



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 7

Other Documents

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Policy Accordance Tables

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March 2026

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1. National Planning Policy Framework

1.1.1. Table 1-1 below details the policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (February 2025). Policies which are not relevant to the Scheme are not included within this table.

Table 1-1 Relevant Policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (February 2025)

Paragraph	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
Section 2: Achieving Sustainable Development		
Paragraph 8	<p>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):</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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 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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref 7.1) sets out how the Scheme would contribute substantially to the need to supply renewable electricity, in order for the government to meet its objectives and commitments. 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 Scheme will therefore help to decarbonise the electricity system and lowers the market price of electricity.</p> <p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1) sets out the need for large-scale ground-mounted solar, as established in national planning policy (NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3).</p>
Section 6: Building a strong, competitive economy		
Paragraph 85	<p>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 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.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics and Land Use (Doc Ref. 6.1) assesses the impacts on the economics of the Scheme. The chapter demonstrates that the Scheme will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction phase will support, on average, 207 total net jobs per year, with 74 of these jobs expected to be taken by residents. ▪ It is estimated that construction would contribute approximately £22.3 million per year to the national economy, of which £8.9 million per year would likely be within the study area. ▪ It is anticipated that the decommissioning phase would require a similar level of employment and generate a similar scale and character of workforce. ▪ The operational phase is estimated to generate a net gain of 11 jobs. <p>The job creation and GVA figures listed above support the policy objective of economic growth and productivity.</p>

Paragraph	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
<p>Paragraph 88 Supporting a prosperous rural economy</p>	<p>Planning policies and decisions should enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics and Land Use (Doc Ref. 6.1) demonstrates that the Scheme would have a minor beneficial (not significant) impact on the diversification of income for agricultural land holdings.</p> <p>The assessment does not report any adverse effects on the tourism sector associated with a shortage of hotel, bed and breakfast and inns accommodation. There would also be no direct impacts anticipated on residential properties, local businesses, open spaces, community facilities or tourist attracts. Any indirect effects on land use via severance would be temporary and reversible, and not significant.</p> <p>As assessed within ES Chapter 5: Agricultural Land and Soils (Doc Ref. 6.1), agricultural land take would be temporary and returned back to agricultural use following the decommissioning of the Scheme. This and the diversification of income for land owners does not undermine the rural economy objectives within paragraph 88.</p>
<p>Section 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities</p>		
<p>Paragraph 103 Open space and recreation</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>During the operational phase of the Scheme, several mitigation measures are proposed to maintain access to all PRow and common land within the Site. The mitigation measures are detailed within the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.11), Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.15) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16).</p> <p>The Scheme includes the provision of enhancements and improvements to green infrastructure, including the creation of a new permissive path providing a connection between PRow at Queens Bank and Shepeau Stow, following the boundary of the Settlement W of Cate’s Cove Corner Schedule Monument. The permissive path will be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and provide information boards on the historic and natural environment.</p>
<p>Paragraph 105</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>A number of existing PRow traverse the Scheme or are located in the vicinity of the Site, these have been considered within ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) and their locations are detailed within the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.15).</p> <p>The Scheme includes the provision of enhancements and improvements to local pathways, including the creation of a new permissive path providing a connection between PRow at Queens Bank and Shepeau Stow, following the boundary of the Settlement W of Cate’s Cove Corner Schedule Monument. The permissive path will be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and provide information boards on the historic and natural environment.</p> <p>The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.15) sets out the mitigation, management and monitoring measures for PRow affected by construction which may require temporary diversion/closure.</p>

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Section 9: Promoting sustainable transport		
Paragraph 109	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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. 	<p>The consideration of traffic impacts has been a key consideration and theme as part of early engagement with local communities. The potential for construction traffic to disrupt local communities and villages was a key concern raised. The Applicant has committed to use of particular routes for HGVs and AILs as set out within ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) to minimise disruption to local communities. The Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 5.1) details the feedback received relating to traffic and access concerns and the Applicant’s response.</p> <p>The Applicant has considered opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use. The Scheme includes the provision of enhancements and improvements to green infrastructure, including the creation of a new permissive path providing a connection between PRoW at Queens Bank and Shepeau Stow, following the boundary of the Settlement W of Cate’s Cove Corner Schedule Monument. The permissive path will be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and provide information boards on the historic and natural environment.</p>
Paragraph 116	<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) concludes that no significant residual effects are expected as part of the scheme, including on highway safety. The cumulative effects assessment reports the potential for moderate significant adverse effect in relation to road safety. This represents a worst case hypothetical scenario, and in practice this is unlikely to occur as it requires the peaks of the construction phases to coincide. Furthermore, the provisions of the Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.13) and the Requirements of the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) enable additional management to be applied if necessary. The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (PRoW-MP) (Doc. Ref. 7.15) outlines how local PRoW and Common Land will be impacted by the Scheme and how these impacts will be managed and mitigated.</p>
Paragraph 118	<p>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.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) identifies that there would not be any unacceptable impacts on highway safety or the operation of the local road network.</p>
Section 11: Making effective use of Land		
Paragraph 125	<p>Planning policies and decisions should:</p>	<p>The Scheme has undergone an iterative design and site selection process in order to ensure that the Scheme makes the greatest possible contribution to renewable energy</p>

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	<p>(a) encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;</p> <p>(b) recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production;</p> <p>(c) give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs, proposals for which should be approved unless substantial harm would be caused, and support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land;</p> <p>(d) promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings, especially if this would help to meet identified needs for housing where land supply is constrained and available sites could be used more effectively (for example converting space above shops, and building on or above service yards, car parks, lock-ups and railway infrastructure) ; and</p> <p>(e) support opportunities to use the airspace above existing residential and commercial premises for new homes. In particular, they should allow upward extensions – including mansard roofs – where the development would be consistent with the prevailing form of neighbouring properties and the overall street scene, is well- designed (including complying with any local design policies and standards), and can maintain safe access and egress for occupiers. A condition of simultaneous development should not be imposed on an application for multiple upward extensions unless there is an exceptional justification.</p>	<p>targets and the building of energy resiliency whilst also minimising environmental impacts by following the principles of good design.</p> <p>The Scheme has sought opportunities to provide beneficial outcomes including delivering BNG and contributing towards local conservation priorities. This includes providing new and enhanced contributions to the local green infrastructure network including extension hedgerow networks, field margins and ditches.</p> <p>A BNG Assessment using Defra’s Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been completed and is available for review as part of the DCO Application within the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Doc Ref. 7.9).</p>
Section 12: Achieving well-designed places		
Paragraph 131	<p>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 engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.</p>	<p>As detailed in Section 5 of the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1), good design has been a fundamental consideration from the outset of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the design of the Scheme 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, to guide decision making and embed good design outcomes to the Scheme.</p>
Paragraph 135	<p>Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:</p> <p>(a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;</p> <p>(b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;</p>	<p>Design 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 Scheme to avoid and reduce adverse impacts wherever possible, make the most of</p>

