioned above. By generating low carbon electricity at a low marginal cost, large-scale solar power reduces the energy generated by more expensive and more carbon intensive forms of generation. The Proposed Development will therefore help to decarbonise the electricity system and lowers the market price of electricity. The urgent need for the Proposed Development is also established by the NPS, in particular EN-1, paragraphs 3.2.6 – 3.2.8.	**Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**
Paragraph 170	Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment confirms that flood risk during construction and at decommissioning will be managed through the CEMP and DEMP, which will be secured by the DCO and required to be in accordance with the oCEMP, and the oDEMP. The Proposed Development has employed good design including avoidance measures in order to	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]**
Paragraph 181	When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities		

	should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that: a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location; b) the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient such that, in the event of a flood, it could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment; c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate; d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate,	minimise the risk of impacts on the water environment. The iterative design process has sought to limit the potential flood risk, including areas of Flood Zone 3b. Design Principles within the Design Approach Document have been applied throughout the design development. In response to, the principles Climate 3, craft a scheme that is resilient to the effects of climate change, flood modelling was undertaken to allow for 39% increase to allow for climate change. The extent of land that fell within flood zone 3b following this modelling was excluded from the potential solar area. This was mostly located in the corridor east of the River Trent. The height of PV Panels was staggered into three categories across the Order Limits, allowing for a 300mm freeboard in the event of a flood whilst being cognisant of visual impact. Modules will be raised to the maximum height of 1.8 m above ground level where this is necessary (i.e. where flood depths reach and or exceed 1.5 m). In locations where flood depths are lower, the modules will be raised accordingly to a lower height above ground level and one which is optimal bearing in mind other design constraints. The Proposed	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy Report [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

	as part of an agreed emergency plan.	Development incorporates an oCEMP which sets out the best practice measures to be followed to minimise the environmental impacts of the construction works. A high-level summary of items that are covered in the oCEMP are: • Any potential changes to the existing fluvial or surface water flow routes will be addressed within the oCEMP which will outline any temporary measures that would be put in place to control flood flows (such as preventing flows from entering open excavations). No machinery or spoil/materials would be stored within the identified flood extent, to ensure no impact to contractors, or deviation in flow routes due to the proposed works. • Although there will be some changes to the drainage regime as a result of construction and decommissioning activities within the Order Limits (i.e. due to storage areas, facilities, and temporary changes in ground level), these will be addressed within the oCEMP.	

		The oCEMP will outline any temporary measures that will be put in place to control surface water runoff (such as through temporary attenuation features) and reduce the risk of polluted surface water from discharging to ground or entering the ordinary watercourses within the Order Limits (such as through the use of environmental capture techniques and silt traps). Opportunities for environmental enhancement in relation to water are detailed in the Design Approach Document and the Outline Design Parameters, particularly with the relatively few panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3b. A requirement of the DCO will ensure that the detailed design is substantially in accordance with the Outline Design Parameters. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment evaluates flood risk and drainage in the context of EIA. This concludes that with the proposed mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the detailed CEMP, OEMP and DEMP, the impact of the Proposed Development is no	

		greater than minor adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms. The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy Report demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through the DCO. The FRA provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and how the requirements of the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test are satisfied.	
Paragraph 182	Applications which could affect drainage on or around the site should incorporate sustainable drainage systems to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff, and which are proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal. These should provide multifunctional benefits	The proposed surface water drainage design set out in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Outline Drainage Strategy demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Proposed Development and will be maintained by the Applicant, to be	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	wherever possible, through facilitating improvements in water quality and biodiversity, as well as benefits for amenity. Sustainable drainage systems provided as part of proposals for major development should: a) take account of advice from the Lead Local Flood Authority; b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards; and c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development.	confirmed and secured through the DCO.	
Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. **Paragraph 187**	Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services –	The Biodiversity assessment has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by competent ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised. The assessment sets out the expected likely effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**

	including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate; d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs; e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and	receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect on biodiversity which is greater than minor adverse, not significant in EIA terms. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Land and Soils assessment and the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development, the Proposed Development's embedded mitigation measures, and principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	

	f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.		
Paragraph 188	Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.	The LVIA concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within the Order Limits. The Order limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. The Proposed Development presents a new type of built form within a predominantly rural landscape. The form of development, while temporary, has the potential to alter the way in which the landscape is experienced and viewed. The LVIA considers the extent and significance of the potential impacts on key receptors and concludes that, with mitigation, significant impacts are expected to occur across all stages of the development albeit not simultaneously nor at all receptors. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]**

		net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths outweigh these impacts , and that the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts. The nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.	
Paragraph 189	Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.	The Landscape Visual Impact Assessment of the DCO submission concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within the Order Limits. The Order limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. While there are no statutory designations in the Order Limits, the closest statutory designations to the Site include the following: • Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located approximately 12km from the nearest part of the boundary to the west of the Site and is designated for its presence of old acidophilous oak woods	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]**

		and is notable for its rich invertebrate fauna, particularly spiders, and for a diverse fungal assemblage; • Besthorpe Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is located approximately 5km to the southeast from the nearest part of the Site boundary, and is designated for the mosaic of dry acid grassland and dune grassland; • Besthorpe Meadows SSSI is located approximately 5km south from the nearest part of the Site boundary, and is designated for the wet grassland and associated wetland habitats; and • Spalford Warren SSSI is approximately 4km south from the nearest part of the Site boundary and is designated for the presence of grass heath.	
Habitats and Biodiversity	When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles	The Biodiversity assessment has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]**

Paragraph 193	a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused; b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly	importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by experienced ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated where possible in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised. The assessment sets out the expected likely effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect on biodiversity which is greater than minor adverse, not significant in EIA terms. The Proposed Development is not within a SSSI nor would it have an adverse effect on a SSSI. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. The submitted Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.	to achieving a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	
Paragraph 196	Planning policies and decisions should ensure that: a) a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation);	A Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) has been completed for the Order Limits. Where land contamination has been identified, the land and soils assessment has evaluated the significant effects where they are likely to occur, the assessment concludes that there no greater than slight adverse, as a result of contamination, which is not significant in EIA terms. A requirement has been included in the draft DCO to secure site investigation and any remediation measures near High Marnham power station as appropriate.	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.5 Preliminary Risk Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	b) after remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and c) adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is available to inform these assessments.		**Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**
Paragraph 198	Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should: a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their	The Noise assessment considered the likely significant noise and vibration effects of the Proposed Development on sensitive receptors near the Proposed Development. The ES chapter details the mitigation measures embedded into the design and concludes that there are several minor adverse effects anticipated post-implementation of embedded mitigation measures. These minor adverse effects are deemed as not significant in EIA terms, and therefore the Proposed Development is not anticipated to result in significant residual adverse noise and vibration effects on sensitive receptors. The Description of the Proposed Development outlines the security measures incorporated in the design of the Proposed Development design. Efforts have been made to reduce the impact of security fencing and	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oOEMP [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	recreational and amenity value for this reason; and c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.	lighting, as set out in detail in the oLEMP, oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP. Final versions of these documents will be produced and secured as part of the DCO.	
Paragraph 199	Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.	The Air Quality Assessment considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on local air quality. The ES Chapter provides an overview of the existing environment for the Proposed Development. The nearest AQMA to the Site was declared in 2001 for exceedances of the annual and 1-hour mean NO2 objectives and is located in Lincoln city centre, approximately 11.1 km to the east of the eastern Site boundary. The AQMA is outside of the study area and our Project is therefore not expected to affect air quality within the AQMA. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact leads to a residual or cumulative effect which is greater than not significant in EIA terms, where mitigation measures are implemented.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

		The Air Quality assessment evaluates the impact of road traffic exhaust emissions on human receptors and concludes that the impact is not significant in EIA terms.	
Section 16: Proposals affecting heritage assets **Paragraph 207**	In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage assessments provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5.4 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES. The Cultural Heritage provides an assessment of the likely effects and residual effects, respectively, of the Proposed Development on cultural	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**
Paragraph 206	Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or		

	destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of: a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.	heritage. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from noise, vibration and dust, the majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets.	
Paragraph 216	The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.		

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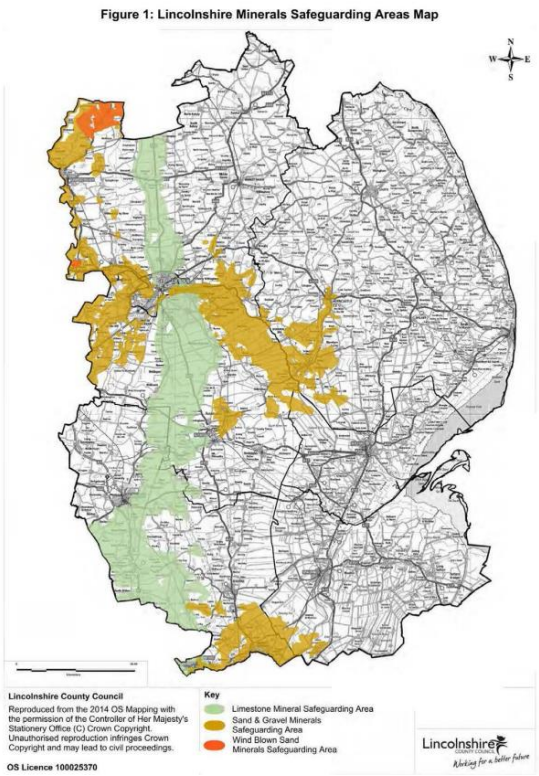
Table 5 Lincolnshire County Council – Table of Compliance

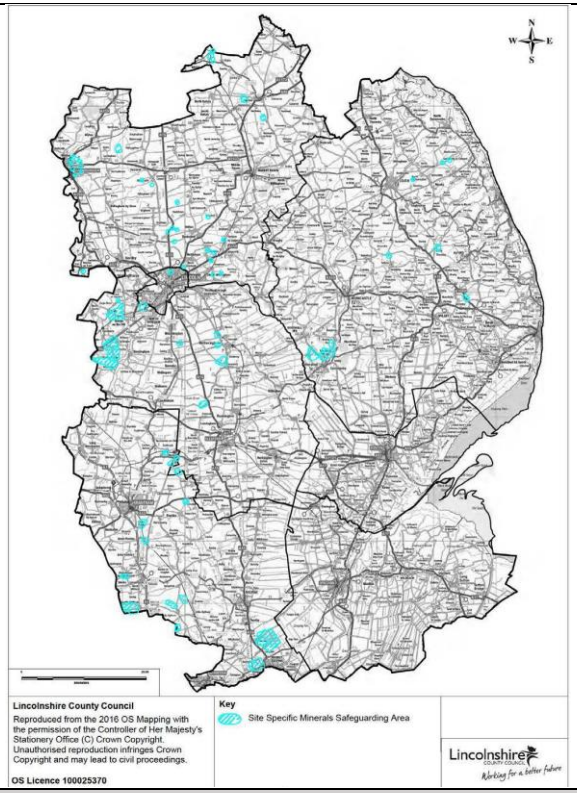
The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Plan (Core Strategy and Development Management Policies adopted 2016 and Site Locations adopted 2017)			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Policy M11: Safeguarding of Mineral Resources	Sand and gravel, blown sand and limestone resources that are considered to be of current or future economic importance within the Minerals Safeguarding Areas shown on Figure 1, together with potential sources of dimension stone for use in building and restoration projects connected to Lincoln Cathedral/Lincoln Castle within the areas shown on Figure 2, and chalk resources included on Figure 3, will be protected from permanent sterilisation by other development. Applications for non-minerals development in a minerals safeguarding area must be accompanied by a Minerals Assessment. Planning permission will be granted for development within a Minerals Safeguarding Area provided that it would not sterilise mineral resources within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas or prevent future minerals extraction on neighbouring	A Mineral Safeguarding Assessment has been submitted with the Application, demonstrating how impacts to Mineral Safeguarding Areas have been addressed. The Proposed Development has a lifespan of 60 years and will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Substation foundations. Permissive paths proposed as part of the Proposed Development will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

	land. Where this is not the case, planning permission will be granted when: • the applicant can demonstrate to the Mineral Planning Authority that prior extraction of the mineral would be impracticable, and that the development could not reasonably be sited elsewhere; or • the incompatible development is of a temporary nature and can be completed and the site restored to a condition that does not inhibit extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed; or • there is an overriding need for the development to meet local economic needs, and the development could not reasonably be sited elsewhere; or • the development is of a minor nature which would have a negligible impact with respect to sterilising the mineral resource; or • the development is, or forms part of, an allocation in the Development Plan. <u>Exemptions</u> This policy does not apply to the following: • Applications for householder development	Following decommissioning, the landowner has the right to use their land as existing, and any minerals would not be permanently sterilised and would be available to exploit if required at a future date. The minerals within the Site will not be permanently sterilised, and post-decommissioning, the land could be worked for minerals. The Statement of Need sets out a detailed case for why the Proposed Development is urgently required, concluding that it will be a critical part of the UK's portfolio of renewable energy generation, and required to decarbonise its energy supply quickly and provide secure and affordable energy supplies. The DCO Application demonstrates an overwhelming need for this Proposed Development and that the development could not reasonably be sited elsewhere, in line with the requirements of Policy M11 of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. Therefore, the impact on minerals will only be temporary as the Proposed Development is	

	• Applications for alterations to existing buildings and for change of use of existing development, unless intensifying activity on site • Applications for Advertisement Consent • Applications for Listed Building Consent • Applications for reserved matters including subsequent applications after outline consent has been granted • Prior Notifications (telecommunications; forestry; agriculture; demolition) • Certificates of Lawfulness of Existing or Proposed Use or Development (CLEUDs and CLOPUDs) • Applications for Tree Works	reversable in nature and compliant with policy M11. Overall, the magnitude of impact on mineral resources is assessed to be minor, as there is a temporary and reversible lack of access to the resources during the lifespan of the Proposed Development.	

			
Policy M12: Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	Mineral sites (excluding dormant sites) and associated infrastructure that supports the supply of minerals in the County will be safeguarded against development that would unnecessarily sterilise the sites and infrastructure or prejudice or jeopardise their use by creating incompatible land uses nearby. <u>Exemptions</u> This policy does not apply to the following:	A Mineral Safeguarding Assessment has been submitted with the Application, demonstrating how impacts to Mineral Safeguarding Areas have been addressed. The Proposed Development has a lifespan of 60 years and will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life; therefore, the impact on minerals will only be	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	• Applications for householder development • Applications for alterations to existing buildings and for change of use of existing development, unless Intensifying activity on site • Applications for Advertisement Consent • Applications for Listed Building Consent • Applications for reserved matters including subsequent applications after outline consent has been granted • Prior Notifications (telecommunications; forestry; agriculture; demolition) • Certificates of Lawfulness of Existing or Proposed Use or Development (CLEUDs and CLOPUDs) • Applications for Tree Works	temporary. The magnitude of impact on mineral resources is assessed to be minor, as there is a temporary and reversible lack of access to the resources during the lifespan of the Proposed Development. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations. Permissive paths proposed as part of the Proposed Development will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners. Following decommissioning, the landowner has the right to use their land as they currently do, and any minerals would not be permanently sterilised and would be available to exploit if required at a future date. The minerals within the Site will not be permanently sterilised, and post-decommissioning, the land could be worked for minerals. The Proposed Development is reservable by nature, and therefore	**oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

		there is not considered to be any conflict with the M12 mineral safeguarding policy.	
Local Transport Plan 5			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Policy EC3	Create town centres, villages and rural areas that are accessible but not vehicle dominated.	The Transport and Access assessment evaluates the impacts to non-motorised users. The Proposed Development's design incorporates environmental measures to reduce adverse effects and minimise impacts on non-motorised users. The assessment finds that the effect of	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

		the Proposed Development on the non-motorised users is expected to be negligible. Therefore, the impact will not be significant in EIA terms.	
Policy EC5	We will support a range of transport improvements that underpin and priority sectors to develop and grow. … **For energy** • Increase and improve the infrastructure for alternative energy sources. • Improve access to the renewable energy growth points along the Humber and along the east coast. • Drive a shift from fossil fuels for both passenger and freight movements	The Proposed Development includes a range of highways works (Works Area No.7) including the creation of permanent accesses from the public highway. This includes the creation of visibility splays, works to alter highway layouts temporarily, and also offsite works for the facilitation of movement of any abnormal loads. Site access and routing strategies have been discussed and agreed in consultation with the Highways Authorities. This is set out in greater detail within the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.10]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
Policy GREEN4	We will use the local and strategic development management processes to ensure that development is planned, delivered and managed to reduce the need to travel and support the delivery of sustainable transport modes. We will support the provision of improved	The Transport and Access assessment of the ES evaluates the impacts to non-motorised users. The Proposed Development's design incorporates environmental measures to reduce adverse effects and minimise	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and**

	walking, cycling and public transport services and facilities as part of new developments and actively encourage innovative solutions such as car clubs, mobility hubs, active travel plans and other sustainable solutions as opposed to single occupancy car use.	impacts on non-motorised users. The assessment finds that the effect of the Proposed Development on the non-motorised users is expected to be negligible therefore the impact will not be significant in EIA terms. The Proposed Development design incorporates environmental measures to reduce adverse effects and minimise impacts. These measures will be secured by the oCTMP, the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP). These are submitted alongside the DCO with requirements securing the submission and approval of a detailed CTMP, CEMP and DEMP at the relevant phase of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), as set out in the Design Approach Document. Permissive paths will	**Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

		be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The extent and location of the paths is as follows: • 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join the Trent Valley Way, enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with	

		the existing PRoW network this would create a circular route for pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km.	
Policy ENV1	We will put in place procedures during construction, surfacing and maintenance works that will minimise and mitigate their environmental impacts.	The Proposed Development design incorporates environmental measures to reduce adverse effects and minimise impacts of construction on traffic and transport. These measures will be secured by the oCTMP, oCEMP, and oDEMP. These are submitted alongside the DCO with requirements securing the submission and approval of a detailed CTMP, CEMP and DEMP at the relevant phase of the Proposed.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oDEMP [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
Policy ENV5	We will support, promote and provide sustainable access to our sensitive built and natural environments.	The Transport and Access assessment of the ES provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on public rights of way within the Site, or that will be impacted by the Proposed Development. There are Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that traverse through the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]** **Outline Public Rights of Way Management**

		Order Limits. The affected PRoWs include the following: • Lincolnshire CC PRoW 7023; • Lincolnshire CC PRoW 4046; • Lincolnshire CC PRoW 4048; • Lincolnshire CC PRoW 4045; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW North Clifton FP3; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW North Clifton FP1; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW North Clifton FP2; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW North Clifton Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) BOAT12; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW North Clifton BW10; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW Thorney FP6; • Nottinghamshire CC PRoW Ragnall FP4; and	**Plan (oPROWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

		• Nottinghamshire CC PRoW Ragnall BW3. An illustrative layout plan, submitted with the application, illustrates the footpath improvements and permissive path proposals. The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan **(**oPROWMP**)** sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoWs affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible. Users of the PRoWs will be separated from construction traffic using barriers (where permitted and appropriate) which will ensure that safe access to the Order Limits for recreational purposes will be maintained. The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the oLEMP, as set out in the Design Approach Document. Permissive paths will be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and	

		be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The extent and location of the paths is as follows: • 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join the Trent Valley Way, enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with the existing PRoW network this would create a circular	

		route for pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km.	

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Table 6 Nottinghamshire County Council – Table of Compliance

Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (Adopted March 2021)			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Policy SP7: Minerals Safeguarding, Consultation Areas and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	**Minerals Safeguarding Areas** 1. Locally and nationally important mineral resources, permitted reserves, allocated sites and associated minerals infrastructure will be safeguarded from needless sterilisation by non-minerals development through the designation of minerals safeguarding areas as identified on the Policies Map. 2. Non-minerals development within minerals safeguarding areas will have to demonstrate that mineral resources will not be needlessly sterilised as a result of the development and that the development would not pose a serious hindrance to future extraction in the vicinity. 3. Where this cannot be demonstrated, and where there is a clear and demonstrable need for the non-minerals development, prior extraction	A Mineral Safeguarding Assessment has been submitted with the Application, demonstrating how impacts to Mineral Safeguarding Areas have been addressed. The Proposed Development has a lifespan of 60 years and will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Substations foundations. Permissive paths proposed as part of the Proposed Development will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **Mineral Safeguarding Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.3]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]**

	will be sought where practicable. **Minerals Consultation Areas** 4. District and Borough Councils within Nottinghamshire will consult the County Council as Minerals Planning Authority on proposals for non-minerals development within the designated Mineral Consultation Area, as shown on the Policies Map. 5. The Minerals Planning Authority will resist inappropriate non-minerals development within the Minerals Consultation Areas. 6. Where non-minerals development would cause an unacceptable impact on the development, operation or restoration of a permitted minerals site, mineral allocation, or associated minerals infrastructure, suitable mitigation should be provided by the applicant prior to the completion of the development.	Following decommissioning, the landowner has the right to use their land as existing, and any minerals would not be permanently sterilised and would be available to exploit if required at a future date. The minerals within the Site will not be permanently sterilised, and post-decommissioning, the land could be worked for minerals. The Proposed Development is reversable by nature, and therefore there is not considered to be any conflict with Policy SP7. The Statement of Need sets out a detailed case for why the Proposed Development is urgently required, concluding that it will be a critical part of the UK's portfolio of renewable energy generation, and required to decarbonise its energy supply quickly and provide secure and affordable energy supplies. The DCO Application demonstrates an overwhelming need for this Proposed Development and that the development could not reasonably be sited elsewhere.	

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Table 7 Bassetlaw District Council – Table of Compliance

Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 (Adopted May 2024)			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Policy ST8: Rural Economic Growth and Economic Growth outside Employment Areas	1. Proposals for the growth of businesses in the rural area and outside employment sites/allocations will be supported where all of the following are met: a) there is a proven need for the development in terms of a business opportunity or operational requirements; b) in the case of existing sites, the proposed development cannot physically and reasonably be accommodated within the existing curtilage; c) the scale of development is appropriate in the proposed location; d) where appropriate the proposal makes efficient use of previously developed land and re-use of existing buildings; d) the development will have no adverse impact on the character of the location, the surrounding townscape or	The Socio-Economic chapter of the ES evaluates the impacts on the economic objectives of the Bassetlaw Local Plan. The assessment found that the Proposed Development will have a moderate and minor beneficial impact therefore significant in EIA terms on existing employees during both the construction and decommissioning phases. This includes contributing to a skilled, diverse workforce and strengthening the existing manufacturing base which will be secured via the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan. The production of a detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Strategy is secured via Requirement 16 of the Draft DCO As set out in the submitted Outline Skills, Supply Chain	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	landscape, the form and character of the settlement or upon biodiversity and heritage assets; e) safe access can be achieved by vehicles, and where appropriate sustainable transport and public transport, and that there will be no unacceptable impact on the safe operation of the highway network; and, f) the development generates no adverse impact on residential amenity in accordance with Policy 46. 2. Proposals that support the diversification of the rural economy, including educational facilities to provide training for rural and heritage professions will be supported subject to the provisions of this policy.	and Employment Strategy, the Proposed Development will provide construction job opportunities over the anticipated two-year construction programme. At peak construction time, creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition to net zero.	
Policy ST33: Design Quality	1. All development must be of a high quality design that: a) has a clear function, character and identity based upon a robust understanding of local context, constraints and distinctiveness, while reflecting the principles of relevant national and local design guidance, including Sport England's Active Design	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

	principles 3, the Bassetlaw Design Quality SPD and the Bassetlaw Design Code; b) uses land efficiently and ensures density reflects local character: i. within the Main Towns of Worksop, Retford and Harworth & Bircotes the density on sites in and adjoining town centres and transport hubs should be maximised, whilst densities elsewhere within the development boundary should be a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare (net) unless it would result in an adverse effect on the character of the area, including the setting of a heritage asset and/or the integrity of a natural asset; ii. within the Large Rural Settlements and Small Rural Settlements densities should reflect the character of the settlement and local housing needs, unless otherwise promoted through a neighbourhood plan;	affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. As set out in the Planning Statement, the location and design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection process that was both environmental and planning led to avoid and minimise impacts as early as possible. Following this, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using solar PV arrays, whilst also being sensitive to the local context	

	iii. HS1: Peaks Hill Farm and HS13: Ordsall South will be expected to deliver a range of housing densities across each site informed by the site's masterplan framework, design code and density plan; c) where appropriate, positively preserves, enhances and integrates landscape and townscape features, and natural and heritage assets; d) respects the local context and complements the landform, layout, building orientation, scale, height, massing, type, materials, details and landscaping of the surrounding areas; e) maximises opportunities to create mixed-use developments which support the function and vitality of the area in which they are located; f) for housing, provides a high standard of accommodation, and does not differentiate between the design quality of market and affordable housing; g) integrates well with surrounding streets and open spaces, provides a clear and legible	and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable, as set out in the Design Approach Document. The Proposed Development delivers good design, being in accordance with the design policies in the context of efficiently delivering large scale renewable energy infrastructure where it is recognised in national policy that the extent to which a scheme can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area is limited. The Proposed Development design does include embedded	

	hierarchy of streets, routes and spaces that prioritises safe, easy and direct pedestrian, cycle and public transport movement, while ensuring the safe, convenient movement of all highway users; h) ensures that all the community, including those with disabilities, can easily and safely access buildings and spaces and move around; i) creates safe communities and reduces the likelihood of crime and the fear of crime through maximising natural surveillance and where appropriate use of active ground floor frontages and lighting; j) incorporates and/or links to a well-defined green/blue infrastructure network of wellmanaged and maintained public and open spaces; k) secures a high quality public realm that is attractive and aesthetically pleasing, that clearly distinguishes between public and private spaces; l) enhances the value of the District's Nature Recovery Network such as through the use of street trees; m)incorporates high quality landscape design	additional measures that will deliver biodiversity enhancements; improved connectivity and enhancement of PRoWs through the provision of new permissive paths and proposes a landscape strategy which is sensitive to its surroundings, by reducing the Proposed Development's impact on the landscape and providing opportunities for screening to protect residential amenities.	

	and maximises opportunities for greening, particularly where a development site adjoins the countryside; m) is sustainable in design and construction, and utilises modern construction methods and durable materials, where practicable; n) minimises energy consumption by maximising opportunities for passive solar energy and integrating renewable and low carbon technologies where practicable in accordance with Policy ST49; o) mitigates flood risk and water run-off utilising the drainage hierarchy in accordance with Policy ST50, and integrates water management appropriate to place; p) ensures an appropriate level of well-integrated, convenient and visually attractive areas for motor vehicle and cycle parking informed by the most up-to-date Nottinghamshire Parking Standards unless it can be demonstrated that it is not viable or feasible to do so; and provides for external storage including waste disposal;		

	2. Where neighbouring or functionally linked sites come forward together, applicants will be expected to work together to ensure that proposals are, or can be, properly integrated.		
Policy ST37: Green and Blue Infrastructure	1. The connectivity, quality, multifunctionality, biodiversity and amenity value of the green and blue infrastructure network will be enhanced, extended and managed through: a) protecting and enhancing the landscape character and the distinctiveness of Green Gaps, Registered Parks and Gardens and ornamental parklands, registered Common Lands and Village Greens, and Local Green Spaces; b) protecting, enhancing and restoring watercourses, ponds, lakes and water dependent habitats where appropriate; c) providing for biodiversity net gain, including reconnecting vulnerable and priority habitats (see policy ST38); d) protecting and enhancing ancient and mature woodland and hedgerows, and providing for tree planting to secure recreational benefits and/or to	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within the Order Limits or immediately adjacent. In addition, the Order Limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. The Proposed Development presents a new type of built form within a predominantly rural landscape. The form of development, while temporary, has the potential to alter the way in which the landscape is experienced and viewed. The LVIA considers the extent and significance of the potential impacts on key receptors and concludes that, with mitigation, significant impacts are	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volumes 1 and 2: Appendices 6.2-6.11 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:** • **6.2 Ecology Desk Study** • **6.3 Extended Habitat Survey**

	aid climate change mitigation; e) making appropriate provision for new green/blue infrastructure in new development including open space, allotments, playing fields and outdoor sports facilities, and natural and semi natural greenspace and bluespace; and/or incorporating and where practicable facilitating the improvement of existing provision through the design of development; d) applying climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through new development, including flood risk and watercourse management; e) linking walking and cycling routes, bridleways and public rights of way to and through development, where appropriate; 2. The function, setting, and biodiversity, landscape, access and recreational value of the following main and minor green corridors, as identified on the Policies Map will be protected and enhanced: a) Main green corridors i. Chesterfield Canal ii. River Idle iii. River Ryton	expected to occur across all stages of the development albeit not simultaneously nor at all receptors. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive paths outweigh these impacts. As a whole, the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts, and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development. The LVIA includes an evaluation of the effect of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on landscape. The environmental measures included in the LVIA, and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP)	• **6.4 Bat Baseline** • **6.5 Breeding Bird Baseline** • **6.6 Great-Crested Newt Baseline** • **6.7 Badger Baseline** • **6.8 Wintering Bird Baseline** • **6.9 Reptile Baseline** • **6.10 Scientific Names of Species** • **6.11, Biodiversity Net Gain** **ES Volume 3, Figures Supporting Volumes 1 and 2, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]** **Outline Construction Environmental (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]**

	iv. River Trent b) Minor green corridors i. Trent Valley Way ii. Cuckoo Way iii. National Cycle Route 6 iv. River Maun v. Robin Hood Way vi. River Meden vii. River Poulter c) Major development proposals that lie wholly or partly within the minimum buffer zone of a main green corridor (30m measured from each side of the centre point), or a minor green corridor (15m measured from each side of the centre point) should be supported by an Ecological Impact Assessment and/or landscape statement proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal. This should confirm the extent of the buffer zone in that location and demonstrate how the design and layout of the scheme will positively respond to its green/blue infrastructure location and minimise the environmental effects upon the green corridor. 3. All new green and blue infrastructure should be accompanied by appropriate	includes new habitats across the Order Limits comprising: • Over 9km of species-rich native hedgerow with trees (including existing hedgerow enhancement); • Approximately 6km of species-rich native hedgerow; • Approximately 1,240ha of species-rich grassland accounted for across the Order Limits in hedgerow and field margins, riparian zones, wildflower meadows and tussock mixes beneath solar panels; • 4.2ha of woodland and native tree belts; • Individual trees; and • Agricultural field margins. The Biodiversity assessment evaluates the Proposed Development's impact on important ecological features and is supported by extensive	**Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	management and maintenance arrangements.	survey work to confirm the ecological habitats and species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity assessment identifies ecological risks from developing the Proposed Development. It has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by competent ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised, as set out in the Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It	

		concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during either the construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites over the relevant phases of the Proposed Development.	

		The Proposed Development will provide a minimum of 10% BNG, as secured within oLEMP. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to biodiversity, which is secured by both the oLEMP and oCEMP. The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment confirms that flood risk during	

		the construction phase and at decommissioning will be managed through the CEMP and DEMP, which will be secured by the DCO and required to be in accordance with the oCEMP, and the oDEMP. Opportunities for environmental enhancement in relation to water are detailed in the Design Approach Document, particularly with the relatively few panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3b. There are a number of flood defences within the Order Limits; this includes embankments between Fledborough and Dunham-on-Trent and at South Clifton and North Clifton. As such, the areas within Flood Zones 2 and 3 would experience a reduction in flood risk due to the presence of the existing flood defences. A number of existing PRoWs traverse the Order Limits as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments.	

		The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the OLEMP. Permissive paths will be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. They will become an extension to the existing PRoWs. The extent and location of the permissive paths are as follows: • 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join the Trent Valley Way,	

		enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with the existing PRoW network this would create a circular route for pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative	

		routing where the former is not possible. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area.	
Policy ST38: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	1. The Council will seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of Bassetlaw, including: **International Sites** a) a proposal that may impact on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site and/or the Sherwood Forest ppSPA will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects on their integrity, unless there are no alternative solutions and it is justified by an 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' assessment under the Habitats Regulations; b) any scheme within the 5km buffer zone of the Sherwood	The Biodiversity Assessment evaluates the Proposed Development's impact on important ecological features and is supported by extensive survey work to confirm the ecological habitats and species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity Assessment identifies ecological risks from developing the Proposed Development. It has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by competent ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendices 6.2-6.11 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:** • **6.2 Ecology Desk Study** • **6.3 Extended Habitat Survey** • **6.4 Bat Baseline** • **6.5 Breeding Bird Baseline**

	Forest ppSPA will require a project level 'shadow level' Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure any significant adverse effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA are identified and appropriately mitigated; **National Designations** c) a proposal (either individually or in combination with other developments) that may either directly or indirectly adversely impact a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) or ancient woodland and their buffer zones will be refused, other than in wholly exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh any harm to the special interest features of the asset. In such circumstances measures should be identified through an Ecological Impact Assessment to mitigate the adverse effects resulting from the development. d) proposals of 50 dwellings or more (which includes piecemeal	mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised, as set out in the Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES. There are no statutory sites designated at the international level within the 10km study area. However, the Humber Estuary Ramsar site and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is directly linked to the Proposed Development through the River Trent. Although the closest point of the Order Limits to the Humber Estuary Ramsar site / SAC is over 30km distant, migratory fish, namely river lamprey and sea lamprey, that are designated features of the Humber Estuary Ramsar site / SAC may use the freshwater habitats within or close to the Proposed Development as functionally linked land. There is one site of national nature conservation importance within the 2km study area: Spalford Warren SSSI lies 2.1 km south and comprises the best remaining example of	• **6.6 Great-Crested Newt Baseline** • **6.7 Badger Baseline** • **6.8 Wintering Bird Baseline** • **6.9 Reptile Baseline** • **6.10 Scientific Names of Species** • **6.11, Biodiversity Net Gain** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	planning applications for less than 50 dwellings within a wider site) that fall within the '10km Impact Risk Zone' of the Clumber Park SSSI will be required to demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to the development's impact upon the integrity of that Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 149 SSSI, including recreational impact. Where relevant, appropriate mitigation measures will be sought, which may include an appropriate design and layout on a development site to protect the integrity of the SSSI, and/or a financial contribution to help mitigate identified impacts at the Clumber Park SSSI. **Local Designations and Locally Important Ecological Features** e) proposals having a direct or indirect adverse effect on a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site or Local Geological Site and their buffer zones or other biodiversity/geodiversity asset, will only be supported where there are no reasonable	grass heath dominated by wavy hair-grass and sand sedge in Nottinghamshire and one of the last to be found in the wider Midlands region. SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) extend across the Site. These relate to specific developments likely to impact SSSIs and require consultation with Natural England. The types of developments described do not include solar farms. There are 34 LWS within the 2km study area, one of which, the Fledborough to Harby Dismantled Railway, occurs within the Order Limits itself, with a further seven immediately adjacent to the Order Limits. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any	

	alternatives; and the case for development clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the ecological, recreational and/or educational value of the site. 2. In all cases, where the principle of development is considered appropriate the mitigation hierarchy must be applied so that: a) firstly harm is avoided wherever possible; then b) appropriate mitigation is provided to ensure no net loss or a net gain of priority habitat and local populations of priority species; c) as a last resort, compensation is delivered to offset any residual damage to biodiversity; d) they protect, restore, enhance and provide appropriate buffers around wildlife and geological features at a local and wider landscape-scale to deliver robust ecological networks, to help deliver priorities in the draft Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Model for Bassetlaw and Idle Valley 201816 or any successor;	internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to biodiversity, which is secured by the oLEMP and oCEMP. The design of the infrastructure and the environmental measures are aimed at both delivering BNG and contributing towards local conservation priorities. This includes providing new and enhanced HPI including extensive hedgerow networks, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, field margins and ditches and habitats that could provide increases in the size	

	e) they establish additional ecological links to the Nature Recovery Network. **Biodiversity Net Gain** 3. In line with national legislation, all new development should make provision for net biodiversity gain on site, or where it can be demonstrated after following the mitigation hierarchy that this is not practicable, off site provision will be considered. 4. Management for a minimum of 30 years in accordance with a maintenance scheme will be sought to manage the biodiversity assets in the long term.	and distribution of SPI including brown hare, hedgehog, turtle dove, water vole, otter, green and brown hairstreaks, harvest mouse, bats and farmland birds.	
Policy ST39: Trees, woodlands and hedgerows	1. The Council will protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows and secure additional planting that increases canopy cover in the interests of biodiversity, amenity and climate change adaptation by: a) retaining, protecting and improving woodland and trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), trees within	The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to trees and hedgerows, including the following: • Trees will be planted individually and linearly, creating tree lines, and within existing and newly created hedgerows.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 6.1: Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	conservation areas, and 'important' hedgerows as defined by the Hedgerows Regulations 1997; b) making Tree Preservation Orders; c) giving consideration to trees and hedgerows both on individual merit as well as their contribution to amenity and interaction as part of a group within the broader landscape setting; d) resisting the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; e) seeking from major development, provision for new trees or an equivalent financial contribution to help mitigate the impacts of climate change in accordance with Policy ST48. 2. Where development would adversely affect trees or hedgerows the application must be accompanied by: a) an accurate tree survey and arboriculture assessment, undertaken by an experienced arboriculturist, of all existing	Trees of a variety of nursery stock sizes will be planted to provide difference in age structure. Tree lines and hedgerows with trees will improve connectivity across the Site and the wider landscape, they will provide habitat for fungi, invertebrates (as living, standing deadwood and fallen deadwood), nesting and food provision for birds and mammals, and roosting opportunities for bats. A range of native species typical of the region will be selected to provide a variety of conditions for multiple flora (fungi and epiphytes) and fauna, with a range of wood types (soft and hard to encourage varying rot rate and cavity features) and longevity. Proposed tree planting locations are presented in Figure 6.1 and typically form boundaries around	

	trees and hedgerows on site in accordance with BS5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations) 201223; b) details of protective measures to be put in place during the development to ensure the health and safety of each specimen and hedgerow to be retained; c) an avoidance and mitigation strategy to include replacement planting for specimens of at least equal amenity and ecological value of a local provenance; and d) a detailed management plan providing details of maintenance arrangements for 10 years.	proposed solar PV fields. Additional tree planting will occur within three mitigation (species-rich grassland) fields in the area to the east of the River Trent. • Tree planting and hedgerow planting will take place over the winters of each of the three year construction programme. The aims will be to: ○ Gap up and plant standards in one third of the defunct hedgerows each winter ○ Plant one third of new hedgerows (including standards) each winter ○ Take existing hedgerows into positive management for biodiversity at least 3 months ahead of construction	

		activity commencing (other than at access points and other areas where vegetation management will be needed to aid delivery). Habitat creation and enhancement measures are shown in greater detail within the oLEMP.	
Policy ST40: The Historic Environment	1. The historic environment will be conserved and enhanced, sensitively managed, enjoyed and celebrated for its contribution to sustainable communities. Proposals will be supported where they: a) give great weight to the conservation and re-use of designated heritage assets and their settings, including for appropriate temporary use, based on their significance in accordance with national policy; b) make a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment, including through the use of innovative design;	The design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be 60 years. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES provides an assessment of the likely effects	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volumes 1 and 2 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:** • **Appendix 10.1: Summary of Legislation, Policy and Technical Guidance.** • **Appendix 10.2: Cultural Heritage Desk-**

	c) positively conserve or enhance a historic designed landscape; d) maintain, conserve, sustain or return to beneficial use designated or non-designated assets; e) capitalise in an appropriate and sensitive manner the regeneration, tourism and energy efficiency potential of heritage assets; f) positively secure the conservation and re-use of 'at risk' heritage assets; g) improve access and enjoyment of the historic environment where appropriate, particularly where they retain, create or facilitate public access to heritage assets to increase understanding of their significance. 2. Applicants will be required to submit evidence in line with best practice and relevant national guidance, examining the significance of any heritage assets affected through a Heritage Statement, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's	and residual effects, respectively, of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from noise, vibration and dust, the majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets. The following design measures have been incorporated within the Proposed Development to mitigate potential harm: • Substantial setbacks and removal of developable land around North Clifton / South Clifton to ensure that the Proposed Development does not interrupt the connection between the settlements afforded by gaps and glimpsed views, including preserving the visual and perception connection between Church of St George	**Based Assessment.**

	significance, and the results submitted to the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record. In some circumstances, further survey, analysis and/or recording will be made a condition of consent.	The Martyr (Grade II*) and both settlements. • No development is proposed on the part of the Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument that is within the Site and most of this Scheduled Monument is excluded from the site boundary. The land featuring the Roman Vexillation Fortress Scheduled Monument and its surroundings has also been removed from the Site. • Setbacks incorporated around Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument which have been based on an understanding of the topography here to reduce the potential visual and experiential effects of development in the setting of the Monument. • Setbacks incorporated in Fledborough to the north, south and west of the Church of St Gregory	