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	<p>(c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);</p> <p>(d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;</p> <p>(e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and</p> <p>(f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users ; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.</p>	<p>the opportunities for enhancement and balance the need for flexibility and certainty within the DCO Application.</p> <p>Throughout the design process, the Applicant maintained an interdisciplinary approach to design and considered both the opportunities and constraints of the Scheme. This included analysis of 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-specific ES Chapters (Doc Ref. 6.1). 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 provides biodiversity and recreational benefits to the local environment.</p> <p>As a result of the design approach adopted by the Applicant, the Scheme is expected to 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, delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain and improvements in ecological connectivity.</p> <p>The Scheme would also provide benefits for the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-connected footpath and cycle network and access to open spaces and recreational spaces. The Scheme incorporates a permissive path proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). The permissive path will be open for the operational phase of the Scheme and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. A summary of the Scheme’s benefits is provided within Section 4 of the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1).</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) is supported by the Design Parameters (Doc Ref. 7.4) which secures the design-related commitments to be adhered to post-consent in accordance with paragraph 4.7.5 of EN-1.</p> <p>If consent is given, these design outcomes will be secured and implemented post-consent, in accordance with the various management plans and design parameters secured by requirements to the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1). This approach also ensures the conclusions of the ES (Doc Ref. 6.1) are upheld, and the appropriate flexibility is provided.</p>
Paragraph 137	<p>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.</p>	
Paragraph 139	<p>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 which use visual tools such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:</p> <p>(a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents which use visual tools such as design guides and codes; and/or</p> <p>(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.</p>	
Section 14: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change		
Paragraph 161	<p>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</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a climate change resilience assessment for the Scheme, including identifying vulnerable parts of the Scheme in ES Chapter 7: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 6.1). The chapter concludes that the Scheme demonstrates an indirect</p>

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	radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.	reduction in atmospheric GHG concentration and avoidance of emissions; therefore, it is considered to be overall beneficial and will have a positive, significant effect on climate.
Paragraph 164	<p>New development should be planned for in ways that:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Scheme has been delivered to ensure that the development does not exacerbate flood risk and includes measures to reduce flood risk overall. Further, the Applicant has proposed measures to ensure the development be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users in ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3).</p> <p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1) provides details on the need for the Scheme and its primary aim to generate low-carbon electricity over an operational period of approximately 40 years, helping to meet the UK’s increasing demand for clean energy.</p>
Paragraph 168	<p>When determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon energy developments and their associated infrastructure, local planning authorities should:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>b) recognise that small-scale and community-led projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions;</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1) sets out how the Scheme would contribute substantially to the need for low carbon energy in line with UK net zero and energy security ambitions.</p>
Paragraph 170 Planning and flood risk	<p>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.</p>	<p>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Doc Ref. 6.3) provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Scheme from all sources of flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. The FRA meets all requirements set out within paragraph 170 by demonstrating the consideration of climate change. The findings of the FRA are summarised in ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>
Paragraph 181	<p>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:</p> <p>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;</p>	<p>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3) concludes that the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.</p> <p>Application of the Sequential and Exception Tests are demonstrated in the FRA (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1). This demonstrates that the most</p>

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	<p>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;</p> <p>c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;</p> <p>d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and</p> <p>e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan.</p>	<p>vulnerable development (i.e. substations, BESS and solar stations) are located in areas of lowest flood risk.</p> <p>ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy (Doc Ref. 6.3) describes how SuDS have been incorporated into the design.</p>
<p>Paragraph 182</p>	<p>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 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:</p> <p>a) take account of advice from the Lead Local Flood Authority;</p> <p>b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards; and</p> <p>c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development.</p>	<p>The proposed surface water drainage design set out in ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy (Doc Ref. 6.3) demonstrates that sustainable drainage techniques have been designed into the Scheme and will be maintained by the Applicant, or another private operator to be confirmed and secured through the DCO, for the lifetime of the Scheme. This includes minimum operational standards.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency, the South Holland Internal Drainage Board and the North Level District Internal Drainage Board through the pre-application stage.</p>
<p>Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>		
<p>Paragraph 187</p>	<p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <p>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);</p> <p>b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;</p> <p>c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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,</p>	<p>The specific characteristics of the Order Limits and the surrounding area have been carefully considered to ensure that the design of the Scheme can respond appropriately. An appraisal of the baseline conditions in the context of design issues in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1). Furthermore, the Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) sets out the existing character analysis which informed the design principles of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Site does not meet the definition of a ‘valued landscape’ as defined by paragraph 187a. The potential significant effects of the landscape and visual amenity have been identified and assessed in ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1). ES Chapter 5: Agriculture and Soils (Doc Ref. 6.1) describes the effects on best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>Maintaining the character of the coastline is not applicable to the Scheme as it is located far from the coast.</p> <p>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 6.1) outlines the studies and surveys undertaken to inform the DCO Application, and includes consideration of protected and priority species. These enabled the design to respond positively to sites of biodiversity and geological interest. The Chapter concluded that with the proposed</p>

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	<p>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</p> <p>f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.</p>	<p>mitigation, no significant effects are considered likely during the construction and decommissioning phases. During the operational phase, it is considered that with planting and habitat enhancement measures proposed, the Scheme would result in a beneficial effect on habitats.</p> <p>Mitigation measures regarding the effects of each phase on noise are outline and secured via the outline management plans (Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10), Outline OEMP (Doc Ref. 7.11) and Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)).</p> <p>The above management plans also provide good practice environmental measures regarding the effects on soils. These include measure to minimise the risk of contamination of soils as a result of the Scheme, and measures for the protection of existing land drainage. Furthermore, the Outline Soil Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.14) provides a comprehensive set of measures across the lifetime of the Scheme for the prevention of the soil resource within the Site.</p> <p>The management plans also provide standard good practice measures to manage the impacts from dust generation which may have impacts on air quality. In addition, an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.13) has been prepared to manage and mitigate traffic related impacts during construction.</p>
<p>Paragraph 189</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>N/A - The Site is not located within a designated landscape. The Scheme will not directly or indirectly affect any surrounding National Park, the Broads or National Landscape.</p>