		(Grade I listed). This is to manage the presence of the Proposed Development in the setting of the Church and neighbouring Manor House (Grade II listed), including mitigating any visual impact from the approach to these assets and in views from public footpaths and Fledborough Viaduct. • Setbacks incorporated to east and west of Ragnall to reduce visual presence of development in settings of heritage assets here. Setbacks to the west are based on understanding of topography and views out from the Church of St Leonard (Grade II* listed). And setbacks to the east approximately follow the line of former historic field boundaries (which would be 'reinstated'). • Substantial setbacks and removable of	

		developable land to the south of Newton on Trent and to west of Thorney to reduce visual impact and potential effects on settings of heritage assets in these locations. • Tree and native vegetation planting (c.3m in height and 2-3m in width) to be included at sensitive edges of the Site to manage potential visual (and to some extent experiential) effects of the Proposed Development, including potential for glint and glare, within the settings of heritage assets. This includes to east and west of Ragnall assets, to south of Whimpton Moor Scheduled Monument, to west and south of Fledborough assets and to north-east of Skegby Manor (Grade II listed). • Existing tree and vegetation to be	

		strengthened and managed to heights of c.3m and width of 2.3m (see oLEMP). • Control of lighting and noise during operational phase to minimise intrusion in the context of heritage assets. • Beyond the cable routing (below ground) for the Grid Connection, the area north of High Marnham (National High Marnham Substation) is not proposed for any further development. This will reduce or avoid any effects to heritage assets in High Marnham and Low Marnham. • The proposed eastern and western substation locations are at a distance from designated heritage assets to reduce intrusive visual presence in their settings, including from sensitive	

		views and key approaches. • The cabling between the east and west sides of the Site across the River Trent will be undertaken by trenchless crossing (such as Directional Drilling) which is considered to have a lesser impact on built heritage assets due to its lack of visual presence in their settings once operational. The option to route cabling via Fledborough Viaduct is no longer being pursued, therefore there would be no direct alterations to the Viaduct. The Applicant has given consideration to the relevant legislation, policy and technical guidance, as set out in Appendix 10.1 of the ES.	
Policy 41: Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets	**Designated Heritage Assets** 1. Proposals for development, including change of use, that involve a designated heritage asset, or the setting of a	The design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be 60 years. The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage chapters of the ES provide an assessment of the Proposed Development	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]**

	designated heritage asset will be expected to: a) conserve, enhance or better reveal those elements which contribute to the heritage significance and/or its setting; b) respect any features of special architectural or historic interest, including where relevant the historic curtilage or context, its value within a group and/or its setting, such as the importance of a street frontage, traditional roofscape, or traditional shopfronts; c) be sympathetic in terms of its siting, size, scale, height, alignment, proportions, design and form, building technique(s), materials and detailing, boundary treatments and surfacing, or are of a high quality contemporary or innovative nature which complements the local vernacular, in order to retain the special interest that justifies its designation; d) ensure significant views away from, through, towards and associated with the heritage asset(s) are conserved or enhanced;	on the historic environment, including above and below ground assets, respectively. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. The assessments conclude that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5.4 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section 9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES provides an assessment of the likely effects and residual effects, respectively, of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

	e) in the case of a Conservation Area, to have regard to the established urban grain and ensure that spaces between and around buildings, such as paddocks, greens, gardens and other gaps, are preserved where they contribute to the Conservation Area's character and appearance. 2. Proposals that will lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance will be refused unless the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, and it can be demonstrated that: a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; b) no viable use of the heritage asset can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible;	noise, vibration and dust, the majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets.	

	d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use. 3. Proposals that would result in less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the public benefits will outweigh any harm identified. **Non-Designated Heritage Assets** 4. Proposals for development, including change of use, that involve a non-designated heritage asset, or the setting of a non-designated heritage asset will be expected to: a) have regard to the significance of the asset and its relationship with its setting; b) be sympathetic to the local vernacular in terms of siting, size, scale, height, alignment, design and form; proportions, materials; 5. Proposals that will lead to harm to or loss of significance of a non-designated heritage asset		

	will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that: a) the asset's architectural or historic significance is proven to be minimal; or b) through an up-to-date structural report produced by a suitably qualified person, the asset is not capable of viable repair; or c) through appropriate marketing, the asset has no viable use; or d) the public benefits of the scheme outweigh the loss of significance. **Archaeological sites** 6. Where evidence suggests that significant archaeological remains exist on site, proposals should be supported by an appropriate archaeological evaluation that provides an assessment of the significance of the remains and considers how the remains would be affected by the proposed development.		

	7. Where the 'in situ' preservation of archaeological remains is not possible or desirable, suitable provision shall be made by the developer for the excavation, recording, analysis, storage, relocation of assets and archiving, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been approved by the Local Planning Authority.		
Policy ST42: Promoting Healthy, Active Lifestyles	1. The Council, with its partners will create an environment which supports healthy, active, inclusive and safe communities. Healthy, active and safe lifestyles will be enabled by: a) working in partnership with the health authorities to maintain, and where practicable, improve access to the full range of health services for residents, including through the co-location of health facilities with other community facilities, open space and sports facilities, through multi-purpose buildings and sites; b) facilitating access to a range of high quality, well maintained and	A number of existing PRoW traverse the Proposed Development as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. The Proposed Development incorporates a series of permissive paths proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the OLEMP. Permissive paths will be open for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The extent and location of the paths is as follows: • 2.5km of permissive paths are proposed on	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

	accessible open space and play areas, woodland, blue infrastructure, leisure and cultural facilities; c) improving the quantity, quality and accessibility to playing pitches and sports facilities; d) supporting initiatives which improve access to locally grown food at for example, allotments or community gardens; e) creating high-quality, inclusive environments that incorporate active design principles and where practicable, increase opportunities for movement through a network of well-connected sustainable travel routes, public rights of way and towpaths to everyday shops and services; f) supporting energy efficient design of development, where practicable; g) ensuring that the current air quality in the District is maintained and, where possible improved;	the east of the River Trent. Baseline research and consultation feedback demonstrated that Newton on Trent is not served by any public footpaths and therefore the permissive path network has been designed to provide a route from south of the A57 to the Sustrans route, and an additional spur heading west to join the Trent Valley Way, enhancing the recreational value of the Order Limits. • 3.6km of permissive paths are proposed on the west of the River Trent, creating a circular route between Ragnall in the north, existing footpaths on the western bank of the River Trent in the east and Fledborough in the south. Combined with the existing PRoW network this would create a circular route for	

	h) minimising and mitigating against potential harm from risks such as pollution and other environmental hazards and climate change; i) facilitating the provision of optimal digital infrastructure in accordance with Policy ST55 to allow reliable connection to a range of online services; 2. All proposals of 50 or more dwellings will be required to submit a Rapid Health Impact Assessment Matrix as part of the planning application. The Council will recognise high performing schemes through Healthy Bassetlaw – a health accreditation scheme for well-designed healthy development proposals.	pedestrians extending for approximately 5.6km. An oPRWMP has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible. The Air Quality Assessment considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on local air quality. The ES Chapter provides an overview of the existing environment for the Proposed Development. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact leads to a residual or cumulative effect which is greater than not significant in EIA terms, where mitigation measures are implemented. The nearest AQMA to the Site was declared in 2001 for	

		exceedances of the annual and 1-hour mean NO2 objectives and is located in Lincoln city centre, approximately 11.1 km to the east of the eastern Site boundary. The AQMA is outside of the study area and our Project is therefore not expected to affect air quality within the AQMA. The Air Quality assessment evaluates the impact of road traffic exhaust emissions on human receptors and concludes that the impact is not significant in EIA terms. The Proposed Development would make a substantial contribution, both to the achievement of UK decarbonisation targets and to global commitments to mitigating climate change. By generating low carbon, renewable and low-cost electricity in the UK, the Proposed Development would also help to reduce the UK's reliance on imported energy and to improve energy security.	

		The Climate Assessment includes a greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment. The assessment considers GHG emissions and in-combination climate change. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in an adverse residual effect which is significant in EIA terms. There is an assessed significant beneficial effect on GHG emissions, as it is anticipated that 3,045,555 tCO2e will be saved over lifespan of the Proposed Development. The Planning Statement and the Statement of Need sets out how the Proposed Development would contribute substantially to the need to supply low carbon energy, in order for the government to meet its objectives and commitments as mentioned above. By generating low carbon electricity at a low marginal cost, large-scale solar power reduces the energy generated	

		by more expensive and more carbon intensive forms of generation. The Proposed Development will therefore help to decarbonise the electricity system and lowers the market price of electricity.	
Policy 46: Protecting Amenity	1. Proposals for development should be designed and constructed to avoid and minimise impacts on the amenity of existing and future users, individually and cumulatively, within the development and close to it. As such, proposals will be expected to: a) not have a significant adverse effect on the living conditions of existing and new residents and future occupiers of the proposed development through loss of privacy, excessive overshadowing or overbearing impact; and b) not generate a level of activity, noise, light, air quality, odour, vibration or other pollution which cannot be mitigated to an appropriate standard. 2. Proposals for development adjacent to, or in the locality of, existing 'bad neighbour' uses	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2028. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. As set out in the Planning Statement, the location and	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]**

	such as waste sites, incinerators, chemical production, heavy industry and businesses with out of normal hour (9-5) operations, will need to demonstrate that: a) the ongoing use of the neighbouring site is not compromised; and b) the amenity of future occupiers of the new development can be achieved in accordance with Part 1 of this policy with the ongoing normal use of the neighbouring site; 3. Where the development of a new bad neighbour business or change of use could have a significant adverse effect on residential amenity, appropriate mitigation will be required before the development can be occupied.	design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection process that was environmental, and planning led to avoid and minimise impacts on amenity as early as possible. Following this, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using solar PV arrays, whilst also being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on amenity as far as practicable. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and	

		enhancement measures where practicable, as set out in the Design Approach Document. The Noise assessment considered the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on noise and vibration. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect of noise or vibration which is greater than minor adverse, not significant in EIA terms. The Air Quality Assessment considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on local air quality. The ES Chapter provides an overview of the existing environment for the Proposed Development. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact leads to a residual or cumulative effect which is greater than not significant in EIA terms, where mitigation measures are implemented.	

		It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths outweigh these impacts. As a whole, the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts, and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development.	
Policy ST48: Reducing Carbon Emissions, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	1. All proposals, including the change of use of existing buildings and spaces, should be designed to improve resilience to the anticipated effects of climate change taking into account the design principles in the Bassetlaw Design Quality SPD and the Bassetlaw Design Code. Proposals should incorporate, where appropriate, the following measures that address issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation through:	The Proposed Development would make a substantial contribution, both to the achievement of UK decarbonisation targets and to global commitments to mitigating climate change. By generating low carbon, renewable and low-cost electricity in the UK, the Proposed Development would also help to reduce the UK's reliance on imported energy and to improve energy security.	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	a) ensuring no unacceptable adverse impact on local air quality; b) designing layouts so that the orientation of buildings and spaces maximise opportunities for solar gain; c) providing space for habitats and species to move through the landscape and for the operation of natural processes to occur; d) where possible, minimising the use of natural resources over the development's lifetime, such as minerals and consumable products, by reuse or recycling of materials in construction, and by making the best use of existing buildings and infrastructure; e) adapting surface materials and drainage design to reduce the risk of flooding to land, property and people as a result of more extreme rainfall in accordance with Policy ST50; f) using integrated water management systems to manage runoff and provide a non-potable water supply; g) providing green/blue infrastructure, and where possible, retaining existing trees and woodlands to reduce the	The Climate Assessment includes a greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment. The assessment considers GHG emissions and in-combination climate change. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in an adverse residual effect which is significant in EIA terms. There is an assessed significant beneficial effect on GHG emissions, as it is anticipated that 3,045,555 tCO2e will be saved over lifespan of the Proposed Development. The Planning Statement and the Statement of Need sets out how the Proposed Development would contribute substantially to the need to supply low carbon energy, in order for the government to meet its objectives and commitments as mentioned above. By generating low carbon electricity at a low marginal cost, large-scale solar power	

	‘urban heating effect’ during warmer summers; and h) using urban greening methods within the design of new buildings. 2. All new non residential development of 1000sqm floorspace or more will be required to meet the BREEAM very good-excellent standards or equivalent. 3. All new residential development in the District should promote water efficiency by meeting the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day. 4. All major development will be required to make provision for 5 trees per dwelling or per 1,000 sqm of non residential floorspace on site, or if on site provision is not practicable then an equivalent financial contribution will be sought to enable provision of new native trees and/or the protection and enhancement of ancient and veteran woodland within the District.	reduces the energy generated by more expensive and more carbon intensive forms of generation. The Proposed Development will therefore help to decarbonise the electricity system and lowers the market price of electricity.	

Policy ST49: Renewable Energy Generation	1. Development that generates, shares, transmits and/or stores zero carbon and/or low carbon renewable energy including community energy schemes will be supported subject to the satisfactory resolution of all relevant site specific and cumulative impacts upon: a) location, setting and position in the wider landscape, resulting from its siting and scale; b) natural and heritage assets and their settings; c) air and water quality; d) hydrology and hydrogeology; e) the best and most versatile agricultural land; f) existing highway capacity and highway safety; g) noise, light, glare, smell, dust, emissions or flicker; h) aviation and radar; i) recreation and local amenity. Proposals must take into account operational and approved developments, as well as any proposed intensification to operational or approved proposals.	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2028. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. The Aspect Chapters of the ES assess the site specific and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development. Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations,	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14:Carbon and**

	2. Proposals involving one or more wind turbines will be supported where: a) the site is located within an area defined as being suitable for wind energy in a made neighbourhood plan or development plan document; and b) following consultation, it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that all potential adverse planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed, including cumulative impacts identified in Part 1 above. 3. All renewable energy development will be expected to provide details of the expected power generation based upon expected yield or local self-consumption to enable effective monitoring of the district's contribution to the national zero carbon targets. 4. A decommissioning programme applied by a Condition to any planning permission granted will be required to demonstrate that the site can be returned to an	dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. Bridleways are regarded as less sensitive to glint and glare, but they could also be screened. The Proposed Development will be decommissioned after approximately 60 years of operation (including maintenance). Decommissioning is expected to take approximately 24 months and may be undertaken in stages. The Solar PV Site will be reinstated in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (inc restoration) (oDEMP). A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be subject to	**Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 19: Summary of Significant Environmental Effects [EN010159/APP/6.19]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	acceptable state, three years after cessation of operations	the approval of the local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations. Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners.	
Policy ST50: Flood Risk and Drainage	1. Proposals are required to consider and, where necessary, mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on flood risk, on-site and off-site, commensurate with the scale and impact of the development. Proposals, including change of use applications, must be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (where appropriate), which demonstrates that the development, including the access and egress, will be safe for its lifetime, without increasing or exacerbating flood risk elsewhere and where possible will reduce flood risk overall.	The DCO Application is supported by a Flood Risk Assessment which considers the impacts of the Proposed Development on flood risk and drainage. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and how the requirements of the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test are satisfied. A full assessment of the Sequential Test and Exceptions	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	2. Where relevant, proposals must demonstrate that they pass the Sequential Test and if necessary the Exceptions Test in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and ensure that where land is required to manage flood risk, it is safeguarded from development. **River Ryton Flood Management Impact Zone** 3. All development within the River Ryton Flood Management Impact Zone, as identified on the Policies Map, will need to demonstrate through a Design and Access Statement that they will not prejudice the delivery of a future flood management scheme for the River Ryton catchment through prior agreement with the Environment Agency. **Surface Water Flood Risk** 4. All development where practicable should incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in line with national standards. These should: a) be informed by the Lead Local Flood Authority, sewerage company and relevant drainage board;	Test is set out in the Planning Statement. The recommendations set out in the Outline Drainage Strategy include that all SuDS features are to be designed in accordance with the CIRIA C753 SuDS Manual, to ensure that surface water runoff discharged from the Site will be of an acceptable standard by following best design practices. New access tracks will be impermeable, also incorporating appropriate Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) which could include ditches and swales. The makeup of the access tracks will be unbound stone over a geotextile membrane, or similar. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment presents a summary of the existing baseline conditions for the receptors scoped into further assessment. The Proposed Development is assessed to have no more than a negligible impact on any water receptors, which is not significant in EIA terms.	

	b) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation and management for the development's lifetime; c) prevent surface water discharge into the sewerage system; d) maximise environmental gain through: enhancing the green/blue infrastructure network, including urban greening measures, contributing to biodiversity net gain where possible, and, securing amenity benefits along with flood storage volumes; e) seek to reduce runoff rates in areas at risk from surface water flooding, and that any surface water is directed to sustainable outfalls.		
Policy ST51: Protecting Water Quality and Management	1. In line with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater bodies will be protected and where possible enhanced. Development adjacent to, over or in, a main river or ordinary watercourse will be supported where proposals consider opportunities to improve the river environment and water quality where possible by:	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment considers the potential likely effects of the Proposed Development on water, including the assessment of establishment of construction compounds and access tracks. The recommendations set out in the Outline Drainage Strategy include that all SuDS	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood**

	a) actively contributing to enhancing the status of the waterbody through positive actions or ongoing projects; b) naturalising watercourse channels; c) improving the biodiversity and ecological connectivity of watercourses; d) safeguarding and enlarging river buffers with appropriate habitat in accordance with Policy ST37; and e) mitigating diffuse agricultural and urban pollution. 2. Proposals within a Source Protection Zone will need to demonstrate that the Sherwood Sandstone Principal Aquifer and its groundwater resources and groundwater quality will be protected throughout the construction and operational phase of development, by demonstrating the satisfactory resolution of all relevant identified impacts. 3. All proposals must ensure that appropriate infrastructure for water supply, sewerage and sewage treatment, is available or can be made available at the right time to meet the needs of	features are to be designed in accordance with the CIRIA C753 SuDS Manual, to ensure that surface water runoff discharged from the Site will be of an acceptable standard by following best design practices. New access tracks will be impermeable, also incorporating appropriate Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) which could include ditches and swales. The makeup of the access tracks will be unbound stone over a geotextile membrane, or similar. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment presents a summary of the existing baseline conditions for the receptors scoped into further assessment. The Proposed Development is assessed to have no more than a negligible impact on any water receptors, which is not significant in EIA terms.	**Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	the development. Proposals should: a) utilise the following drainage hierarchy: i. into the ground (infiltration); ii. to a surface water body; iii. to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system; iv. to a combined sewer. b) ensure that foul and surface water flows are separated with foul water being disposed to a public sewer or to a private self-treatment plant and that the design of the waste disposal system will be safe over the lifetime of the development. c) ensure that development that discharges water into a watercourse incorporates appropriate water pollution control measures; d) ensure that drainage design take into account an appropriate climate change allowance as agreed with the relevant authority(s); e) ensure that infiltration based SuDS incorporate appropriate water pollution control measures; f) consider use of water recycling, rainwater and storm water harvesting, wherever feasible, to		

	reduce demand on mains water supply.		
Policy ST53: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Travel	1. Development that contributes towards a sustainable, safe, active transport network and offers a range of public transport and active travel choices will be supported. Development should, where appropriate: a) assist in the improvement of transport infrastructure to help all communities in Bassetlaw have opportunities to travel without a car for everyday journeys; b) provide well-designed, safe and convenient access for all, giving priority to the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other users in a way which would not: i. compromise the free flow of traffic on the public highway, pedestrians, public transport and cycling or any other transport mode; or ii. exacerbate traffic congestion on the existing highway network or increase the risk of accidents or endanger the safety of road users	The Transport Assessment provides an assessment on traffic and transportation. The Assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect which is greater than negligible, not significant in EIA terms. To achieve this, the Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) which is provided in support of the DCO application. The oCTMP includes outline staff travel plan measures, which would be developed further in consultation with the relevant highway authorities prior to the commencement of the Proposed Development. A package of measures would include: • Provision of public transport information to access where staff will be resident so there is no need for non-local	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 12.2: Transport Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	including pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users; c) minimise additional travel demand by car through sustainable travel measures identified in a Travel Plan and associated Action Plan(s), where the securing of a Travel Plan Coordinator may be necessary to facilitate the payment of monitoring fees and to pay for the delivery of additional sustainable travel measures/initiatives if modal share targets are not achieved; d) encourage forms of active travel through connection to, and extension of, existing pedestrian, cycle and equestrian routes, where practicable; e) respond to the transport needs for specific groups in the community, such as older people and those with disabilities; and f) encourage the use of flexible transport services that combine public and community transport services, ensuring that locally	staff to bring cars to the wider area; • Mini-bus service for transport of Site construction staff from Lincoln, Worksop and Newark; • Promotion of a car sharing scheme; and • Car parking management. The Staff Travel Plan will be developed to reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys to and from the Proposed Development during construction and will minimise traffic on the local road network. The Staff Travel Plan will be administered by the CTMP Co-ordinator and would be a contractual requirement as part of the Principal Contractor's contract with the Applicant. The Staff Travel Plan will include targets to reduce car use during construction and will apply to Site visitors, where it is practical to do so. The production of a final Construction Traffic	

	based approaches are delivered to meet the needs of communities.	Management Plan is secured by Requirement 14 of the Draft DCO. The Transport assessment has been produced in accordance with current transport guidance. The assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not have a severe impact on the operation and safety of the surrounding highway network. The assessment proposes mitigations including: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of "Construction Access Ahead" and "Slow Ahead" signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the	

		construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; • A ‘Wear & Tear’ agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions.	

One Earth Solar Farm

Table 6 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy – Table of Compliance

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – Adopted April 2023			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Policy S1: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy	The spatial strategy will focus on delivering sustainable growth for Central Lincolnshire that meets the needs for homes and jobs, regenerates places and communities, and supports necessary improvements to facilities, services and infrastructure. Development should create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive communities, making the most effective use of previously developed land and enabling a larger number of people to access jobs, services and facilities locally. Development should provide the scale and mix of housing types and a range of new job opportunities that will meet the identified needs of Central Lincolnshire in order to secure balanced communities. Decisions on investment in services and facilities, and on the location and scale of development,	As set out in the Planning Statement and Statement of Need, the Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to both local and national networks. The Order Limits do not conflict with any allocations within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and would not restrict the achievement of the objectives of Policy S1. As set out in the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, the Proposed Development will provide construction job opportunities over the anticipated two-year construction programme. At peak construction time, creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	will be assisted by the Central Lincolnshire Settlement Hierarchy. The hierarchy is as follows: 1 – 7 … 8. Countryside Unless allowed by: a) policy in any of the levels 1-7 above; or b) any other policy in the Local Plan (such as Policies S4, S5, S34, or S43) or a relevant policy in a neighbourhood plan, development will be regarded as being in the countryside and as such restricted to: • that which is demonstrably essential to the effective operation of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation, transport or utility services;	will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared to help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational phase. A detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be secured by way of a DCO requirement 16. The jobs created by the Proposed Development will be in the renewable energy sector, specifically relating to solar installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain. Where possible, there will be a preference for local staffing, and it is likely that the appointed contractors will employ trainees and apprentices as part of the construction workforce. The location of the Proposed Development being within the countryside is justified due to the Proposed Development's delivery of the substantial renewable energy generation that the Proposed Development will provide, and the need to be in sufficient proximity of	

	• delivery of infrastructure; • renewable energy generation; and • to minerals or waste development in accordance with separate Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents. * The definition of “developed footprint” as used throughout this policy is provided in the Glossary.	the connection point to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS), and the contribution the Proposed Development would make to meeting the established urgent need for renewable energy generation infrastructure.	
Policy S5: Development in the Countryside	... **Part E: Non-residential development in the countryside** Proposals for non-residential development will be supported provided that: a) The rural location of the enterprise is justifiable to maintain or enhance the rural economy or the location is justified by means of proximity to existing	The location of the Proposed Development within the countryside is justified due to the Proposed Development’s delivery of the substantial renewable energy generation that the Proposed Development will provide, and the need to be in sufficient proximity of the connection point to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS), and the contribution the Proposed Development would make to meeting the established urgent need for renewable energy generation infrastructure.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **Outline Soil Management Plan**

	established businesses or natural features; b) The location of the enterprise is suitable in terms of accessibility; c) The location of the enterprise would not result in conflict with neighbouring uses; and d) The development is of a size and scale commensurate with the proposed use and with the rural character of the location. **Part F: Agricultural diversification** Proposals involving farm based diversification to non-agricultural activities or operations will be permitted, provided that the proposal will support farm enterprises and providing that the development is: a) In an appropriate location for the proposed use; b) Of a scale appropriate to its location; and	As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the DCO is seeking time limited consent and the Proposed Development will be operational for up to 60 years, after which time it will be decommissioned. This will allow the land (that has previously been intensively farmed) to recover ultimately safeguarding the agricultural usage of this land for future generations. The Land and Soils assessment and the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development, the Proposed Development's embedded mitigation measures, and principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Site Selection Report, Planning Statement and the Design Approach Document set out how fields that were identified as comprising higher grade land were discounted from the area of solar PV arrays to reduce the impact on BMV agricultural land.	**(oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**

	c) Of a scale appropriate to the business need. **Part G: Agricultural, forestry, horticultural or other rural land-based development** Proposals which will help farms modernise and/or adapt to funding changes or climate change will be supported in principle and any such proposals will be considered against relevant design, landscape and natural environment policies in this plan. Where permission is required, development proposals for buildings required for agriculture or other rural land based development purposes will be supported where: a) It is demonstrated that there is a functional need for the building which cannot be met by an existing, or recently disposed of, building; b) the building is of a scale that is proportionate to the proposed functional need;	Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document. Large areas of species-rich grassland will be provided beneath the solar panels and across the broader Solar PV Site in order to boost biodiversity and create new habitats for a range of species including pollinators and ground nesting birds.	

	c) the building is designed specifically to meet the functional need identified; d) the site is well related to existing buildings in terms of both physical and functional location, design and does not introduce isolated structures away from existing buildings; and e) significant earthworks are not required, and there will be no harm to natural drainage and will not result in pollution of soils, water or air.		
Policy S9: Decentralised Energy Networks and Combined Heat and Power	Where an existing decentralised energy network exists in the locality, and such a network is likely operational in the long term (i.e. minimum 30 years), then development proposals in the vicinity can consider connection to such an existing energy network provided that in doing so it does not require the network as a whole to increase its fossil fuel consumption (i.e. it should be demonstrated that the network either has spare and wasted capacity, or demonstrate that the energy in the decentralised network	As explained in the Statement of Need, large scale electricity generation facilities are needed. The Proposed Development would connect directly to the NETS, to enable the transfer of the renewably generated electricity it generates over a wide geographical area, as per this policy. The Proposed Development should be considered on the basis that its need is established, and urgent need should be given substantial weight in the decision.	**Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	is sourced from renewable sources). Any proposal for a new or extended combined heat and power network will only be supported if the power source of such a network is renewable or very low carbon based.		
Policy S10: Supporting a Circular Economy	The Joint Committee is aware of the high energy and material use consumed on a daily basis, and, consequently, is fully supportive of the principles of a circular economy. Accordingly, and to complement any policies set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan, proposals will be supported, in principle, which demonstrate their compatibility with, or the furthering of, a strong circular economy in the local area (which could include cross-border activity elsewhere in Lincolnshire).	The Proposed Development includes embedded design measures to reduce its impact on waste and materials. As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the likely estimates, type and quantities of waste generated during the operational (and maintenance) phase, relating to the maintenance of the Proposed Development, as well as the measures to reduce waste are presented in the submitted outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP). It is considered all of the solar PV Modules and batteries used as part of the Proposed Development will be recycled. This is considered within the waste assessment detailed in the oSWMP. The Description of the	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development [EN010159/APP/6.5]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.12]**

		Proposed Development chapter of the ES sets out that any equipment that needs to be replaced during the operational (including maintenance) phase will be disposed in accordance with the oSWMP in order to reduce waste. Table 5.6 in the Description of the Proposed Development sets out the anticipated service life of the Proposed Development components. As detailed in the Description of the Proposed Development, the DCO is seeking time limited consent and the Proposed Development will be operational for up to 60 years, after which time it will be decommissioned. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and substation foundations. Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners. The decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be subject to measures and procedures	

		defined within a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) as secured through the DCO. An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) is submitted with the DCO application.	
Policy S11: Embodied Carbon	**Presumption against demolition:** To avoid the wastage of embodied carbon in existing buildings and avoid the creation of new embodied carbon in replacement buildings, there is a presumption in favour of repairing, refurbishing, re-using and re-purposing existing buildings over their demolition. Proposals that result in the demolition of a building (in whole or a significant part) should be accompanied by a full justification for the demolition. For non-listed buildings demolition will only be acceptable where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that: 1. the building proposed for demolition is in a state of such disrepair that it is not practical or viable to be repaired, refurbished, re-used, or re-purposed; or	The Climate Change assessment sets out the measures the Proposed Development will take to reduce embodied carbon through the choice, use and sourcing of materials, and construction and decommissioning methods. No buildings will be demolished or replaced as part of the Proposed Development. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) will be submitted alongside the DCO application. The documents detail the measures included to arrange best-practice working measures to reduce environmental impacts, including GHG emissions, and also the principles of the Code of Considerate Practice (CoCP). Finally, the documents include measures to minimise the creation of waste and to	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.5]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]** **oDEMP (EN010159/APP/7.6)**

	2. repairing, refurbishing, re-using, or re-purposing the building would likely result in similar or higher newly generated embodied carbon than if the building is demolished and a new building is constructed; or 3. repairing, refurbishing, re-using, or re-purposing the building would create a building with such poor thermal efficiency that on a whole life cycle basis (i.e. embodied carbon and in-use carbon emissions) would mean a lower net carbon solution would arise from demolition and re-build; or 4. demolition of the building and construction of a new building would, on an exceptional basis, deliver other significant public benefits that outweigh the carbon savings which would arise from the building being repaired, refurbished, re-used, or re-purposed.	maximise the use of materials with lower embodied GHG emissions. With respect to minimising the number of vehicle movements and subsequent emissions, the oCTMP will provide for measures to consolidate the delivery of materials on-Site, as well as ways to promote the most sustainable methods of construction workers to get to the Site. The oCTMP will also mandate for the cessation of construction plant when not in use, to minimise environmental impacts. The Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) is submitted alongside the DCO application. The document provides management procedures for the operation and on-going maintenance of the Proposed Development. Additionally, the oDEMP will be secured by DCO requirement. This provides management procedures for the removal and treatment of materials on-Site during decommissioning and minimisation of traffic movements during decommissioning The Climate Assessment of the ES includes a greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment. The assessment	

	Applications within the countryside relating to the re-use or conversion of existing buildings will only be acceptable where they also meet the requirements of Policy S5, S34, or S43 as applicable. **Major development proposals:** All major development proposals should explicitly set out what opportunities to lower a building's embodied carbon content have been considered, and which opportunities, if any, are to be taken forward. In the period to 31 December 2024, there will be no requirement (unless mandated by Government) to use any specific lower embodied carbon materials in development proposals, provided the applicant has at least demonstrated consideration of options and opportunities available. From 1 January 2025, there will be a requirement for a development proposal to demonstrate how the	considers GHG emissions and in-combination climate change. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning impact will result in an adverse residual effect which is deemed as significant in EIA terms. There is an assessed significant beneficial effect on GHG emissions, as it is anticipated that 3,045,555 tCO2e will be saved over lifespan of the Proposed Development.	

	design and building materials to be used have been informed by a consideration of embodied carbon, and that reasonable opportunities to minimise embodied carbon have been taken. Further guidance is anticipated to be issued by the local planning authorities on this matter prior to 1 January 2025.		
Policy S14: Renewable Energy	The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is committed to supporting the transition to a net zero carbon future and will seek to maximise appropriately located renewable energy generated in Central Lincolnshire (such energy likely being wind and solar based). Proposals for renewable energy schemes, including ancillary development, will be supported where the direct, indirect, individual and cumulative impacts on the following considerations are, or will be made, acceptable. To determine whether it is acceptable, the following tests will have to be met: i. The impacts are acceptable having considered the scale,	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2028. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to both the local environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. The Aspect Chapters of the ES assess the site specific and	**Appendix 1: Site Selection Report of the Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]**

	siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity; geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape; and highway safety and rail safety; and ii. The impacts are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and iii. The impacts are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, shadow flicker, air quality and traffic; Testing compliance with part (i) above will be via applicable policies elsewhere in a development plan document for the area (i.e. this Local Plan; a Neighbourhood Plan, if one exists; any applicable policies in a Minerals or Waste Local Plan); and any further	cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development. Glint and Glare Assessment has undertaken an assessment of potential impacts of glint and glare on surrounding road users, railway operations, dwellings, PRoW, bridleways and aviation activity. The ocular impacts on two airstrips, including South Hykenham and Darlton Gliding Club, would occur during the summer months, but with a limited amount of evergreen barriers implemented they would provide very effective mitigation for roads, buildings and the railway. Bridleways are regarded as less sensitive to glint and glare, but they could also be screened. The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to avoid, reduce or mitigate the requirement to use BMV land where possible. As set out in the Site Selection Report, the Applicant, from an early stage, sought to avoid land of higher agricultural quality. The Applicant has sought to identify available land of lower grade close to the point of connection which met the project objectives; however, there is	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]**

	guidance set out in a Supplementary Planning Document. In order to test compliance with part (ii) above will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of robust evidence of the potential impact on any aviation and defence navigation system/communication, and within such evidence must be documented areas of agreement or disagreement reached with appropriate bodies and organisations responsible for such infrastructure. In order to test compliance with part (iii) above will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of a robust assessment of the potential impact on such users, and the mitigation measures proposed to minimise any identified harm. For all matters in (i)-(iii), the applicable local planning authority may commission its own	an abundance of Grade 3 and some Grade 2 land in relative proximity to the Proposed Development. In order to deliver the proposed capacity, not only is it likely that a significant percentage of BMV land would be required, but that the Site represents a better than characteristic snapshot of the predominating land mix, and certainly significantly less BMV than the county wide mix of ALC grades. Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out throughout the submission documents. The Proposed Development will be decommissioned after approximately 60 years of operation (including maintenance). Decommissioning is expected to take approximately 24 months and may be undertaken in phases. After this time, the Solar PV Site will be reinstated to its current use to be in accordance with the submitted oDEMP. A DEMP will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning. Decommissioning will include the removal of all above ground infrastructure, including the BESS and Substations foundations.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 19: Summary of Significant Environmental Effects [EN010159/APP/6.19]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010159/APP/7.16]**

	independent assessment of the proposals, to ensure it is satisfied what the degree of harm may be and whether reasonable mitigation opportunities are being taken. Where significant adverse effects are concluded by the local planning authority following consideration of the above assessment(s), such effects will be weighed against the wider environmental, economic, social and community benefits provided by the proposal. In this regard, and as part of the planning balance, significant additional weight in favour of the proposal will arise for any proposal which is community-led for the benefit of that community. In areas that have been designated for their national importance, as identified in the National Planning Policy Framework, renewable energy infrastructure will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it would be appropriate in scale, located in areas that do not contribute positively to the objectives of the	Permissive paths will also be removed. Underground cables may remain in situ. Trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development are assumed to remain in situ when the land is returned to the landowners.	

	designation, is sympathetically designed and includes any necessary mitigation measures. **Additional matters for solar based energy proposals** Proposals for solar thermal or photovoltaics panels and associated infrastructure to be installed on existing property will be under a presumption in favour of permission unless there is clear and demonstrable significant harm arising. Proposals for ground based photovoltaics and associated infrastructure, including commercial large scale proposals, will be under a presumption in favour unless: • there is clear and demonstrable significant harm arising; or • the proposal is (following a site specific soil assessment) to take place on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and does not meet the		

	requirements of Policy S67; or • the land is allocated for another purpose in this Local Plan or other statutory based document (such as a nature recovery strategy or a Local Transport Plan), and the proposal is not compatible with such other allocation. Proposals for ground based photovoltaics should be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain will be maximised in the scheme taking account of soil, natural features, existing habitats, and planting proposals accompanying the scheme to create new habitats linking into the nature recovery strategy. **Additional matters for wind based energy proposals** Proposals for a **small to medium single wind turbine**, which is defined as a turbine up to a		

	maximum of 40m from ground to tip of blade, are, in principle, supported throughout Central Lincolnshire (i.e. the whole of Central Lincolnshire is identified as a broad area potentially suitable for such a single turbine), subject to meeting the above criteria (i)-(iii) and the requirements of national planning policy. Under this paragraph, no dwelling or other operation (e.g. a farm or a business) may have more than one turbine at any one time in the curtilage of that dwelling or other operation. Proposals for **medium (over 40m from ground to tip of blade) to large scale wind turbines (including groups of turbines)** will, in principle, be supported only where they are located within an area identified as a 'Broad Area Suitable for Larger Scale Wind Energy Turbines' as identified on the Policies Map and (indicatively) on Map 2. Such proposals will be tested against criteria (i)-(iii) and the requirements of national planning policy.		