Paragraph	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
<p>Paragraph 193 Habitats and Biodiversity</p>	<p>When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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 exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>The Applicant proposes extensive landscape and biodiversity mitigation measures. The Scheme is committing to deliver a BNG of at least 10% for habitat units and at least 10% of hedgerow and river units as set out in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Doc Ref. 7.9).</p> <p>Through careful and sensitive design, the Scheme is expected to have no significant adverse effects on Ecology and Biodiversity during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. Therefore, as concluded in ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 6.1), the Scheme will avoid and mitigate significant adverse effects on biodiversity, locally and nationally design ecological sites, or important or protected habitats and species. It would not result in the loss or deterioration of any irreplaceable habits, including veteran and ancient trees. The effects have been reduced as far as reasonable practicable within the scope of the Scheme by Embedded and Additional Mitigation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 198</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>(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 ;</p> <p>(b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and</p> <p>(c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 10: Human Health (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides a comprehensive assessment of all factors which may have an effect on the health of the surrounding populations, taking into account the likely effects of pollution, living conditions and natural environment. It is predicted that there will be no significant residual effects on Human Health during the construction, operation and decommissioning phase of the Scheme.</p> <p>ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides a full assessment of the impacts of noise during all phases of the Scheme, including a consideration of how these effects are related to human health.</p> <p>It is anticipated that temporary lighting will be used during the construction and decommissioning stages, as described within ES Chapter 2: The Scheme (Doc Ref. 6.1). During the operational phase, not permanently turned on lighting is proposed, but security lighting would be sensor triggered, located only around critical electrical infrastructure for security. The assessment presented within Section 12.8 of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) considers effects from lighting.</p> <p>Good practice measures to minimise the effects of light pollution are included within the Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10), Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16) and Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12). Compliance with these measures is secured through the requirements</p>

Paragraph	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
		of the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1). The effects of light pollution on heritage and ecological receptors are considered within ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1) and ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 6.1) respectively.
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.	ES Chapter 6: Air Quality (Doc Ref. 6.1) considers the likely significant effects on local air quality. The chapter provides an overview of the existing environment for the Scheme. South Holland District Council has not declared any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). Therefore, the Scheme is not located within an AQMA. The assessment concludes that no likely significant effects during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases, where mitigation measures are implemented.
Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment		
Paragraph 207 Proposals affecting heritage assets	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.	ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme on the historic environment, including above, at, and below ground assets. An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within Section 8.9 of ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1), as well as in ES Appendix 8.2: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3). Data sources are stated in ES Appendix 8.2: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3) and include the relevant local authority Historic Environmental Record. A summary of all heritage features and settings is set out within ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.3) and ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3).
Paragraph 213	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	The Applicant has provided as assessment of harm to heritage assets within Appendix E: Heritage Statement of Harm (Doc Ref. 7.1). It concludes that the Scheme would not result in substantial harm or total loss to any designated heritages assets (or equivalent).
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	

Paragraph	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.	

2. South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted 2019)

2.1.1. Table 2-1 below details the policies within the South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted 2019). Policies which are not relevant to the Scheme are not included within this table.

Table 2-1 Relevant Policies within the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted 2019)