	Medium to large scale wind turbines must not be within 2km of a settlement boundary of a settlement identified in the Settlement Hierarchy. However, where a proposal is within 2km of any residential property, the following matters will need careful consideration as to the potential harm arising: • Noise • Flicker • Overbearing nature of the turbines (established by visual effects from within commonly used habitable rooms) • Any other amenity which is presently enjoyed by the occupier. In this regard, no medium to large scale wind turbine within 700m of a residential property is anticipated to be supported, and proposals between 700-2,000m will need clear evidence of no significant harm arising.		

	For the avoidance of doubt, any medium to large scale wind turbine proposals outside of the identified Broad Area Suitable for Larger Scale Wind Energy Turbines should be refused. **Decommissioning renewable energy infrastructure** Permitted proposals will be subject to a condition that will require the submission of an End of Life Removal Scheme within one year of the facility becoming non-operational, and the implementation of such a scheme within one year of the scheme being approved. Such a scheme should demonstrate how any biodiversity net gain that has arisen on the site will be protected or enhanced further, and how the materials to be removed would, to a practical degree, be re-used or recycled.		
Policy S15: Protecting Renewable	Development should not significantly harm: a) the technical performance of any existing or approved	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

Energy Infrastructure	renewable energy generation facility; b) the potential for optimisation of strategic renewable energy installations; c) the availability of the resource, where the operation is dependent on uninterrupted flow of energy to the installation.	electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System from 2028. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. The Aspect Chapters of the ES assess the site specific and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development. Overall, the Proposed Development contributes to the optimisation of strategic renewable energy installations within Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire and enhances the availability of low carbon energy to the National Grid. It is therefore in accordance with this policy.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and**

			Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14] **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [EN010159/APP/6.15]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Human Health [EN010159/APP/6.16]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects [EN010159/APP/6.18]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 19: Summary of Significant Environmental Effects [EN010159/APP/6.19]**
Policy S16: Wider Energy Infrastructure	The Joint Committee is committed to supporting the transition to net zero carbon future and, in doing so, recognises and supports, in principle, the need for significant investment in new and upgraded energy infrastructure.	The Proposed Development comprises of the construction, operation (and maintenance), and decommissioning of a Solar PV array electricity generating facility with a total capacity in excess of 50 MW DC and export connection to the National	**Works Plan [EN010159/APP/2.3]**

	Where planning permission is needed from a Central Lincolnshire authority, support will be given to proposals which are necessary for, or form part of, the transition to a net zero carbon sub-region, which could include: energy storage facilities (such as battery storage or thermal storage); and upgraded or new electricity facilities (such as transmission facilities, sub-stations or other electricity infrastructure. However, any such proposals should take all reasonable opportunities to mitigate any harm arising from such proposals, and take care to select not only appropriate locations for such facilities, but also design solutions (see Policy S53) which minimises harm arising.	Grid, as comprised in the Works Plans. The Proposed Development is classed as a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) and it therefore requires a Development Consent Order. All of the development outlined above forms part of the DCO application, which is submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. As such, there will be no applications submitted to the Central Lincolnshire authority as part of this Proposed Development. However, the Central Lincolnshire Authority will be involved within the examination and can discuss comments with the Applicant and examining authority throughout this process.	
Policy S21: Flood Risk and Water Resources	**Flood Risk** All development proposals will be considered against the NPPF, including application of the sequential and, if necessary, the exception test.	The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy provides an assessment of flood risk both to and from the Proposed Development from all sources of flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and how the	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology [EN010159/APP/6.7]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage**

	Through appropriate consultation and option appraisal, development proposals should demonstrate: a) that they are informed by and take account of the best available information from all sources of flood risk and by site specific flood risk assessments where appropriate; b) that the development does not place itself or existing land or buildings at increased risk of flooding; c) that the development will be safe during its lifetime taking into account the impacts of climate change and will be resilient to flood risk from all forms of flooding such that in the event of a flood the development could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment; d) that the development does not affect the integrity of existing flood defences and any necessary flood	requirements of the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test are satisfied. The Planning Statement sets out how the Proposed Development meets the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment considers the potential likely effects of the Proposed Development on water, including the assessment of establishment of construction compounds and access tracks. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment presents a summary of the existing baseline conditions for the receptors scoped into further assessment. The Proposed Development is assessed to have no more than a negligible impact on any water receptors, which is deemed as not significant in EIA terms.	**Strategy [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	mitigation measures have been agreed with the relevant bodies, where adoption, ongoing maintenance and management have been considered and any necessary agreements are in place; e) how proposals have taken a positive approach to reducing overall flood risk and have considered the potential to contribute towards solutions for the wider area; and f) that they have incorporated Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)/ Integrated Water Management into the proposals unless they can be shown to be inappropriate. **Protecting the Water Environment** Development proposals that are likely to impact on surface or ground water should consider the		

	requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Development proposals should demonstrate: g) that water is available to support the development proposed; h) that adequate mains foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development. Non mains foul sewage disposal solutions should only be considered where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that connection to a public sewer is not feasible; i) that they meet the Building Regulation water efficiency standard of 110 litres per occupier per day or the highest water efficiency standard that applies at the time of the planning application (see also Policy S12);		

	j) that water reuse and recycling and rainwater harvesting measures have been incorporated wherever possible in order to reduce demand on mains water supply as part of an integrated approach to water management (see also Policy S11); k) that they have followed the surface water hierarchy for all proposals: i. surface water runoff is collected for use; ii. discharge into the ground via infiltration; iii. discharge to a watercourse or other surface water body; iv. discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain or other drainage system,		

	discharging to a watercourse or other surface water body; iv. discharge to a combined sewer; l) that no surface water connections are made to the foul system; b. m)that surface water connections to the combined or surface water system are only made in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that there are no feasible alternatives (this applies to new developments and redevelopments) and where there is no detriment to existing users; m) that no combined sewer overflows are created in areas served by combined sewers, and that foul and surface		

	water flows are separated; n) that development contributes positively to the water environment and its ecology where possible and does not adversely affect surface and ground water quality in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive; o) that development with the potential to pose a risk to groundwater resources is not located in sensitive locations to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive; p) how Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)/ Integrated Water Management to deliver improvements to water quality, the water environment and to improve amenity and biodiversity net gain wherever possible have been incorporated into the proposal unless they		

	can be shown to be impractical; q) that relevant site investigations, risk assessments and necessary mitigation measures for source protection zones around boreholes, wells, springs and water courses have been agreed with the relevant bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency and relevant water companies); r) that suitable access is safeguarded for the maintenance of watercourses, water resources, flood defences and drainage infrastructure; and s) that adequate provision is made to safeguard the future maintenance of water bodies to which surface water and foul water treated on the site of the development is discharged, preferably by an appropriate authority (e.g. Environment Agency, Internal		

	Drainage Board, Water Company, the Canal and River Trust or local Council). In order to allow access for the maintenance of watercourses, development proposals that include or abut a watercourse should ensure no building, structure or immovable landscaping feature is included that will impede access within 8m of a watercourse, or within 16m of a tidal watercourse. Conditions may be included where relevant to ensure this access is maintained in perpetuity and may seek to ensure responsibility for maintenance of the watercourse including land ownership details up to and of the watercourse is clear and included in maintenance arrangements for future occupants		
Policy S28: Spatial Strategy for Employment	In principle, employment related development proposals should be consistent with meeting the following overall spatial strategy for employment.	As set out in the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, the Proposed Development will provide construction job opportunities over the anticipated two-year construction programme. At peak construction time, it is anticipated that there will be the creation of approximately 750 construction jobs	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and**

	The strategy is to strengthen the Central Lincolnshire economy offering a wide range of employment opportunities focused mainly in and around the Lincoln urban area and the towns of Gainsborough and Sleaford, with proportionate employment provision further down the Settlement Hierarchy (see Policy S1). Aligned to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy, and as a key component of the Midlands Engine, there will be significant growth in a number of sectors, most notably agri-food, manufacturing, business services and the visitor economy, including accommodation and food services. Land has been made available in appropriate locations in this plan to meet the strategic needs identified in Central Lincolnshire. Strategic Employment Sites (SES), and existing Important Established Employment Areas (IEEA) will be protected for their importance to the economy. Employment	with an average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared to help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational phase. A detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be secured by way of a DCO requirement 16. The jobs created by the Proposed Development will be specifically relating to solar installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain. Where possible, there will be a preference for local staffing, and it is likely that the appointed contractors will employ trainees and apprentices as part of the construction workforce.	**Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	development will mainly be directed to these SES and IEEA and at Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) as part of mixed use communities being created. Elsewhere, policies will seek to protect Local Employment Areas (LEA) to help ensure there are jobs and services available to meet the local needs of the community and to allow enterprises to flourish at suitable sites across Central Lincolnshire. Outside of existing employment areas and allocated sites, economic development will typically be limited to small-scale proposals which satisfy the requirements of Policy S33 or Policy S34.		
Policy S34: Non-designated Employment Proposals in the Countryside	In locations outside of the settlements named in the Settlement Hierarchy in Policy S1, proposals for employment generating development will be limited to the expansion of an existing employment use and development proposals that support the growth of the agri-food	As set out in the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, the Proposed Development will provide construction job opportunities over the anticipated two-year construction programme. At peak construction time, it is anticipated that there will be the creation of approximately 750 construction jobs	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17]** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and**

	sector or other land-based rural businesses and buildings in accordance with relevant parts of Policy S5, and only where the following criteria are satisfied: a) It would be consistent in scale with its rural location, without unacceptable environmental and/or visual impacts; and b) It would not adversely affect existing local community services and facilities; and c) It is designed to be compatible with the landscape in which it would be situated; and d) It would not cause undue harm to the open nature of the countryside or any site protected for its natural or heritage qualities, including designated and non-designated sites; and e) It will not impact unacceptably on the local and/or strategic highway network; and f) In the case of a conversion, the building	with an average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition. An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been prepared to help maximise the positive gain for the local economy from the beneficial effect arising from employment generation during the construction and operational phase. A detailed Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be secured by way of a DCO requirement 16. The jobs created by the Proposed Development will be specifically relating to solar installation, but also electricity transmission and supply chain. Where possible, there will be a preference for local staffing, and it is likely that the appointed contractors will employ trainees and apprentices as part of the construction workforce.	**Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	is not in such a state of dereliction or disrepair that significant reconstruction would be required.		
Policy S45: Strategic Infrastructure Requirements	New Development should be supported by and have good access to infrastructure. **Infrastructure** Planning permission will only be granted if it can be demonstrated that there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the necessary requirements arising from the proposed development. Development proposals must consider all of the infrastructure implications of a scheme; not just those on the site or its immediate vicinity. Conditions or planning obligations, as part of a package or combination of infrastructure delivery measures, are likely to be required for many proposals to ensure that new development meets this principle. Consideration must be given to the likely timing of infrastructure	The Applicant started engagement with the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) as the point of contact for new connection requests to discuss the potential opportunities for a connection offer within the target region. Grid connections with spare capacity are finite, and no connection offers were provided that could deliver the output proposed by NGESO to the Applicant for already available capacity at already existing substations in the target region/geography. This is somewhat inevitable given the context of the urgent national need for renewable energy (specifically solar), as developments have already been proposed to make use of existing substation capacity where it occurs. The Statement of Need sets out that there is no capacity at any existing NGESO infrastructure within 50km of the Site to accommodate new connections of the Proposed	**Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]** **Grid Connection Statement [EN010159/APP/7.2]**

	provision. As such, development may need to be phased. Conditions or a planning obligation may be used to secure this phasing arrangement. **Healthcare Facilities** Proposals for new health care facilities should relate well to public transport services, walking and cycling routes and be easily accessible to all sectors of the community. Proposals which utilise opportunities for the multi-use and co-location of health facilities with other services and facilities, and thus co-ordinate local care and provide convenience for the community, will be particularly supported. Planning obligations are likely to require contributions to primary healthcare provision where there is a demonstrated shortfall in capacity. **Education Provision** Proposals for new or extended school facilities will be expected to relate well to the population that they are to serve, ensuring that they are easily accessible for all. Conditions or planning obligations are likely to require education	Development's magnitude before 2032. However, the Proposed Development has secured a grid connection agreement to allow export and import of electricity to and from the National Grid. The proposed new High Marnham Substation would facilitate the export and import of electricity from the Proposed Development substation to the wider National Grid.	

	provision where there is a demonstrated shortfall in capacity. **Development Contributions** Developers will be expected to contribute towards the delivery of relevant infrastructure, either through direct provision or contribution towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure to meet the needs arising from the development either alone or cumulatively with other developments.		
Policy S47: Accessibility and Transport	Development proposals which contribute towards an efficient and safe transport network that offers a range of transport choices for the movement of people and goods will be supported. All developments should demonstrate, where appropriate, that they have had regard to the following criteria: a) Located where travel can be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes maximised;	The Transport Assessment provides an assessment on traffic and transportation. The Assessment concludes that no construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect which is greater than negligible, not significant in EIA terms. To achieve this, the Applicant has submitted an oCTMP which is provided in support of the DCO application. The oCTMP includes mitigation measures, which would be developed further in consultation with the relevant highway authorities prior	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]** **Outline Public Rights of Way Management**

	b) Minimise additional travel demand through the use of measures such as travel planning, safe and convenient public transport, car clubs, walking and cycling links and integration with existing infrastructure; c) Making allowance for low and ultra-low emission vehicle refuelling infrastructure. **Delivering Transport Related Infrastructure** All development proposals should have regard to the IDP, and, where necessary contribute to the delivery of the following transport objectives, either directly where appropriate (such as the provision of infrastructure or through the contribution of land to enable a scheme to occur) or indirectly (such as through developer contributions as set out in Policy S45). **For Strategic Transport Infrastructure:**	to the commencement of the Proposed Development. These measures include: • Provision of public transport information to access where staff will be resident so there is no need for non-local staff to bring cars to the wider area; • Mini-bus service for transport of Site staff from Lincoln, Worksop and Newark; • Promotion of a car sharing scheme; and • Car parking management. The production of a final Construction Traffic Management Plan is secured by a requirement of the Draft Proposed Order. The Transport assessment has been produced in accordance with current transport guidance. The assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not have a severe impact on the operation and safety of the surrounding highway network. The assessment proposes mitigations including: • Basic construction traffic management measures,	**Plan (oPRWMP) [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

	d) Improve and manage the strategic highway infrastructure for a range of users and increased capacity where appropriate and viable; e) Improve and manage the wider road infrastructure to benefit local communities including through the use of traffic management and calming initiatives where appropriate on rural roads, and key transport links in the towns and villages; f) Deliver opportunities for improved road and rail interaction, and avoiding impacts upon level crossings; g) Improve, extend and manage the strategic cycling network for a range of users; h) Support the enhancement of existing or proposed transport interchanges; i) Improve and manage the strategic highway infrastructure, wider road infrastructure and public	including the provision of "Construction Access Ahead" and "Slow Ahead" signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; • A 'Wear & Tear' agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions. A number of existing PRoW traverse the Proposed Development as set	

	rights of way network to deliver biodiversity net gain, including improved connectivity and extent of green infrastructure guided by local nature recovery strategy; and j) Explore opportunities to utilise waterways for transport, particularly freight. **For Public and Community Transport Infrastructure and Services:** k) Assist in the implementation of infrastructure which will help all communities in Central Lincolnshire, including people living in villages and small settlements, to have opportunities to travel without a car for essential journeys; l) Improve the integration, efficiency, accessibility, safety, convenience and comfort of public transport stations, including both rail and buses;	out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. The Proposed Development includes opportunities for enhancement such as proposals to provide permissive paths, as well as improvements to existing PRoWs. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible.	

	m) Deliver flexible transport services that combine public and community transport, ensuring that locally based approaches are delivered to meet the needs of communities; n) Assist in bringing forward one or more mobility hubs in the Lincoln area. To demonstrate that developers have considered and taken into account the requirements of this policy, an appropriate Transport Statement/ Assessment and/ or Travel Plan should be submitted with proposals, with the precise form dependent on the scale and nature of development and agreed through early discussion with the local planning or highway authority and external bodies where relevant. Any development that has severe transport implications will not be granted planning permission unless deliverable mitigation measures have been identified, and		

	arrangements secured for their implementation, which will make the development acceptable in transport terms.		
Policy S48: Walking and Cycling Infrastructure	Development proposals should facilitate active travel by incorporating measures suitable for the scheme from the design stage. Plans and evidence accompanying applications will demonstrate how the ability to travel by foot or cycle will be actively encouraged by the delivery of well designed, safe and convenient access for all both into and through the site. Priority should be given to the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, people with impaired mobility and users of public transport by providing a network of high quality pedestrian and cycle routes and green corridors, linking to existing routes and public rights of way where opportunities exist, that give easy access and permeability to adjacent areas. Proposals will: a) protect, maintain and improve existing infrastructure, including	The location of the Proposed Development and site selection process considered a range of factors including accessibility, and public rights of way. The site was chosen due to its good access to the local highway. The Transport and Access assessment sets out the access strategy for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. The Transport and Access Assessment provides an assessment on traffic and transportation on non-motorised users. The Assessment concludes that no construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect on non-motorised users which is greater than negligible, not significant in EIA terms. The number of existing PRoWs that traverse the Proposed Development as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments.	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **oPRWMP [EN010159/APP/7.14]**

	closing gaps or deficiencies in the network and connecting communities and facilities; b) provide high quality attractive routes that are safe, direct, legible and pleasant and are integrated into the wider network; c) ensure the provision of appropriate information, including signposting and way-finding to encourage the safe use of the network; d) encourage the use of supporting facilities, especially along principle cycle routes; e) make provision for secure cycle parking facilities in new developments and in areas with high visitor numbers across Central Lincolnshire; and f) consider the needs of all users through inclusive design.	The Proposed Development includes opportunities for enhancement such as proposals to provide permissive paths, as well as improvements to existing PRoWs. An oPRWMP has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible.	

Policy S49: Parking Provision	… **Part B: All Other Locations** **…** **Parking Provision Non-Residential Development** All other types of development should incorporate a level of car parking that is suitable for the proposed development taking into account its location, its size and its proposed use, including the expected number of employees, customers or visitors. Infrastructure relating to electric vehicle charging points should be provided in accordance with Policy NS18. **Other considerations** In areas where there is a made Neighbourhood Plan containing residential parking standards, these will take precedent over the standards contained in Appendix 2.	As set out in the oCTMP, once operational, parking will only be permitted in designated areas, and all operatives will be required to reverse park at all times. An appropriate number of standard parking spaces and one disabled parking space will be provided adjacent to the control building. The Substations will have a small number of parking spaces adjacent to its relevant control building. The parking provisions for the substations has been developed from operational experience of similar sized projects. During the construction works, parking will be provided in designated areas, and all operatives and visitors will be subject to Site rules. No parking will be permitted on the public road verges.	**oCTMP [EN010159/APP/7.9]**
Policy S53: Design and Amenity	All development, including extensions and alterations to existing buildings, must achieve high quality sustainable design that contributes positively to local character, landscape and	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

	townscape, and supports diversity, equality and access for all. Good design will be at the centre of every development proposal and this will be required to be demonstrated through evidence supporting planning applications to a degree proportionate to the proposal. Design Codes may be produced for parts of Central Lincolnshire or in support of specific developments. The approach taken in these Design Codes should be informed by the National Model Design Code and where these codes have been adopted, developments will be expected to adhere to the Code. Proposals for new buildings should incorporate the Design Principles for Efficient Buildings in Policy S6 at the centre of design. All development proposals will be assessed against, and will be expected to meet the following relevant design and amenity criteria. All development proposals will: **1. Context**	Transmission System from 2028. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. As set out in the Planning Statement, the location and design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection process that was environmental, and planning led to avoid and minimise impacts as early as possible. Following this, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using solar PV arrays, whilst also being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]**

	a) Be based on a sound understanding of the context, integrating into the surroundings and responding to local history, culture and heritage; b) Relate well to the site, its local and wider context and existing characteristics including the retention of existing natural and historic features wherever possible and including appropriate landscape and boundary treatments to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area; c) Protect any important local views into, out of or through the site; **2. Identity** a) Contribute positively to the sense of place, reflecting and enhancing existing character and distinctiveness; b) Reflect or improve on the original architectural style of the local surroundings, or	the environment as far as practicable. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances both the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable, as set out in the Design Approach Document. The Proposed Development delivers good design, being in accordance with the design policies set out in the NPSs in the context of efficiently delivering large scale renewable energy infrastructure where it is recognised in national policy that the extent to which a scheme can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area is limited. The Proposed Development design does however include embedded additional measures that will deliver biodiversity enhancements; improved connectivity and enhancement of PRoW through the provision of new permissive paths and proposes a landscape strategy which is sensitive	

	embrace opportunities for innovative design and new technologies which sympathetically complement or contrast with the local architectural style; c) Use appropriate, high quality materials which reinforce or enhance local distinctiveness; d) Not result in the visual or physical coalescence with any neighbouring settlement nor ribbon development; **3. Built Form** a) Make effective and efficient use of land that contribute to the achievement of compact, walkable neighbourhoods; b) Be appropriate for its context and its future use in terms of its building types, street layout, development block type and size, siting, height, scale, massing, form, rhythm, plot widths, gaps between buildings, and the ratio of developed to undeveloped space both	to its surroundings, by reducing the Proposed Development's impact on the landscape and providing opportunities for screening to protect residential amenities. The location and design of the Proposed Development accords with the site selection and technical considerations set out in NPS EN-3 for large scale solar development. The Proposed Development will also deliver a high-quality solar development design that has responded to the local and surrounding context in accordance with relevant local planning policies.	

	within a plot and within a scheme; c) Achieve a density not only appropriate for its context but also taking into account its accessibility; d) Have a layout and form that delivers efficient and adaptable homes in accordance with Policy S6 and Policy S20. **4. Movement** a) Form part of a well-designed and connected travel network with consideration for all modes of transport offering genuine choices for non-car travel and prioritising active travel and where relevant demonstrate this through evidence clearly showing connectivity for all modes and a hierarchy of routes (also see Policy S47 and Policy S48); b) Maximise pedestrian and cycle permeability and avoid barriers to movement through careful		

	consideration of street layouts and access routes both within the site and in the wider context contributing to the delivery of walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods in accordance with Policy S48; c) Ensure areas are accessible, safe and legible for all including people with physical accessibility difficulties; d) Deliver well-considered parking, including suitable electric vehicle charging points, with appropriate landscaping provided in accordance with the parking standards set out in Policy NS18 and Policy S49; e) Deliver suitable access solutions for servicing and utilities; **5. Nature** a) Incorporate and retain as far as possible existing natural features including hedgerows, trees, and waterbodies particularly		

	where these features offer a valuable habitat to support biodiversity, aligned with policies in the Natural Environment chapter of the Local Plan; b) Incorporate appropriate landscape and boundary treatments to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area, maximising opportunities to deliver diverse ecosystems and biodiverse habitats, strengthening wildlife corridors and green infrastructure networks, and helping to achieve wider goals for biodiversity net gain, climate change mitigation and adaptation and water management; **6. Public Spaces** a) Ensure public spaces are accessible to all, are safe and secure and will be easy to maintain with clear definition of public and private spaces;		

	b) Form part of a hierarchy of spaces where relevant to offer a range of spaces available for the community and to support a variety of activities and encourage social interaction; c) Be carefully planned and integrated into the wider community to ensure spaces feel safe and are safe through natural surveillance, being flanked by active uses and by promoting activity within the space; d) Maximise opportunities for delivering additional trees and biodiversity gains through the creation of new habitats and the strengthening or extending wildlife corridors and the green infrastructure network in accordance with policies in the Natural Environment chapter; **7. Uses** a) Create or contribute to a variety of complementary		

	uses that meet the needs of the community; b) Be compatible with neighbouring land uses and not result in likely conflict with existing uses unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that both the ongoing use of the neighbouring site will not be compromised, and that the amenity of occupiers of the new development will be satisfactory with the ongoing normal use of the neighbouring site; c) Not result in adverse noise and vibration taking into account surrounding uses nor result in adverse impacts upon air quality from odour, fumes, smoke, dust and other sources; **8. Homes and Buildings** a) Provide homes with good quality internal environments with adequate space for users and good access to private, shared or public spaces;		

	b) Be adaptable and resilient to climate change and be compatible with achieving a net zero carbon Central Lincolnshire as required by Policies S6, S7 and S8; c) Be capable of adapting to changing needs of future occupants and be cost effective to run by achieving the standards set out in Policy S20; d) Not result in harm to people's amenity either within the proposed development or neighbouring it through overlooking, overshadowing, loss of light or increase in artificial light or glare; e) Provide adequate storage, waste, servicing and utilities for the use proposed; **9. Resources** a) Minimise the need for resources both in construction and operation of buildings and be easily adaptable to avoid		

	unnecessary waste in accordance with Policies S10 and S11; b) Use high quality materials which are not only suitable for the context but that are durable and resilient to impacts of climate change in accordance with the requirements of Policy S20; **10. Lifespan** a) Use high quality materials which are durable and ensure buildings and spaces are adaptive; and b) Encourage the creation of a sense of ownership for users and the wider community with a clear strategy for ongoing management and stewardship. Development proposals will be expected to satisfy requirements of any adopted local design guide or design code where relevant to the proposal.		

Policy S57: The Historic Environment	Development proposals should protect, conserve and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment of Central Lincolnshire. In instances where a development proposal would affect the significance of a heritage asset (whether designated or non-designated), including any contribution made by its setting, the applicant will be required to undertake and provide the following, in a manner proportionate to the asset's significance: a) describe and assess the significance of the asset, including its setting, to determine its architectural, historical or archaeological interest; and b) identify the impact of the proposed works on the significance and special character of the asset, including its setting; and c) provide a clear justification for the works, especially if these would harm the significance of the	There are no listed buildings or Registered Parks and Gardens within the Site. However, the South Clifton Conservation Area is located to the east and within 1km from the closest edge of the Order Limits. The Scheduled Monument (SM) of Whimpton Moor Medieval Village and Moated Site, Ragnall is partially located within the Site but largely excluded from the developable area. While there are no other designated heritage assets within the Site itself; a number of designated heritage assets are located within 1km of the Site boundary, including the following: • 3 Grade I listed buildings; • 6 Grade II* listed buildings; and • 61 Grade II listed buildings; and The Cultural Heritage assessment of the ES provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including above ground assets. The Buried Heritage assessment provided an assessment of the Proposed Development on the	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]** **ES Volume 3, Figures Supporting Volumes 1 and 2 [EN010159/APP/6.20]:** • **Figure 9.1: Study Area.** • **Figure 9.2: Prehistoric Receptors** • **Figure 9.3: Roman Receptors** • **Figure 9.4: Saxon and Medieval Receptors** • **Figure 9.5: Post-Medieval and Undated Receptors** • **Figure 10.1: Designated**

	asset, including its setting, so that the harm can be weighed against public benefits. Development proposals will be supported where they: d) protect the significance of heritage assets (including where relevant their setting) by protecting and enhancing architectural and historic character, historical associations, landscape and townscape features and through consideration of scale, design, architectural detailing, materials, siting, layout, mass, use, and views and vistas both from and towards the asset; e) promote opportunities to better reveal significance of heritage assets, where possible; f) take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing non-designated heritage assets and their setting.	historic environment, including below ground assets. Both the Cultural and Buried Heritage assessments have been informed by the HER and set out detailed baselines. They conclude that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is significant in EIA terms. Heritage was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document (DAD). The heritage design principles incorporate the following: • Protect and Enhance places of value; and • Protect features that are important to the local community. In terms of archaeology/buried heritage, a first phase of the trial trenching evaluation was undertaken between September 2024 and December 2024. The results of the trial trenching evaluation are presented in the Trial Trenching	**Heritage Asset Mapping in 1km and 2km Radius of the Site.** • **Figure 10.2: Non-Designated Heritage Asset Mapping in 1km and 2 km Radius of the Site.** • **Figure 10.3: Designated Heritage Asset ZTV Mapping with 1km and 2km Radius.** • **Figure 10.4: Non-Designated Heritage Asset ZTV Mapping with 1km and 2km Radius.** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volumes 1 and 2 [EN010159/APP/6.21]:**

	Proposals to alter or to change the use of a heritage asset, will be supported provided: g) the proposed use is compatible with the significance of the heritage asset, including its fabric, character, appearance, setting and, for listed buildings, interior; and h) such a change of use will demonstrably assist in the maintenance or enhancement of the heritage asset; and i) features essential to the special interest of the individual heritage asset are not harmed to facilitate the change of use. Development proposals that will result in substantial harm to, or the total loss of, a designated heritage asset will only be granted permission where it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss, and the following criteria can be satisfied:	Evaluation Report. The trial trenching targeted some of the areas of greatest archaeological potential, as identified during the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, and the areas selected as options for the substation and BESS parameters. The trial trenching evaluation provided critical insights into the required suite of mitigation measures essential for ensuring the viability of the proposed development, while concurrently evaluating the design's capacity to address and accommodate any archaeological constraints that have been, or may in the future be, identified. The information collected during the trial trenching evaluation also confirmed that any effect arising from the construction of the Proposed Development on buried heritage deposits can be successfully mitigated to a non-significant level by a combination of embedded environmental measures and a proportionate and targeted archaeological mitigation.	• **Appendix 9.4: Geophysical Survey Report** • **Appendix 9.5: Preliminary Trial Trenching Evaluation Report**

	j) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and k) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and l) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and m)the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use. Where a development proposal would result in less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, permission will only be granted where the public benefits, including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use, outweigh the harm. Where a non-designated heritage asset is affected by development proposals, there will be a		

	presumption in favour of its retention, though regard will be had to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. Any special features which contribute to an asset's significance should be retained and reinstated, where possible. **Listed Buildings** Permission to change the use of a Listed Building or to alter or extend such a building will be granted where the local planning authority is satisfied that the proposal is in the interest of the building's conservation and does not involve activities or alterations prejudicial to the special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building or its setting. Development proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will, in principle, be supported where they make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of the Listed Building. **Conservation Areas** Significant weight will be given to the protection and enhancement of Conservation Areas.		

	Development within, affecting the setting of, or affecting views into or out of, a Conservation Area should conserve, or where appropriate enhance, features that contribute positively to the area's special character, appearance and setting, including as identified in any adopted Conservation Area appraisal. Proposals should: n) retain buildings/groups of buildings, existing street patterns, historic building lines and ground surfaces and architectural details that contribute to the character and appearance of the area; o) where relevant and practical, remove features which have a negative impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; p) retain and reinforce local distinctiveness with reference to height, massing, scale, form, materials and plot widths of the existing built environment;		

	q) assess, and mitigate against, any negative impact the proposal might have on the townscape, roofscape, skyline and landscape; and r) aim to protect trees, or where losses are proposed, demonstrate how such losses are appropriately mitigated against. **Archaeology** Development affecting archaeological remains, whether known or potential, designated or undesignated, should take every practical and reasonable step to protect and, where possible, enhance their significance. Planning applications for such development should be accompanied by an appropriate and proportionate assessment to understand the potential for and significance of remains, and the impact of development upon them. If initial assessment does not provide sufficient information, developers will be required to undertake field evaluation in advance of determination of the		

	application. This may include a range of techniques for both intrusive and non-intrusive evaluation, as appropriate to the site. Wherever possible and appropriate, mitigation strategies should ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, provision must be made for preservation by record according to an agreed written scheme of investigation submitted by the developer and approved by the planning authority. Any work undertaken as part of the planning process must be appropriately archived in a way agreed with the local planning authority.		
Policy S58: Protecting Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford's Setting and Character	All development proposals should contribute to the realisation of the following key principles: **Lincoln:** a) Protect the dominance and approach views of Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle and uphill Lincoln on the skyline;	**Lincoln** The Site is located approximately 11km to the west of Lincoln. The Proposed Development would not have any impacts on Lincoln's built heritage and townscape character, or conservation areas and historic parks, due to the distance	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		b) Protect Lincoln's distinct built heritage and townscape character as set out in the Lincoln Townscape Character Assessment; c) Respect Lincoln's unique character and setting and relationship with surrounding villages by maintaining and enhancing a strategic green infrastructure network around and into the City, including Green Wedges (see Policy S63) to protect the City's green character and to maintain the setting and integrity of surrounding villages; d) Proposals within, adjoining or affecting the setting of the 11 Conservation Areas and 3 historic parks and gardens within the built up area of Lincoln, should preserve and enhance their special character, setting, appearance and respect their special historic and architectural context; e) Support the development of art, cultural and leisure	between the Proposed Development town of Lincoln. However, the Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP and Design Principles Document which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network around Lincoln. **Gainsborough** The Site is located approximately 14km to the south of Gainsborough. The Proposed Development would not have any impacts on Gainsborough's built heritage and townscape character, or conservation areas and historic parks, due to the distance between the Proposed Development town of Lincoln. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP and Design Principles Document which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network around Gainsborough. **Sleaford** The Proposed Development is not located within proximity to Sleaford	

	assets and facilities, such as the Collection, the Theatre Royal, the Engine Shed, Arboretum and Whisby Nature Park, and improve access to such assets and facilities; and f) Do not detract from the open character of Lincoln's Brayford Pool and waterways, protecting and enhancing them as a major focal points in and through the City **Gainsborough** g) Take into account the Gainsborough Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Gainsborough Town Centre Heritage Masterplan; h) Protect and enhance the landscape character and setting of Gainsborough and the surrounding villages by ensuring key gateways are landscaped to enhance the setting of the town, minimise impact upon the open character of the countryside and to maintain the setting	and therefore will have no impact on it.	

	and integrity of surrounding villages. **Sleaford** i) Take into account the Sleaford Masterplan, Sleaford Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal, Sleaford Town Centre Regeneration SPD and any subsequent guidance; j) Protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the Castle Site, Market Place, the Bass Maltings, Money's Mill and Yard, Handley Monument and Northgate, through sensitive development and environmental improvement; k) Protect important local views of Sleaford, including the Bass Maltings complex and its setting, from both within and outside the town; l) Support the development of art, cultural and leisure assets and facilities within or close to the town centre, and improve access to such		

	assets and facilities, such as The Hub (the National Centre for Craft and Design); m)Protect and enhance the River Slea Navigation Corridor as a major focal point for the town, optimising its use and value for recreation, tourism and biodiversity, and taking into account the opportunities identified in the Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study; n) Support the development of the Sleaford East West Leisure Link as the key component of the Sleaford Urban Green Grid in accordance with the Sleaford Masterplan and Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Study and take opportunities to deliver improvements to the wider Green Infrastructure network		
Policy S59: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network	The Central Lincolnshire Authorities will safeguard green and blue infrastructure in Central Lincolnshire from inappropriate development and work actively with partners to maintain and improve	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

	the quantity, quality, accessibility and management of the green infrastructure network. Proposals that cause loss or harm to the green and blue infrastructure network will not be supported unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts on green infrastructure are unavoidable, development will only be supported if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided. Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green and blue infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design from the outset. Where new green infrastructure is proposed, the design and layout should take opportunities to: a) incorporate a range of types and sizes of green and blue spaces, green routes and environmental features that are appropriate to the development and the wider green and blue infrastructure network to maximise the	the Order Limits; however, the South Clifton Conservation Area is located to the east and within 1km from the closest edge of the Order Limits. In addition, the Order Limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. The Proposed Development presents a new type of built form within a predominantly rural landscape. The form of development, while temporary, has the potential to alter the way in which the landscape is experienced and viewed. The LVIA considers the extent and significance of the potential impacts on key receptors and concludes that, with mitigation, significant impacts are expected to occur across all stages of the development albeit not simultaneously nor at all receptors. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of a significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths outweigh these impacts. As a whole, the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volumes 1 and 2: Appendices 6.2-6.10 [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area [EN010159/APP/6.20]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **Outline Construction Environmental**

	delivery of multi-functionality; b) deliver biodiversity net gain and support ecosystem services; c) respond to landscape/townscape and historic character; d) support climate change adaptation and resilience including through use of appropriate habitats and species; and e) encourage healthy and active lifestyles Development proposals must protect the linear features of the green and blue infrastructure network that provide connectivity between green infrastructure assets, including public rights of way, bridleways, cycleways and waterways, and take opportunities to improve and expand such features. Development will be expected to make a contribution proportionate to their scale towards the establishment, enhancement and on-going management of green	amenity impacts, and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development. The LVIA includes an evaluation of the effect of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on landscape. The environmental measures included in LVIA, and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) includes habitats proposed across the Order Limits comprising: • Over 9km of species-rich native hedgerow with trees (including existing hedgerow enhancement); • Approximately 6km of species-rich native hedgerow; • Approximately 1,240ha of species-rich grassland accounted for across the Order Limits in hedgerow and field margins, riparian zones, wildflower meadows and	**(oCEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.4]** **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management (oDEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.6]** **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	and/or blue infrastructure by contributing to the development of the strategic green infrastructure network within Central Lincolnshire, in accordance with the Developer Contributions SPD.	tussock mixes beneath solar panels; • 4.2ha of woodland and native tree belts; • Individual trees; and • Agricultural field margins. The Biodiversity assessment evaluates the Proposed Development's impact on important ecological features and is supported by extensive survey work to confirm the ecological habitats and species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity assessment identifies ecological risks from developing the Proposed Development. It has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by experienced ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are	

		maximised, as set out in the Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any	

		internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to biodiversity, which is secured by the oLEMP and oCEMP. The Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Assessment evaluates the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and increased storminess. The assessment concludes that there will be not greater than a minor adverse impact on climate resilience, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Hydrology and Hydrogeology assessment confirms that flood risk	

		during construction and at decommissioning will be managed through the CEMP and DEMP, which will be secured by the DCO and required to be in accordance with the oCEMP, and the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management (oDEMP). Opportunities for environmental enhancement in relation to water are detailed in the Design Approach Document, particularly with the relatively few panels that will be located in Flood Zone 3. A number of existing PRoWs traverse the Proposed Development as set out in the Landscape and Visual, and Transport and Access Assessments. The Proposed Development includes opportunities for enhancement such as proposals to provide permissive paths, as well as improvements to existing PRoWs. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRWMP) has been prepared in support of the DCO application. The oPRWMP sets out the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures for PRoW affected by construction which may	