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
Policy 2: Development Management	<p>Proposals requiring planning permission for development will be permitted provided that sustainable development considerations are met, specifically in relation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. size, scale, layout, density and impact on the amenity, trees, character and appearance of the area and the relationship to existing development and land uses; 2. quality of design and orientation; 3. maximising the use of sustainable materials and resources; 4. access and vehicle generation levels; 5. the capacity of existing community services and infrastructure; 6. impact upon neighbouring land uses by reason of noise, odour, disturbance or visual intrusion; 7. sustainable drainage and flood risk; 8. impact or enhancement for areas of natural habitats and historical buildings and heritage assets; and 9. impact on the potential loss of sand and gravel mineral resources. 	<p>This policy acts as an overarching policy consideration with more detailed policies following. Compliance with Policy 2 is addressed through the topic-specific ES Chapters (Doc Ref. 6.1) that form part of the application, and through the discussion against the detailed sustainable development policies below.</p>
Policy 3: Design of New Development	<p>All development will create distinctive places through the use of high quality and inclusive design and layout and, where appropriate, make innovative use of local traditional styles and materials. Design which is inappropriate to the local area, or which fails to maximise opportunities for improving the character and quality of an area, will not be acceptable.</p> <p>Development proposals will demonstrate how the following issues, where they are relevant to the proposal, will be secured:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. creating a sense of place by complementing and enhancing designated and non-designated heritage assets; historic street patterns; respecting the density, scale, visual closure, landmarks, views, massing of neighbouring buildings and the surrounding area; 2. distinguishing between private and public space. 3. the landscape character of the location; 4. accessibility by a choice of travel modes including the provision of public transport, public rights of way and cycle ways. 5. the provision of facilities for the storage of refuse/recycling bins, storage and/or parking of bicycles and layout of car parking. 6. the lighting of public places. 7. ensuring public spaces are accessible to all. 8. crime prevention and community safety. 9. the orientation of buildings on the site to enable the best use of decentralised and renewable low-carbon energy technologies for the lifetime of the development. 	<p>As detailed in Section 5 of the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1), good design has been a fundamental consideration from the outset of the Scheme. Not all parts of Policy 3 are relevant to the Scheme i.e. bicycle parking, public, spaces, facades, and reuse of historic buildings.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the design of the Scheme 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, to guide decision making and embed good design outcomes to the Scheme.</p> <p>Design 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 Scheme to avoid and reduce adverse impacts wherever possible, make the most of the opportunities for enhancement and balance the need for flexibility and certainty within the DCO Application.</p> <p>Throughout the design process, the Applicant maintained an interdisciplinary approach to design and considered both the opportunities and constraints of the Scheme. This included analysis of 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-specific ES Chapters (Doc Ref. 6.1). 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-</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>10. the appropriate treatment of facades to public places, including shop frontages to avoid visual intrusion by advertising, other signage, security shutters, meter boxes and other service and communication infrastructure.</p> <p>11. residential amenity.</p> <p>12. the mitigation of flood risk through flood-resistant and flood-resilient design and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).</p> <p>13. the use of locally sourced building materials, minimising the use of water and minimising land take, to protect best and most versatile soils.</p> <p>14. the incorporation of existing hedgerows and trees and the provision of appropriate new landscaping to enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure, flood risk mitigation and urban cooling.</p> <p>15. the appropriate use or reuse of historic buildings.</p>	<p>existence and co-location with other terrestrial uses. For example, creating green infrastructure corridors that mitigate the visual impact of the Scheme, and also provides sustainable drainage, biodiversity and recreational benefits to the local environment which accords with subparagraphs 3, 4, 12 and 14 of the policy.</p> <p>As a result of the design approach adopted by the Applicant, the Scheme 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, delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain and improvements in ecological connectivity in line with point 14.</p> <p>The Scheme would also provide benefits for the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-connected footpath and cycle network and access to open spaces and recreational spaces. The Scheme incorporates a permissive path proposed across the Order Limits, as secured in the Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). The permissive path will be open for the operational phase of the Scheme and be open to equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians which improves accessibility in line with subparagraph 4 of the policy. A summary of the Scheme’s benefits is provided within Section 4 of the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1).</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) is supported by the Design Parameters (Doc Ref. 7.4) which secures the design-related commitments to be adhered to post-consent</p> <p>If consent is given, these design outcomes will be implemented post-consent, in accordance with the various management plans and design parameters secured by requirements to the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1). This approach also ensures the conclusions of the ES (Doc Ref. 6.1) are upheld, and the appropriate flexibility is provided. The above demonstrates how the Scheme accords with the relevant points of Policy 3.</p>
<p>Policy 4: Approach to Flood Risk</p>	<p>Development proposed within an area at risk of flooding (Flood Zones 2 and 3 of the Environment Agency’s flood map or at risk during a breach or overtopping scenario as shown on the flood hazard and depths maps in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) will be permitted, where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It can be demonstrated that there are no other sites available at a lower risk of flooding (i.e. that the sequential test is passed). The sequential test will be based on a Borough or District wide search area of alternative sites within the defined settlement boundaries, unless local circumstances relating to the catchment area for the development justify a reduced search area, i.e. there is a specific need for the development in that location. The sequential test is not required for sites allocated in the Local Plan, minor development¹ or change of use (except for a change of use to a caravan, camping or chalet site, or to a mobile home or park home site). 	<p>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Doc Ref. 6.3) provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Scheme from all sources of flooding. The FRA demonstrates how residual flood risk will be managed during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. The FRA demonstrates compliance with the relevant requirements of Policy 4, including the consideration of climate change. The findings of the FRA are summarised in ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>The Scheme is considered to provide significant wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh any flood risk. ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3) has demonstrated that the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>2. It can be demonstrated that essential infrastructure in FZ3a & FZ3b, highly vulnerable development in FZ2 and more vulnerable development in FZ3 provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk.</p> <p>3. The application is supported with a site-specific flood risk assessment, covering risk from all sources of flooding including the impacts of climate change and which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. demonstrate that the vulnerability of the proposed use is compatible with the flood zone; b. identify the relevant predicted flood risk (breach/overtopping) level, and mitigation measures that demonstrate how the development will be made safe and that occupants will be protected from flooding from any source; c. propose appropriate flood resistance and resilience measures (following the guidance outlined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment), maximising the use of passive resistance measures (measures that do not require human intervention to be deployed), to ensure the development maintains an appropriate level of safety for its lifetime; d. include appropriate flood warning and evacuation procedures where necessary (referring to the County’s evacuation routes plan), which have been undertaken in consultation with the authority’s emergency planning staff; e. incorporates the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) (unless it is demonstrated that this is not technically feasible) and confirms how these will be maintained/managed for the lifetime of development (surface water connections to the public sewerage network will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it is demonstrated that there are no feasible alternatives); f. demonstrates that the proposal will not increase risk elsewhere and that opportunities through layout, form of development and green infrastructure have been considered as a way of providing flood betterment and reducing flood risk overall; g. demonstrates that adequate foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development; h. ensure suitable access is safeguarded for the maintenance of water resources, drainage and flood risk management infrastructure. <p>Development in all flood zones, and development over 1 hectare in size in Flood Zone 1, will need to demonstrate that surface water from the development can be managed and will not increase the risk of flooding to third parties.</p> <p>Change of use of existing buildings will be supported providing they do not pose an increase in risk to people. Change of use that would result in self contained ground floor residential accommodation in areas of hazard rating ‘danger for some’, ‘danger for most’ and ‘danger for all’ will not be supported. In these areas unrestricted access to a habitable room above the flood level and an emergency evacuation plan will be required.</p>	<p>Application of the Sequential and Exception Tests are demonstrated in the FRA (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1). This demonstrates that the majority of vulnerable development can be avoided in Flood Zone 3b. Where the six solar stations have a functional requirement to be located within Flood Zone 3b, the Exception Test demonstrates that the wider sustainability benefits outweigh the flood risk.</p> <p>ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy (Doc Ref. 6.3) provides an outline strategy for drainage. The strategy includes the use of SuDS techniques to control any surface water run-off.</p> <p>The final four paragraphs of Policy 4 are not relevant to the Scheme.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>Caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use will not be permitted in areas at risk of flooding. Caravan, chalet, log cabin, camping and touring sites at risk of fluvial flooding where there is a 'danger for most' and 'danger for all' will not be permitted. Occupancy of caravan, chalet, log cabin, camping and touring sites at risk of tidal flooding will not be permitted to open between 1 st November in any one year and the 14th March in the succeeding year.</p> <p>No development will be permitted within a 50m buffer from the toe of the raised Witham Haven Banks (flood defences), as shown on the indicative Plan contained in Appendix 10, to allow access for construction and maintenance.</p> <p>Flood risk management infrastructure shall be provided at the strategic level, where development opportunities allow, to reduce the hazard and probability of flooding.</p>	
<p>Policy 5: Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for new development provided that developers can demonstrate that there is, or will be sufficient physical infrastructure and service needs capacity to support and meet the needs of the proposed development. A planning condition and/or legal agreement may be required to help secure the arising needs.</p> <p>The growth proposed by the Local Plan is likely to require an increase in the capacity of education provision which will need to be met in the following locations and settlements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New secondary schools for Boston (to the west of the urban area) and for Spalding on the site, measuring 8.5Ha, identified south of housing site Mon008 on the Spalding Inset Map; • Extended secondary school capacity for Old Leake, Holbeach, Long Sutton and Donington; • New primary school provision for Boston serving SUE site Sou006 [Policy 13] and for Spalding serving the Vernatts SUE [Policy 15] and other committed housing developments and for Holbeach; • Extended primary school provision within; Boston, Spalding, Crowland, Donington, Holbeach, Long Sutton, Pinchbeck, Swineshead, Sutterton, Deeping St Nicholas, Gosberton, Quadring, Surfleet and Weston. <p>Where development might take place over a period of time the provision of physical infrastructure and services will be phased. A master planning approach will be taken to aid the delivery of sites as appropriate. A piecemeal approach to applying for planning permission on a large site e.g. the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUE's) or the underdevelopment of a site that seeks to undermine the need to meet the policy requirements of the Local Plan will not be permitted.</p>	<p>This policy is primarily directed at growth, education and the provision of Sustainable Urban Extensions. The Scheme would not generate this type of development as envisioned by the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 6: Developer Contributions</p>	<p>Developments of 11 or more dwellings, or which have a combined gross floorspace of more than 1,000 sqm, or non-residential development of 1,000sqm gross floorspace or more will be expected to mitigate their impacts upon infrastructure, services and the environment to ensure that such developments are acceptable in planning terms. The Local Planning Authorities will not accept any proposals that</p>	<p>N/A - The Scheme does not fall within the development thresholds or impact times contemplated by Policy 6. Any mitigation is secured by DCO Requirements rather than through Section 106 or CIL contributions.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>artificially reduce capacity or floorspace to circumvent the proper operation of this policy.</p> <p>Developer contributions will only be sought when they meet the tests set out in paragraph 56 of the NPPF9, or any successor.</p> <p>Developers will either make direct provision or will contribute towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure and services required by the development, either alone or cumulatively with other developments. Contributions will be determined having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the identified needs generated by the proposed development; • the viability of the proposed development; and • the priorities attached to meeting individual local and strategic infrastructure and service requirements. <p>Contributions will be secured through section 106 (legal) agreements. Developer contributions will also be subject to the criteria set out in the Community Infrastructure Regulations (2010) 122 and 123 (or any successors) which require any financial contribution or contributions in kind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • towards infrastructure to meet a number of criteria. Developer contributions relating to the provision of: • affordable housing will be made in accordance with Local Plan Policy 18:Affordable Housing; • transport infrastructure will be made in accordance with Local Plan Policy 33: Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network, and where appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy 13: South-West Quadrant Sustainable Urban Extension; ○ Policy 14: South of the North Forty Foot Sustainable Urban Extension; ○ Policy 15: Vernatts Sustainable Urban Extension; ○ Policy 16: Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension; ○ Policy 34: Delivering the Boston Distributor Road; and ○ Policy 35: Delivering the Spalding Transport Strategy; • education facilities will be made in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 8: Developer Contributions for Education Facilities; • health facilities will be made in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 9: Developer Contributions for Health Facilities; and • sport facilities, recreational open space and other green infrastructure will be made in accordance with Local Plan Policy 32: Community, Health and Well-being. In addition, the provision of developer contributions should be in accordance with the relevant requirements of: • The proposed Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and each Local Planning Authority’s Developer Contributions Prioritisation Framework (or successor); • the South East Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)5 , and 	