		require temporary diversion/closure, or alternative routing where the former is not possible. The Proposed Development would incorporate a number of green infrastructure proposals, as set out in the oLEMP which would enhance the strategic green infrastructure network in the surrounding area.	
Policy S60: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	All development should: a) protect, manage, enhance and extend the ecological network of habitats, species and sites of international, national and local importance (statutory and non-statutory), including sites that meet the criteria for selection as a Local Site; b) minimise impacts on biodiversity and features of geodiversity value; c) deliver measurable and proportionate net gains in biodiversity in accordance with Policy S61; and d) protect and enhance the aquatic environment within or adjoining the site,	The Biodiversity assessment of the ES evaluates the Proposed Development's impact on important ecological features and is supported by extensive survey work to confirm the ecological habitats and species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity assessment identifies ecological risks from developing the Proposed Development. It has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has been carried out by competent ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010159/APP/6.4]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6; Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volumes 1 and 2: Appendices 6.2-6.10 [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oCEMP [EN010159/APP/7.4]**

	including water quality and habitat. **Part One: Designated Sites** The following hierarchy of sites will apply in the consideration of development proposals: **1. International Sites** The highest level of protection will be afforded to internationally protected sites. Development proposals that will have an adverse impact on the integrity of such areas, will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the NPPF. Development proposals that are likely to result in a significant adverse effect, either alone or in combination with other proposals, on any internationally designated site, must satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations (or any superseding similar UK legislation). Development requiring Appropriate Assessment will only be allowed where it can be determined, taking into account mitigation, that the proposal would not result in significant adverse effects on the site's integrity.	maximised, as set out in the Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter of the ES. There are no statutory sites designated at the international level within the 10km study area. However, the Humber Estuary Ramsar site and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is directly linked to the Proposed Development through the River Trent. Although the closest point of the Order Limits to the Humber Estuary Ramsar site / SAC is over 30km distant, migratory fish, namely river lamprey and sea lamprey, that are designated features of the Humber Estuary Ramsar site / SAC may use the freshwater habitats within or close to the Proposed Development as functionally linked land. There is one site of national nature conservation importance within the 2km study area: Spalford Warren SSSI lies 2.1km south and comprises the best remaining example of grass heath dominated by wavy hair-grass and sand sedge in Nottinghamshire and one of the last to be found in the Midlands. SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) extend across the Site. These relate	**oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	2. National Sites (NNRs and SSSIs) Development proposals should avoid impact on these nationally protected sites. Development proposals within or outside a national site, likely to have an adverse effect, either individually or in combination with other developments, will not normally be supported unless the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the adverse impacts on the features of the site and any adverse impacts on the wider network of nationally protected sites. **3. Irreplaceable Habitats** Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy will be delivered. **4. Local Sites (LNR, LWS and LGS)**	to specific developments likely to impact SSSIs and require consultation with Natural England. The types of developments described do not include solar farms. There are 34 LWS within the 2km study area, one, Fledborough to Harby Dismantled Railway, of which occurs within the Site itself, with a further seven immediately adjacent to the Site. The Biodiversity assessment sets out the likely significant effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no potential significant adverse effects identified on any internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to biodiversity, which is secured by the oLEMP and oCEMP. The design of the infrastructure and the environmental measures are aimed at both delivering BNG and	

	Development likely to have an adverse effect on locally designated sites, their features or their function as part of the ecological network, will only be supported where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss, and the coherence of the local ecological network is maintained. Where significant harm cannot be avoided, the mitigation hierarchy should be followed. **Part Two: Species and Habitats of Principal Importance** All development proposals will be considered in the context of the relevant Local Authority's duty to promote the protection and recovery of priority species and habitats. Development should seek to preserve, restore and re-create priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Lincolnshire Geodiversity	contributing towards local conservation priorities. This includes providing new and enhanced HPI including extensive hedgerow networks, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, field margins and ditches and habitats that could provide increases in the size and distribution of SPI including brown hare, hedgehog, turtle dove, water vole, otter, green and brown hairstreaks, harvest mouse, bats and farmland birds.	

	Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Where adverse impacts are likely, development will only be supported where the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh these impacts. In such cases, appropriate mitigation or compensatory measures will be required. **Part Three: Mitigation of Potential Adverse Impacts** Development should avoid adverse impact on existing biodiversity and geodiversity features as a first principle, in line with the mitigation hierarchy. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated. If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort where there is no alternative. Development will only be supported where the proposed measures for mitigation and/or compensation along with details of net gain are acceptable to the Local Planning Authority in terms of design and		

	location, and are secured for the lifetime of the development with appropriate funding mechanisms that are capable of being secured by condition and/or legal agreement. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused.		
Policy S61: Biodiversity Opportunity and Delivering Measurable Net Gains	Following application of the mitigation hierarchy, all development proposals should ensure opportunities are taken to retain, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity features proportionate to their scale, through site layout, design of new buildings and proposals for existing buildings with consideration to the construction phase and ongoing site management. Development proposals should create new habitats, and links between habitats, in line with Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity and Green Infrastructure Mapping evidence, the biodiversity opportunity area	The Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the measures set out within the oLEMP. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	principles set out in Appendix 4 to this Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (once completed), to maintain and enhance a network of wildlife sites and corridors, to minimise habitat fragmentation and provide opportunities for species to respond and adapt to climate change. Proposals for major and large scale development should seek to deliver wider environmental net gains where feasible. Biodiversity Net Gain The following part of the policy applies unless, and until, subsequently superseded, in whole or part, by national regulations or Government policy associated with the delivery of mandatory biodiversity net gain arising from the Environment Act 2021. Where conflict between the policy below and the provisions of Government regulations or national policy arises, then the latter should prevail. All qualifying development proposals must deliver at least a 10% measurable biodiversity net		

	gain attributable to the development. The net gain for biodiversity should be calculated using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric. Biodiversity net gain should be provided on-site wherever possible. Off-site measures will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that, after following the mitigation hierarchy, all reasonable opportunities to achieve measurable net gains on-site have been exhausted or where greater gains can be delivered off-site where the improvements can be demonstrated to be deliverable and are consistent with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. All development proposals, unless specifically exempted by Government, must provide clear and robust evidence for biodiversity net gains and losses in the form of a biodiversity gain plan, which should ideally be submitted with the planning application (or, if not, the submission and approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development commences will form a condition of any planning application approval), setting out:		

	a) information about the steps to be taken to minimise the adverse effect of the development on the biodiversity of the onsite habitat and any other habitat; b) the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat; c) the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat following implementation of the proposed ecological enhancements/interventions; d) the ongoing management strategy for any proposals; e) any registered off-site gain allocated to the development and the biodiversity value of that gain in relation to the development; and f) exceptionally any biodiversity credits purchased for the development through a recognised and deliverable offsetting scheme.		

	Demonstrating the value of the habitat (pre and post-development) with appropriate and robust evidence will be the responsibility of the applicant. Proposals which do not demonstrate that the post-development biodiversity value will exceed the pre-development value of the onsite habitat by a 10% net gain will be refused. Ongoing management of any new or improved onsite and offsite habitats, together with monitoring and reporting, will need to be planned and funded for 30 years after completion of a development		
Policy S66: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	Development proposals should be prepared based on the overriding principle that: • the existing tree and woodland cover is maintained, improved and expanded; and • opportunities for expanding woodland are actively considered, and implemented where practical and appropriate to do so. **Existing Trees and Woodland**	The Biodiversity assessment sets out environmental measures relevant to trees and hedgerows, including that: • Trees will be planted individually and linearly, creating tree lines, and within existing and newly created hedgerows. Trees of a variety of nursery stock sizes will be planted to provide difference in age structure. Tree lines and hedgerows with trees will improve connectivity across the Site and the wider landscape, they will provide habitat for fungi, invertebrates	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

	Planning permission will only be granted if the proposal provides evidence that it has been subject to adequate consideration of the impact of the development on any existing trees and woodland found on-site (and off-site, if there are any trees near the site, with 'near' defined as the distance comprising 12 times the stem diameter of the off-site tree). If any trees exist on or near the development site, 'adequate consideration' is likely to mean the completion of a British Standard 5837 Tree Survey and, if applicable, an Arboricultural Method Statement Where the proposal will result in the loss or deterioration of: a) ancient woodland; and/or b) the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, permission will be refused, unless and on an exceptional basis the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Where the proposal will result in the loss or deterioration of a tree	(as living, standing deadwood and fallen deadwood), nesting and food provision for birds and mammals, and roosting opportunities for bats. A range of native species typical of the region will be selected to provide a variety of conditions for multiple flora (fungi and epiphytes) and fauna, with a range of wood types (soft and hard to encourage varying rot rate and cavity features) and longevity. Proposed tree planting locations are presented in Figure 6.1 and typically form boundaries around proposed solar PV fields. Additional tree planting, will occur within three mitigation (species-rich grassland) fields in the area to the east of the River Trent. • Tree planting and hedgerow planting will take place over the winters of each of the three year construction programme. The aims will be to: ○ Gap up and plant standards in one third of the	

	protected by a Tree Preservation Order or a tree within a Conservation Area, then permission will be refused unless: c) there is no net loss of amenity value which arises as a result of the development; or d) the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Where the proposal will result in the loss of any other tree or woodland not covered by the above, then the Council will expect the proposal to retain those trees that make a significant contribution to the landscape or biodiversity value of the area, provided this can be done without compromising the achievement of good design for the site. Mitigating for loss of Trees and Woodland Where it is appropriate for higher value tree(s) (category A or B trees (BS5837)) and/or woodland to be lost as part of a development proposal, then appropriate	defunct hedgerows each winter ○ Plant one third of new hedgerows (including standards) each winter ○ Take existing hedgerows into positive management for biodiversity at least 3 months ahead of construction activity commencing (other than at access points and other areas where vegetation management will be needed to aid delivery). Habitat creation and enhancement measures will be detailed within the oLEMP.	

mitigation, via compensatory tree planting, will be required. Such tree planting should be on-site wherever possible and should:

e) take all opportunities to meet the six Tree Planting Principles (see supporting text); and

f) unless demonstrably impractical or inappropriate, provide the following specific quantity of compensatory trees:

Trunk diameter(mm) at 1.5m above ground of tree lost to development	Number of replacement trees required, per tree lost*
75-200	1
210-400	4
410-600	6
610-800	3
810-1000	10
1000+	11

* replacement based on selected standards 10/12 cm girth at 1m

	New Trees and Woodland Where appropriate and practical, opportunities for new tree planting should be explored as part of all development proposals (in addition to, if applicable, any necessary compensatory tree provision). Where new trees are proposed, they should be done so on the basis of the five Tree Planting Principles. Proposals which fail to provide practical opportunities for new tree planting will be refused. Planting schemes should include provision to replace any plant failures within five years after the date of planting. Planting of trees must be considered in the context of wider plans for nature recovery which seeks to increase biodiversity and green infrastructure generally, not simply planting of trees, and protecting / enhancing soils, particularly peat soils. Tree planting should only be carried out in appropriate locations that will not impact on existing ecology or opportunities to create alternative habitats that could deliver better enhancements for people and wildlife, including carbon storage. Where woodland		

	habitat creation is appropriate, consideration should be given to the economic and ecological benefits that can be achieved through natural regeneration. Any tree planting should use native and local provenance tree species suitable for the location. **Management and Maintenance** In instances where new trees and/or woodlands are proposed, it may be necessary for the council to require appropriate developer contributions to be provided, to ensure provision is made for appropriate management and maintenance of the new trees and/or woodland. **Hedgerows** Proposals for new development will be expected to retain existing hedgerows where appropriate and integrate them fully into the design having regard to their management requirements. Proposals for new development will not be supported that would result in the loss of hedges of high landscape, heritage, amenity or biodiversity value unless the need		

	for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh the loss and this loss can be clearly demonstrated to be unavoidable. Development requiring the loss of a hedgerow protected under The Hedgerow Regulations will only be supported where it would allow for a substantially improved overall approach to the design and landscaping of the development that would outweigh the loss of the hedgerow. Where any hedges are lost, suitable replacement planting or restoration of existing hedges, will be required within the site or the locality, including appropriate provision for maintenance and management.		
Policy S67: Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land	Proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy. With the exception of allocated sites, significant development resulting in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be supported if:	The Applicant started engagement with the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) as the point of contact for new connection requests to discuss the potential opportunities for a connection offer within the target region identified above. Grid connections with spare capacity are finite, and no connection offers were provided that could deliver the output proposed by NGESO to the Applicant for already available capacity at already existing	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Appendix 1: Site Selection Report, Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

	a) The need for the proposed development has been clearly established and there is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and b) The benefits and/or sustainability considerations outweigh the need to protect such land, when taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and c) The impacts of the proposal upon ongoing agricultural operations have been minimised through the use of appropriate design solutions; and d) Where feasible, once any development which is supported has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use (this condition will be secured by planning	substations in the target region/geography. This is somewhat inevitable given the context of the urgent national need for renewable energy (specifically solar), as developments have already been proposed to make use of existing substation capacity where it occurs. The Statement of Need sets out that there is no capacity at any existing NGESO infrastructure within 50km of the Site to accommodate new connections of the Proposed Development's magnitude before 2032. The Site Selection Report explains the Applicant's approach to selection of an appropriate site to take forward as part of an application for a NSIP scale solar project. The report explains that initially there are three fundamental attributes required to develop NSIP scale solar: suitable irradiance and topography; a connection to the National Grid, and; available land. These three attributes identified locations which may be suitable for such solar development and focused the Applicant's search on sites within the East Midlands distribution	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land and Soils [EN010159/APP/6.8]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.6: Agricultural Land Classification survey report [EN010159/APP/6.21]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010159/APP/7.10]**

	condition where appropriate). Where proposals are for sites of 1 hectare or larger, which would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, an agricultural land classification report should be submitted, setting out the justification for such a loss and how criterion b has been met.	network region, which is where the Applicant was aware there was capacity in the National Grid infrastructure. Once the search area was determined, the Applicant applied specific environmental search criteria, including agricultural land grade to find appropriate land which would be able to deliver its objectives. The Applicant required a large site but has a preference for a larger landholding under single ownership to maximise the potential energy generation and to assist with deliverability and management of potential impacts of a proposed solar development. An 10km radius was established from the Point of Connection for the purposes of site selection. 10km represents a viable distance from point of connection for the proposed development. Potential sites beyond this were not considered due to the significant constraints associated with cabling and connection. The Applicant has taken into account agricultural land quality when identifying the Solar PV Site, based on publicly available information. The Applicant, from an early stage,	

		sought to avoid land of higher agricultural quality. However, given the nature of the sites which were able to meet the Applicant's objectives, agricultural land formed part of each potential site identified. Consideration was given as to whether alternative land could be found with less impacts on agricultural land in proximity to the High Marnham Substation. The general quality of the land across the sites considered was similar. Given the similarities, the land type did not represent a differentiating factor in the site selection process. The applicant found that there are not many areas, if any, that could have less of an impact when looking for a parcel of land the size One Earth requires. The Land and Soils assessment and the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) set out how agricultural land was considered in the design of Proposed Development, the Proposed Development's embedded mitigation measures, and principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and	

		decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Agricultural land quality was a key consideration in the Applicant's site selection process as set out in the Design Approach Document. The Site Selection Report, Planning Statement and the Design Approach Document set out how fields that were identified as comprising higher grade land were discounted from the area of Solar PV development to reduce the impact on BMV agricultural land. As set out in the Planning Statement, with the exception of the agricultural land required for green infrastructure, the land to be used will be used temporarily with the land being returned to agricultural use at the end of the Proposed Development's lifetime. Nevertheless, the ES has confirmed that significant effects are encountered, despite the context of that loss relating to green infrastructure, and limited weight may be applied against the Proposed Development in the planning balance. The limited adverse impacts of the Proposed Development are	

		not considered to outweigh its substantial benefits.	
Policy S84: Ministry of Defence Establishments	**Part Two: Development affecting MOD establishments** Development will not be supported where it would adversely affect military operations or capability unless those impacts can be appropriately mitigated in agreement with the MOD.	The Proposed Development does not fall within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) technical safeguarding zone. However, the MOD have been consulted through the preparation of the Application.	**Consultation Report [EN010159/APP/5.1]** **Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]**

One Earth Solar Farm

Table 9 Newark and Sherwood District Council – Table of Compliance

Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework Core Strategy & Allocations, Amended Core Strategy (Adopted March 2019)			
Policy	**Policy Text**	**Assessment**	**Document Reference**
Spatial Policy 3 **Rural Areas**	The District Council will support and promote local services and facilities in the rural communities of Newark & Sherwood. Local housing need will be addressed by focusing housing in sustainable, accessible villages. The rural economy will be supported by encouraging tourism, rural diversification, and by supporting appropriate agricultural and forestry development. The countryside will be protected and schemes to enhance heritage assets, to increase biodiversity, enhance the landscape and, in the right locations, increase woodland cover will be encouraged. Beyond Principal Villages, proposals for new development will be considered against the following criteria: • *Location* - new development should be in villages, which	As set out in the Planning Statement and Statement of Need the Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. The Order Limits do not conflict with any allocations within the Local Plan and would not restrict the achievement of the objectives of Spatial Policy 3. The location of the Proposed Development in the countryside is justified due to the Proposed development's delivery of substantial renewable energy generation, and the need to be in sufficient proximity of the connection point to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS), and the contribution the	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	have sustainable access to Newark Urban Area, Service Centres or Principal Villages and have a range of local services themselves which address day to day needs. Local services include but are not limited to Post Office/shops, schools, public houses and village halls; • *Scale* - new development should be appropriate to the proposed location and small scale in nature; • *Need* - Employment and tourism which are sustainable and meet the requirements of the relevant Core Policies. New or replacement facilities to support the local community. Development which supports local agriculture and farm diversification. New housing where it helps to support community facilities and local services. Neighbourhood Plans may set detailed policies reflecting local housing need, elsewhere housing schemes of 3 dwellings or more should meet the mix	Proposed Development would make to meeting the established urgent need for renewable energy generation infrastructure.	

	and type requirements of Core Policy 3; • *Impact* - new development should not generate excessive car-borne traffic from out of the area. New development should not have a detrimental impact on the amenity of local people nor have an undue impact on local infrastructure, including drainage, sewerage systems and the transport network; and • *Character* - new development should not have a detrimental impact on the character of the location or its landscape setting. Within villages consideration will also be given to schemes which secure environmental enhancements by the re-use or redevelopment of former farmyards/farm buildings or the removal of businesses where the operation gives rise to amenity issues. Within settlements which do not meet the locational criterion of this policy but are well related to villages that do, consideration will		

	be given to the infilling of small gaps with 1 or 2 dwellings so long as this does not result in the joining of outlying areas into the village in question, or the coalescence with another village. Such development will need to comply with the scale, need, impact and character criteria of this policy. Development not in villages or settlements, in the open countryside, will be strictly controlled and restricted to uses which require a rural setting. Policies to deal with such applications are set out in the Allocations & Development Management DPD. Consideration will also be given to the re-use of rural buildings of architectural merit. Where Neighbourhood Plans define village envelopes, development will only be supported beyond them if they meet the requirements of relevant policies within the Core Strategy or Allocations & Development Management DPD.		