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule, if considered appropriate in the long-term. 	
<p>Policy 28: The Natural Environment</p>	<p>A high quality, comprehensive ecological network of interconnected designated sites, sites of nature conservation importance and wildlife-friendly greenspace will be achieved by protecting, enhancing and managing natural assets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internationally-designated sites, on land or at sea: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. development proposals that would cause harm to these assets will not be permitted, except in exceptional circumstances, where imperative reasons of overriding public interest exist, and the loss will be compensated by the creation of sites of equal or greater nature conservation value; b. all major housing proposals within 10km of The Wash and the North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site, including the Sustainable Urban Extensions in Boston (site Sou006 & Wes002), Spalding (site Pin024/Pin045) and Holbeach West (site Hob048), will be the subject of a project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to assess the impact of recreational pressure on The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site. This should include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. locally-specific information relating to access and site sensitivities; ii. Where the project-level HRA concludes that avoidance and/or mitigation measures are required, it is expected that: iii. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) should be provided on site Sou006 and Wes002, site Pin024/Pin045 and site Hob048 as part of their package of mitigation measures; or iv. all other major housing proposals should provide SANGs on-site and/or through a financial contribution to provide and/or enhance natural greenspace in the locality; v. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces should be designed in accordance with capacity and facility requirements in relation to the developments they mitigate for, best practice elsewhere and relevant evidence. 2. Nationally or locally-designated sites and protected or priority habitats and species: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. development proposals that would directly or indirectly adversely affect these assets will not be permitted unless: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. there are no alternative sites that would cause less or no harm; and ii. the benefits of the development at the proposed site, clearly outweigh the adverse impacts on the features of the site and the wider network of natural habitats; and iii. suitable prevention, mitigation and compensation measures are provided. 3. Addressing gaps in the ecological network: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. by ensuring that all development proposals shall provide an overall net gain in biodiversity, by: 	<p>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 6.1) outlines the studies and surveys undertaken to inform the DCO Application. These enabled the design to respond positively to sites of biodiversity and geological interest. The Chapter concludes that with the proposed mitigation, no significant adverse effects are considered likely during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. During the operational phase, it is considered that with planting and habitat enhancement measures proposed, the Scheme would result in a beneficial significant effect on habitats.</p> <p>ES Appendix 9-14: Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (Doc Ref. 6.3) provides information to allow the SoS 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 Scheme. It concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites (either alone or in combination). The Applicant has secured a commitment within Schedule 2 of the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) to deliver BNG in excess of 10% for area-based habitats and watercourses, and in excess of 400% for hedgerows.</p> <p>The housing-specific elements of Policy 28 are not relevant to the Scheme.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. protecting the biodiversity value of land, buildings and trees (including veteran trees) minimising the fragmentation of habitats; ii. maximising the opportunities for restoration, enhancement and connection of natural habitats and species of principal importance; iii. incorporating beneficial biodiversity conservation features on buildings, where appropriate; and maximising opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and ecological corridors, including water space; and iv. conserving or enhancing biodiversity or geodiversity conservation features that will provide new habitat and help wildlife to adapt to climate change, and if the development is within a Nature Improvement Area (NIA), contributing to the aims and objectives of the NIA. 	
<p>Policy 29: The Historic Environment</p>	<p>Distinctive elements of the South East Lincolnshire historic environment will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. Opportunities to identify a heritage asset’s contribution to the economy, tourism, education and the local community will be utilised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic archaeological and drainage landscape of the Fens; • The distinctive character of South East Lincolnshire market towns and villages; • The dominance within the landscape of church towers, spires and historic windmills; <p>To respect the historical legacy, varied character and appearance of South East Lincolnshire’s historic environment, development proposals will conserve and enhance the character and appearance of designated and nondesignated heritage assets, such as important known archaeology or that found during development, historic buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, street patterns, streetscapes, landscapes, parks (including Registered Parks and Gardens), river frontages, structures and their settings through high-quality sensitive design.</p> <p>A. Listed Buildings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposals 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 preservation and does not involve activities or alterations prejudicial to the special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building or its setting. 2. Proposals involving the demolition of Listed Buildings will not be permitted, unless in an exceptional case, or wholly exceptional case (depending on their grade) where a clear and convincing justification is made in line with national policy. 3. Proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will be supported where they preserve or better reveal the significance of the Listed Building. <p>B. Conservation Areas</p>	<p>ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme on the historic environment, including above, at, and below ground assets.</p> <p>An assessment of the value (heritage significance) of heritage assets, including the contribution made by setting, is included in within Section 8.9 of ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1), as well as in ES Appendix 8.2: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3). Data sources are stated in ES Appendix 8.2: Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3) and include the relevant local authority Historic Environmental Record.</p> <p>A summary of all heritage features and settings is set out within ES Appendix 8-3: Summary of Solar Development Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.3) and ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3).</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with Historic England and Lincolnshire County Council throughout the pre-application phase.</p> <p>Further evaluation work would be undertaken post-consent, including within the Grid Connection Route, once the detail of the design is better known. This aligns with subparagraph C.3 of Policy 29.</p> <p>An Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy will be prepared to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ where practicable. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, provision would be made for preservation by record according to an agreed written scheme of investigation submitted by the Applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority, which accords with subparagraph C.4 of Policy 29.</p> <p>Parts A, B and D of this Policy are not relevant as there are no impacted Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas or Registered Parks and Gardens.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>Proposals within, affecting the setting of, or affecting views into or out of, a Conservation Area should preserve (and enhance or reinforce, as appropriate) features that contribute positively to the area’s character, appearance and setting. Proposals should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain buildings/groups of buildings, existing street patterns, historic building lines and ground surfaces; 2. Retain architectural details that contribute to the character and appearance of the area; 3. Where relevant and practical, remove features which are incompatible with the Conservation Area; 4. Retain and reinforce local distinctiveness with reference to height, massing, scale, form, materials and plot widths of the existing built environment; 5. Assess, and mitigate against, any negative impact the proposal might have on the townscape, roofscape, skyline and landscape; 6. Aim to protect trees, or where losses are proposed, demonstrate how such losses are appropriately mitigated against. <p>C. Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposals that affect archaeological remains, whether known or potential, designated or non-designated, should take every reasonable step to protect and, where possible, enhance their significance. 2. 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. 3. 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. 4. 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, undertaken by a suitably qualified person, and approved by the Local Planning Authority. 5. Any work undertaken as part of the planning process must be appropriately archived in a way agreed with the Local Planning Authority. <p>D. Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Proposals that cause substantial harm to a Registered Park or Garden, or its setting will not be permitted, unless in an exceptional case, where a clear and convincing justification is made in line with national policy.</p>	<p>Development adjacent to heritage assets and development which may impact the significance of a heritage asset, as described in Parts E and F of Policy 29, are assessed within ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1) and Appendix E: Heritage Statement of Harm (Doc Ref. 7.1).</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>E. Enabling Development</p> <p>Proposals for enabling development adjacent to, or within the setting of, a heritage asset and used to secure the future of a heritage asset through repair, conservation, restoration or enhancement will only be permitted where:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. it will not materially harm the heritage values of a heritage asset or its setting; 2. it avoids detrimental fragmentation of management of the heritage asset; 3. it will secure the long-term future of the place and, where applicable, its continued use for a sympathetic purpose; 4. it is necessary to resolve problems arising from the inherent needs of the heritage asset rather than the circumstances of the present owner or the purchase price paid sufficient subsidy is not available from any other source; 5. it is demonstrated that the amount of enabling development is the minimum necessary to secure the future of the heritage asset and that its form minimises harm to other public interests; and 6. the public benefit of securing the future of the heritage asset through such enabling development decisively outweighs the dis-benefits of breaching other policies within the Local Plan and national policy <p>F. Development Proposals</p> <p>Where a development proposal would affect the significance of a heritage asset (whether designated or non-designated), including any contribution made to its setting, it should be informed by proportionate historic environment assessments⁷ and evaluations (such as heritage impact assessments, desk-based appraisals, field evaluation and historic building reports) that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify all heritage assets likely to be affected by the proposal; 2. explain the nature and degree of any effect on elements that contribute to their significance and demonstrating how, in order of preference, any harm will be avoided, minimised or mitigated; 3. provide a clear explanation and justification for the proposal in order for the harm to be weighed against public benefits; and 4. demonstrate that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset; and whether the works proposed are the minimum required to secure the long term use of the asset 	
<p>Policy 30: Pollution</p>	<p>Development proposals will not be permitted where, taking account of any proposed mitigation measures, they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. health and safety of the public; 2. the amenities of the area; or 3. the natural, historic and built environment; by way of: 4. air quality, including fumes and odour; 5. noise including vibration; 6. light levels; 7. land quality and condition; or 	<p>In the case of the Scheme, the ES Chapters (Doc Ref 6.1) assess each of the environmental topics and report any residual significant adverse effects. They do not report any unacceptable residual effects on the topics listed in Policy 30.</p> <p>While the Scheme is not an application under the TCPA, it has assessed the impact on air quality in ES Chapter 6: Air Quality (Doc Ref. 6.1). No significant adverse residual effects are reported.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>8. surface and groundwater quality. Planning applications, except for development within the curtilage of a dwelling house as specified within Schedule 2, Part 1 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, or successor statutory instrument, must include an assessment of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. impact on the proposed development from poor air quality from identified sources; 2. impact on air quality from the proposed development; and 3. impact on amenity from existing uses. <p>Suitable mitigation measures will be provided, if required. Proposals will be refused if impacts cannot be suitably mitigated or avoided.</p> <p>Development proposals on contaminated land, or where there is reason to suspect contamination, must include an assessment of the extent of contamination and any possible risks. Proposals will not be considered favourably unless the land is, or can be made, suitable for the proposed use.</p>	<p>Contamination risk have been considered within ES Appendix 5-4: Contaminated Land Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3) and ES Appendix 5-5: Contaminated Land Assessment for Grid Connection Extension (Doc Ref. 6.3).</p>