Spatial Policy 7 Sustainable Transport	The Council will encourage and support development proposals which promote an improved and integrated transport network and an emphasis on non-car modes as a means of access to services and facilities. In particular the Council will work with the County Council and other relevant agencies to reduce the impact of roads and traffic movement, to support the development of opportunities for the use of public transport, increase rural accessibility and to enhance the pedestrian environment. Development proposals should contribute to, the implementation of the Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan and should: • minimise the need for travel, through measures such as travel plans for all development which generate significant amounts of movement, and the provision or enhancement of local services and facilities; • provide safe, convenient and attractive accesses for all, including the elderly and disabled, and others with	The Transport Assessment of the ES provides an assessment on traffic and transportation. The Assessment concludes that no construction, operation (and maintenance) or decommissioning impact will result in a residual effect which is greater than negligible, which is deemed as not significant in EIA terms. To achieve this, the Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) which is provided in support of the DCO application. The oCTMP includes outline staff travel plan measures, which would be developed further in consultation with the relevant highway authorities prior to the construction of the Proposed Development. A package of measures would include: • Provision of public transport information to access where staff will be resident so there is no need for non-local staff to bring cars to the wider area; • Mini-bus service for transport of Site construction staff from	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Transport and Access [EN010159/APP/6.12]** **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010159/APP/7.9]**

	restricted mobility, and provide links to the existing network of footways, bridleways and cycleways, so as to maximise opportunities for their use; • be appropriate for the highway network in terms of the volume and nature of traffic generated, and ensure that the safety, convenience and free flow of traffic using the highway are not adversely affected; • avoid highway improvements which harm the environment and character of the area; • provide appropriate and effective parking provision, both on and off-site, and vehicular servicing arrangements in line with Highways Authority best practice; and • ensure that vehicular traffic generated does not create new, or exacerbate existing on street parking problems, nor materially increase other traffic problems, taking account of any contributions that have been secured for	Lincoln, Worksop and Newark; • Promotion of a car sharing scheme; and • Car parking management. The production of a final Construction Traffic Management Plan is secured by Requirement 14 of the Draft Proposed Order. The Transport assessment has been produced in accordance with current transport guidance. The assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development will not have a severe impact on the operation and safety of the surrounding highway network. The assessment proposes embedded mitigations including: • Basic construction traffic management measures, including the provision of “Construction Access Ahead” and “Slow Ahead” signage at each access junction; • Access junctions into the site, designed in accordance with LCC or NCC standards, depending upon which local	

	the provision of off-site works. The District Council will safeguard locations of highway or public transport schemes identified within the Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan and its implementation plan. Development will not be supported where it would prevent the implementation of these schemes. The location of these schemes are identified on the Policies Map. The route of that part of the Southern Link Road which has not been built will be safeguarded and is indicatively defined on the Policies Map and Figure 5 in line with NAP2A and NAP4. The Council will safeguard land for a possible Newark Rail Flyover, to replace the existing flat crossing to the north of Newark Northgate Station, which has been symbolised on the Newark Key Diagram and identified on the Policies Map. High quality, safe, cycle, footpath and bridleway networks will be safeguarded and extended to provide opportunities to reduce the number of short car journeys and	authority boundary they are located in; • The use of a Travel Plan for construction staff, to be included within the contracts to be let for the construction of the Proposed Development; • The use of Police escorts in the transport of AIL components from the port of Entry, through to the development site; • A 'Wear & Tear' agreement to cover sensitive sections of the public road network and the areas around the proposed site access junction locations; and • Road cleaning, within 500m of the proposed site access junctions.	

	for cycling, walking and horse riding for recreation in the countryside. Disused railway lines will be protected from other forms of development, to safeguard their potential to be reinstated to their former use for commercial or leisure purposes, or to extend the cycling or footpath networks. All major developments should be well located for convenient access by non-car modes, such as walking, cycling and high quality public transport including those measures set out in national planning policy and policies CP11, NAP 1, NAP 2A, 2B and 2C, SoAP1, ShAP2, ShAP4 and Appendix D of the Core Strategy. The District Council will promote and support the use of the River Trent for commercial and tourism activities.		
Core Policy 6 Shaping our	The economy of Newark and Sherwood District will be strengthened and broadened to	The Socio-Economic assessment evaluates the impacts on the economic objectives of Core Policy 6. The assessment found that the	**Draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1]**

Employment Profile	provide a diverse range of employment opportunities by: • Maintaining and enhancing the employment base of our towns and settlements, including their town and village centres, and supporting the economies of our rural communities. • Providing most growth, including new employment development, at the SubRegional Centre of Newark, and that of a lesser scale directed to our Service Centres and Principal Villages, to match their size, role and regeneration needs. Providing a range of suitable sites in these locations that will enable employment levels to be maintained and increased, by meeting the needs of both traditional and emerging business sectors and types. • Promoting major new economic development as part of the Strategic Sites planned for Newark Urban Area, linked to infrastructure improvements including the	Proposed Development will have a moderate/minor beneficial impact therefore significant in EIA terms on existing employees during the construction and decommissioning phases. This includes contributing to a skilled, diverse workforce and strengthening the existing manufacturing base which will be secured via the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan. The production of a detailed Skills and Employment Strategy is secured via Requirement 16 of the Draft DCO. As set out in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, the Proposed Development will provide construction job opportunities over the anticipated two-year construction programme. At peak construction time, there will be the creation of approximately 750 construction jobs with an average of 554 full time jobs over the two-year construction phase. The Proposed Development includes the creation of 15 operational jobs. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Socio-Economics [EN010159/APP/6.17** **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010159/APP/7.8]**

	provision of a Southern Link Road to the south of the town. New employment land provision will be provided at Land South of Newark and Land around Fernwood in line with NAP 2A and NAP 2C. These will allow for the development of clusters and networks or businesses, and areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement. • Retention and safeguarding of employment land and sites where there is a reasonable prospect of them being required for that purpose. The requirement for such sites will be monitored over the plan period. Where proposals are submitted for economic development uses other than the B Use Classes, regard will be had to the following: o The extent to which the proposals are responding to local needs for such development.	sector and will contribute to the development of skills needed for the UK's transition.	

	○ The lack of suitable, alternative sites being available to meet the demand that exists. ○ The need to safeguard the integrity of neighbouring uses, including their continued use for employment purposes. ○ The need to protect and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres. ○ The potential impact on the strategic role and function of the remaining employment land, in meeting the future needs of the District. • Encouraging the development of priority business sectors including business and financial services, knowledge intensive enterprises, telecoms, food and drink, sustainable energy and environmental technologies,		

	and logistics and distribution. • Supporting the establishment and growth of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) by the allocation of sites for mixed-use development incorporating housing and employment, as part of the Allocations & Development Management DPD. Sites allocated for employment development should include provision for starter units, start-up businesses, live-work units, and 'grow on' graduation space so that small firms can be established, expanded and retained within the District. • Working with learning and training bodies, job centres and higher education providers to raise workforce skill levels, improve employability and supporting economic development associated with these sources, and using planning obligations to provide opportunities to assist residents in accessing work.		

	• Helping the economy of Rural Areas by rural diversification that will encourage tourism, recreation, rural regeneration, and farm diversification, and complement new appropriate agriculture and forestry development. Development sustaining and providing rural employment should meet local needs and be small scale in nature to ensure acceptable scale and impact. • Respecting that where the release of sites to non-employment purposes is proposed, any significant benefits to the local area that would result, should be taken into account to inform decision making.		

Core Policy 9 Sustainable Design	The District Council will expect new development proposals to demonstrate a high standard of sustainable design that both protects and enhances the natural environment and contributes to and sustains the rich local distinctiveness of the District. Therefore all new development should: • Achieve a high standard of sustainable design and layout that is capable of being accessible to all and of an appropriate form and scale to its context complementing the existing built and landscape environments; • Through its design, pro-actively manage surface water including, where feasible, the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems; • Minimise the production of waste and maximise its re-use and recycling; • Demonstrate an effective and efficient use of land that, where appropriate, promotes the re-use of previously developed land	The Planning Statement sets out that the Proposed Development will deliver 740 MW DC of low-carbon, low-cost and UK-located solar electricity generation capacity connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System. In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low-carbon energy infrastructure and its associated environmental and societal benefits, the Proposed Development delivers wider benefits to the environment and the local community. The Proposed Development is a substantial infrastructure asset, capable of delivering large amounts of secure, affordable low carbon electricity to local and national networks. As set out in the Planning Statement, the location and design of the Proposed Development is the result of a comprehensive site selection process that was both environmental, and planning led to avoid and minimise impacts as early as possible. Following this, the Proposed Development has undergone an iterative design process which has resulted in the delivery of a functional and efficient	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]**

	and that optimises site potential at a level suitable to local character; • Contribute to a compatible mix of uses, particularly in the town and village centres; • Provide for development that proves to be resilient in the long-term. Taking into account the potential impacts of climate change and the varying needs of the community; and • Take account of the need to reduce the opportunities for crime and the fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, and promote safe living environments. The District Council will prepare an SPD which provides guidance to developers on the sustainable design of development and the consideration of making homes fit for purpose over their lifetime including ensuring adaptability and provision of broadband.	design which will deliver a large amount of renewable and low carbon electricity using Solar PV arrays, whilst also being sensitive to the local context and surrounding area within which it is located, avoiding and minimising impacts on the environment as far as practicable. Design objectives were developed at an early stage and have guided the design response to the local context to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise renewable energy generation from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising potential adverse impacts and providing mitigation and enhancement measures where practicable, as set out in the Design Approach Document. The Proposed Development delivers good design, being in accordance with the design policies set out in the NPSs, NPPF and local plans, in the context of efficiently delivering large scale renewable energy infrastructure where it is recognised in national policy that the extent to which a scheme can contribute to the	

		enhancement of the quality of the area is limited. The Proposed Development design does include embedded additional measures that will deliver biodiversity enhancements; improved connectivity and enhancement of PRoWs through the provision of three new permissive paths and proposes a landscape strategy which is sensitive to its surroundings, by reducing the Proposed Development's impact on the landscape and providing opportunities for screening to protect residential amenities. The location and design of the Proposed Development accords with the site selection and technical considerations set out in accordance with this policy and within NPS EN-3 for large scale solar development. The Proposed Development will also deliver a high-quality solar development design that has responded to the local and surrounding context in accordance with relevant local planning policies.	

Core Policy 10 Climate Change	The District Council is committed to tackling the causes and impacts of climate change and to delivering a reduction in the Districts carbon footprint. The District Council will work with partners and developers to: • Promote energy generation from renewable and low-carbon sources, including community-led schemes, through supporting new development where it is able to demonstrate that its adverse impacts have been satisfactorily addressed. Policy DM4 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation' provides the framework against which the appropriateness of proposals will be assessed; • Ensure that development proposals maximise, where appropriate and viable, the use of available local opportunities for district heating and decentralised energy; • Mitigate the impacts of climate change through ensuring that new development proposals	The Proposed Development would make a substantial contribution, both to the achievement of UK decarbonisation targets and to global commitments to mitigating climate change. By generating low carbon, renewable and low-cost electricity in the UK, the Proposed Development would also help to reduce the UK's reliance on imported energy and to improve energy security. The Climate Assessment includes a greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment. The assessment considers GHG emissions and in-combination climate change. The assessment concludes that no construction, operation or decommissioning impact will result in an adverse residual effect which is significant in EIA terms. There is an assessed significant beneficial effect on GHG emissions, as it is anticipated that 3,045,555 tCO2e will be saved over lifespan of the Proposed Development. The Planning Statement and the Statement of Need sets out how the Proposed Development would contribute substantially to the need to supply low carbon energy, in	**Planning Statement [EN010159/APP/5.5]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Carbon and Climate Change [EN010159/APP/6.14** **Statement of Need [EN010159/APP/7.1]**

	minimise their potential adverse environmental impacts during their construction and eventual operation. New proposals for development should therefore: o Ensure that the impacts on natural resources are minimised and the use of renewable resources encouraged; and o Be efficient in the consumption of energy, water and other resources. • Steer new development away from those areas at highest risk of flooding, applying the sequential approach to its location detailed in Policy DM5 'Design'. Where appropriate the Authority will seek to secure strategic flood mitigation measures as part of new development; • Where appropriate having applied the Sequential Test move on to apply the Exceptions Test, in line with	order for the UK government to meet its objectives and commitments as mentioned above. By generating low carbon electricity at a low marginal cost, large-scale solar power reduces the energy generated by more expensive and more carbon intensive forms of generation. The Proposed Development will therefore help to decarbonise the electricity system and lower the market price of electricity.	

	national guidance. In those circumstances where the wider Exceptions Test is not required proposals for new development in flood risk areas will still need to demonstrate that the safety of the development and future occupants from flood risk can be provided for, over the lifetime of the development; and • Ensure that new development positively manages its surface water run-off through the design and layout of development to ensure that there is no unacceptable impact in run-off into surrounding areas or the existing drainage regime.		
Core Policy 12 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure	The District Council will seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological diversity of the District by working with partners to implement the aims and proposals of the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and	The Biodiversity assessment included in the submitted ES identifies ecological risks from constructing and operating the Proposed Development. It has assessed impacts on protected species, habitats, and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The assessment has	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity [EN010159/APP/6.6]** **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.11: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010159/APP/6.21]**

	the Nature Conservation Strategy. The District Council will therefore: • Expect proposals to take into account the need for continued protection of the District's ecological, biological and geological assets. With particular regard to sites of international, national and local significance, Ancient Woodlands and species and habitats of principal importance identified in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan; • Seek to secure development that maximises the opportunities to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and geological diversity and to increase provision of, and access to, green infrastructure within the District; • Promote the appropriate management of features of major importance for wild flora and fauna;	been carried out by competent ecologists, who have advised during the design process to ensure that impacts are avoided, minimised and mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised. The assessment sets out the expected likely effects and residual effects, respectively, on the above receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It concludes that there are no significant adverse effects anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development, which is not significant in EIA terms. However, the Proposed Development will meet a minimum 10% BNG, as secured within the proposals in the oLEMP. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Development is committed to achieve a significant biodiversity net gain on site. The Biodiversity Assessment of the ES sets out the proposed mitigation measures embedded in the Proposed Development including	**oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010159/APP/6.13]**

	• Provide for Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space to reduce visitor pressure on the District's ecological, biological and geological assets, particularly in the Newark area and for 5kms around the Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation; • Support the development of a Green Infrastructure Network, as illustrated in the Green Infrastructure Diagram, linking together Key Strategic Routes throughout the District and providing for, in appropriate locations, visitor infrastructure that improves accessibility. The District Council will, in particular, promote improved green infrastructure linkages between: o Newark and Southwell; and o Southwell and the north-west of the District Development proposals crossing or adjacent to	the creation of approximately 1,240 hectares (ha) of species-rich grassland to compensate for habitat lost due to placement of Solar PV modules and improve habitat and SuDS. Habitat creation and improvement are documented within and secured by the oLEMP. In terms of air quality, the assessment undertaken has concluded that there would be negligible residual effects of the Proposed Development on the surrounding area, deeming it to not be significant. As a result, it demonstrates in support of the local plan by not increasing air quality impacts for the local area.	

	the network should make provision for its implementation and/or enhancement; • Positively view proposals that seek to enhance the District's Green Infrastructure resource in support of tourism development. Proposals in the Bilsthorpe, Edwinstowe and Ollerton & Boughton areas, in connection with the Sherwood Forest Regional Park, will be supported. In Newark, new Green Infrastructure schemes that maximise the potential of the Trent Riverside area will be supported; • Support the implementation of area-based Strategic Green Infrastructure interventions. • • Work with partners to develop a strategic approach to managing Air Quality in the Sherwood Area, including through the development of a Supplementary Planning Document.		

Core Policy 13 Landscape Character	Based on the comprehensive assessment of the District's landscape character, provided by the Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document, the District Council will work with partners and developers to secure: • New development which positively addresses the implications of relevant landscape Policy Zone(s) that is consistent with the landscape conservation and enhancement aims for the area(s) ensuring that landscapes, including valued landscapes, have been protected and enhanced.	The LVIA concludes that the land within the Order Limits is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations. There are also no Conservation Areas within the Order Limits or immediately adjacent. In addition, the Order Limits are not located within, or close to, a National Park or National Landscape. The Proposed Development presents a new type of built form within a predominantly rural landscape. The form of development, while temporary, has the potential to alter the way in which the landscape is experienced and viewed. The LVIA considers the extent and significance of the potential impacts on key receptors and concludes that, with mitigation, significant impacts are expected to occur across all stages of the development albeit not simultaneously nor at all receptors. It is considered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation and biodiversity net gain and the provision of permissive footpaths outweigh	**Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010159/APP/5.8]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010159/APP/6.11]** **ES Volume 3, Figure 12.1: Site Location and Study Area[EN010159/APP/6.20]** **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/7.7]**

		these impacts. As a whole, the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts and the nature of the visual impacts are not considered to outweigh the benefits of the Proposed Development. The LVIA includes an evaluation of the effect of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on landscape. The environmental measures included in LVIA, oLEMP and the Design Approach Document includes habitats proposed across the Order Limits comprising: • Over 9km of species-rich native hedgerow with trees (including existing hedgerow enhancement); • Approximately 6km of species-rich native hedgerow; • Approximately 1,240ha of species-rich grassland accounted for across the Order Limits in hedgerow and field margins, riparian	

		zones, wildflower meadows and tussock mixes beneath solar panels; • 4.2ha of woodland and native tree belts; • Individual trees; and • Agricultural field margins.	
Core Policy 14 Historic Environment	Newark & Sherwood has a rich and distinctive historic environment and the District Council will work with partners and developers in order to secure: • The continued conservation and enhancement of the character, appearance and setting of the District's heritage assets and historic environment, in line with their identified significance as required in national policy: o Designated assets and environments comprising Listed Buildings (inclusive of the protected views of and across Southwell's principal heritage assets),	The Cultural Heritage and Buried Heritage chapters of the ES provide an assessment of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including both above and below ground assets. It concludes that there will be a moderate and moderate/major adverse effect to the historic environment as a result of the Proposed Development, which is deemed as significant in EIA terms. It concludes that there will be significant adverse impacts to a number of cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. Proposed environmental measures to mitigate the impact on assets are set out at paragraph 10.5.4 of the Cultural Heritage assessment and section	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Buried Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.9]** **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage [EN010159/APP/6.10]**

		Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, and Scheduled Monuments. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Where adverse impact is identified there should be a clear and convincing justification, including where appropriate a demonstration of clear public benefits; ○ Non-designated heritage assets including buildings of local interest, areas of archeological interest and unregistered parks and gardens or as	9.5 of the Buried Heritage Assessment in the ES. The Cultural Heritage ES chapter of the ES provides an assessment of the likely effects and residual effects, respectively, of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. All effects, including dust, noise, vibration and indirect impacts are considered. Due to the limited effects from noise, vibration and dust, the majority of impacts are as a result of direct impacts on non-designated heritage assets and impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets.	

	identified on the relevant Historic Environment Record or identified in accordance with locally agreed criteria. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. • The preservation and enhancement of the special character of Conservation Areas including that character identified through Conservation Area Character Appraisals which will form the basis for their management. Important open spaces and features identified through the Conservation Area Appraisal process will be protected through subsequent allocation in the Allocations		

	& Development Management DPD; • Positive action for those heritage assets at risk through neglect, decay, vacancy or other threats where appropriate; and • The protection of Historic Landscapes including the Historic Battlefield at Stoke Field, the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area and the Historic Landscape around Laxton. A sustainable future for Laxton will be sought, which preserves and enhances its Open Field System and culture, the built and natural environment which sustain it, including the Historic Landscape around Laxton, and the institutions which manage it. This will be achieved by working in partnership with the Court Leet, the Crown Estates and the Parish Council. Appropriate new development which facilitates these aims will be supported.		

one earth

solar farm