<p>Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p>	<p>A. Climate Change All development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the consequences of current climate change has been addressed, minimised and mitigated by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. employing a high-quality design; 2. the adoption of the sequential approach and Exception Test to flood-risk and the incorporation of flood-mitigation measures in design and construction to reduce the effects of flooding, including SuDS schemes for all ‘Major’ applications; 3. the protection of the quality, quantity and availability of water resources, including for residential developments, complying with the Building Regulation water efficiency standard of 110 litres per person per day; 4. reducing the need to travel through locational decisions and, where appropriate, providing a mix of uses; 5. incorporating measures which promote and enhance green infrastructure and provide an overall net gain in biodiversity as required by Policy 28 to improve the resilience of ecosystems within and beyond the site. <p>B. Renewable Energy With the exception of Wind Energy the development of renewable energy facilities, associated infrastructure and the integration of decentralised technologies on existing or proposed structures will be permitted provided, individually, or cumulatively, there would be no significant harm to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. visual amenity, landscape character or quality, or skyline considerations; 2. residential amenity in respect of: noise, fumes, odour, vibration, shadow flicker, sunlight reflection, broadcast interference, traffic; 3. highway safety (including public rights of way); 	<p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref 7.1) sets out how the Scheme would contribute substantially to the need to supply renewable electricity, in order for the government to meet its objectives and commitments. 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 Scheme will therefore help to decarbonise the electricity system and lowers the market price of electricity.</p> <p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1) sets out the need for large-scale ground-mounted solar, as established in national planning policy (NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3).</p> <p>The Scheme has undergone an iterative design and site selection process in order to ensure that the Scheme 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.</p> <p>ES Chapter 5: Agriculture and Soils (Doc Ref. 6.1), ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 6.1), ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1), ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref. 6.1) and ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) identify likely significant adverse effects in relation to subparagraphs B.1 and B.6. These effects have been fully assessed with mitigation proposed as outlined in the respective chapters. Significant harm is not reported in these assessments. The planning balance as set out in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1) weighs these adverse effects against the substantial benefits of the Scheme which are summarised above.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>4. agricultural land take; 5. aviation and radar safety; 6. heritage assets including their setting; and 7. the natural environment.</p> <p>Provision should be made for post-construction monitoring and the removal of the facility and reinstatement of the site if the development ceases to be operational.</p> <p>Proposals by a local community for the development of renewable and low carbon sources of energy, in scale with their community’s requirements, including supporting infrastructure for renewable energy projects, will be supported and considered in the context of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and meeting the challenge of climate change and against criteria B1-7.</p>	<p>In terms of the natural environment in B.7, the Scheme has sought opportunities to provide beneficial outcomes including delivering BNG and contributing towards local conservation priorities. This includes providing new and enhanced contributions to the local green infrastructure network including extension hedgerow networks, field margins and ditches. ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 6.1) reports significant beneficial effects on habitats.</p> <p>A BNG Assessment using Defra’s Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been completed and is available for review as part of the DCO Application within the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Doc Ref. 7.9). At the time of submitting this DCO Application, achieving biodiversity net gain is not yet a mandatory obligation for NSIPs. It is expected that the provisions within Schedule 15 of the Environment Act 2021 will come into force in May 2026. Regardless, the Applicant has secured a commitment within Schedule 2 of the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) to deliver BNG in excess of 10% for area-based habitats and watercourses, and in excess of 400% for hedgerows.</p> <p>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Doc Ref. 6.3) provides an assessment of flood risk to and from the Scheme from all sources of flooding.</p> <p>The Scheme is considered to provide significant wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh any flood risk. ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3) has demonstrated that the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.</p>
<p>Policy 32: Community, Health and Well-being</p>	<p>Development shall contribute to: the creation of socially-cohesive and inclusive communities; reducing health inequalities; and improving the community’s health and well-being. To this end, development will not be permitted unless it (where possible and appropriate):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protects and enhances existing public rights of way, and creates new links to the rights of way network; and 2. creates environments which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. discourage crime and disorder, and do not create the fear of crime; ii. encourage healthy eating and local food growing; iii. are accessible to all sections of the community; iv. facilitate walking, cycling and public transport use; and encourage community use. <p><i>Part two of Policy 32.2 omitted due to non-relevance.</i></p>	<p>During the operational phase of the Scheme, several mitigation measures are proposed to maintain access to all PRowS and Common Land within the Site. The mitigation measures are detailed within the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.11), Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.15) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16).</p> <p>The Scheme includes the provision of enhancements and improvements to local pathways, including the creation of a new permissive path providing a connection between PRow at Queens Bank and Shepeau Stow, following the boundary of the Settlement W of Cate’s Cove Corner Schedule Monument. The permissive path will be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and provide information boards on the historic and natural environment). This would support meeting the health and wellbeing outcomes envisioned through Policy 32.</p>
<p>Policy 33: Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network</p>	<p>The Local Planning Authorities will work with partners to make the best use of, and seek improvements to, existing transport infrastructure and services within, and connecting to South East Lincolnshire, having considered first solutions that are based on better promotion and management of the existing network and the</p>	<p>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) concludes that no significant residual effects are expected as part of the scheme, including on highway safety. The cumulative effects assessment reports the potential for moderate significant adverse effect in relation to road safety. This represents a worst case</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>provision of sustainable forms of travel. To achieve this, the following priorities and actions have been identified:</p> <p>A. For the road-based transport network this will be by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. working with the Local Highway Authority to militate against congestion at pinch points and continuing to actively manage roads under its control; 2. securing the delivery of new local access roads to open-up allocations and other locations for development; 3. enabling the delivery of the Northern and Southern sections of the Spalding Western Relief Road, associated junctions and crossing points; 4. enabling the delivery of Phase 2 of the Boston Distributor Road, associated junctions and crossing points; 5. enabling the delivery of improvements to the A17/A151 Peppermint junction, Holbeach and associated new access junction on the A151; and 6. identifying safeguarding routes on the Policies Map, within which sections 2 and 3 of the Spalding Western Relief Road and Phase 3 of the Boston Distributor Road will be delivered (outside this Plan period). Any development that would prejudice the design of this infrastructure will not be permitted. <p>B. For the rail-based transport network this will be by working with Network Rail, train operators and community rail partnerships to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improve inter and sub-regional links to neighbouring centres by ensuring that the area is served by high-quality rail transport links; 2. enhance connectivity between other forms of sustainable travel and the rail network by providing improved interchange facilities; and 3. investigate the potential to improve connectivity to Spalding railway station; 4. seek to secure improved rail services as part of the new East Midlands franchise due to commence in October 2018. <p>C. For cycling, walking and other sustainable transport this will be by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protecting existing footpaths, cycle routes and public rights of way from development; 2. improving connectivity to create a more coherent walking and cycling network through the provision of new multi-user routes, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. between Fenside Road, Boston town centre and Beech Wood; ii. alongside the South Forty Foot Drain, Boston; iii. along the former Boston-Woodhall Spa railway line; iv. between Market Way, Pinchbeck, and Woolram Wygate, Spalding; and v. alongside the Coronation Channel (east bank), Spalding; vi. along West Elloe Avenue and Enterprise Way, Spalding. 3. ensuring that major new developments provide for walking and cycling routes and/or links to existing networks, to key public transport corridors and to transport interchanges; 4. protecting the 'key public transport corridors' and supporting the ongoing provision, and, where appropriate, extension of bus services, in partnership with bus operators; and 	<p>hypothetical scenario, and in practice this is unlikely to occur as it requires the peaks of the construction phases to coincide.</p> <p>ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) identifies that there would not be any unacceptable impacts on highway safety or the operation of the local road network. The consideration of traffic impacts has also been a key consideration and theme as part of early engagement with local communities. The potential for construction traffic to disrupt local communities and villages was a key concern raised. The Applicant has committed to use of particular routes for HGVs and AILs as set out within ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 6.1) to minimise disruption to local communities. The Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 5.1) details the feedback received relating to traffic and access concerns and the Applicant's response.</p> <p>Furthermore, the provisions of the Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.13) and the Requirements of the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) enable additional management to be applied if necessary. The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (PRoW-MP) (Doc. Ref. 7.15) outlines how local PRoW and Common Land will be impacted by the Scheme and how these impacts will be managed and mitigated. The Applicant has engaged with Lincolnshire County Council in the pre-application stage as the relevant highway authority and will continue to do as required by the DCO Requirement.</p> <p>Parts A and B of this Policy are not relevant to this Scheme.</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
	<p>5. helping to ensure the continuous and safe operation of the Port of Boston and the Port of Sutton Bridge.</p> <p>To demonstrate compliance with this policy, an appropriate Transport Assessment and associated Travel Plan should be submitted with proposals. The form will be dependent upon the scale and nature of the development and agreed through early discussion with the Local Highway Authority. All development should contribute to the delivery of necessary transport infrastructure, either directly, where appropriate, or indirectly such as through developer contributions or CIL payment.</p>	

3. Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted 2016)

3.1.1. Table 3-1 below details the policies within the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted 2016). Policies which are not relevant to the Scheme are not included within this table.

Table 3-1 Relevant Policies within the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted 2016)

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
<p>Policy M11: Safeguarding of Mineral Resources</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 land. Where this is not the case, planning permission will be granted when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p><u>Exemptions</u></p> <p>This policy does not apply to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>A small part of Land Parcel A (approximately 18 ha) is located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. The Applicant has submitted Appendix F: Mineral Safeguarding Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1) to support the DCO Application. It provides an assessment against each limb of Policy M11, as summarised below.</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>Prior extraction of the mineral would not be practical due to the shallow and temporary nature of the Scheme. Given the area within the Order Limits identified as safeguarded represents a very small area of land, it would not be economically viable to extract the mineral in advance of the Scheme.</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>The nature of the Scheme is one that would not permanently sterilise resource or hinder future extraction as the solar PV panels and infrastructure will all be removed and the land restored to a condition suitable for future mineral extraction following its operational life.</p> <p>The Applicant is seeking a time limited consent (40 years) and has committed to the decommissioning of the Scheme when it ceases to be operational. Should this safeguarded area need to be released for mineral extraction within this timescale, the solar PV panels and infrastructure could be temporarily removed to allow for mineral extraction.</p> <p><i>there is an overriding need for the development to meet local economic needs, and the development could not reasonably be sited elsewhere</i></p> <p>The Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1) sets out why the Scheme is urgently required. The Scheme is classed as a critical national priority project within EN-1 recognising the urgency to bring forward low carbon energy schemes that contribute to 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.</p> <p>Appendix D: Site Selection Report (Doc Ref. 7.1) provides an overview of the site selection process undertaken by the Applicant to identify the Site and sets out why the Scheme and its Order Limits are located in this particular location. The Site Selection Report takes into account the technical and environmental requirements of utility-scale solar developments. Alternative sites have been considered however,</p>

Policy	Policy Text	Compliance with Policy
		<p>there are external factors that also influence the siting of the Scheme, such as the availability of land (and willingness of landowners), proximity to a grid connection with sufficient capacity, topography and irradiance. There is policy support within NPS EN-3 that these factors should appropriately direct site selection for solar NSIPs.</p> <p><i>the development is of a minor nature which would have a negligible impact with respect to sterilising the mineral resource</i></p> <p>ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics and Land Use (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme on land take affecting the quality and ability to access known mineral resources. It concludes that the Scheme would result in a negligible effect (not significant) on the Mineral Safeguarding Area because the infrastructure proposed within this area is minimally invasive, and the proposals are not considered to affect the underlying geology. The frames supporting the solar panels would be driven at most 3.5 m into the ground. The frames would be fully removed (pulled out) on decommissioning. The nature of the Scheme would not permanently sterilise the resource.</p> <p><i>the development is, or forms part of, an allocation in the Development Plan</i></p> <p>The Scheme does not form part of an allocation within the relevant local plan.</p> <p>The Mineral Safeguarding Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1) concludes the Scheme’s compliance with the criteria within Policy M11 which governs whether development impacting a Mineral Safeguarding Area may be acceptable.</p>

