



# Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.3 ES Appendix 6-1: Air  
Quality Legislation, Policy  
and Guidance

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

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

March 2026

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Purpose of this Appendix	1
<b>2. Legislation</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1. The Environmental Protection Act 1990	2
2.2. National Air Quality Legislation Originating from the European Union (EU) <sup>3</sup>	2
2.3. Environment Act	3
2.4. The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023	3
<b>3. National Policy Statements</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. National Planning Policy Framework</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5. Other National Policies and Guidance</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1. National Planning Practice Air Quality Guidance	15
5.2. The Environmental Improvement Plan	15
5.3. Clean Air Strategy 2019	16
5.4. Air Quality Strategy	16
5.5. Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2017) Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality	17
5.6. IAQM (2020) A Guide to the Assessment of Air Quality Impacts on Designated Nature Conservation Sites	18
5.7. IAQM (2024) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction	18
5.8. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22)	18
<b>6. Local Policy</b>	<b>19</b>

## Tables

Table 3-1: Relevant NPS Policy for Air Quality.....	5
Table 4-1: Relevant NPPF Requirements for Air Quality.....	13
Table 6-1: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Air Quality.....	20

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.1.1. This Environmental Statement (ES) appendix identifies and describes the legislation, policy and guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of Meridian Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as ‘the Scheme’) with regards to air quality. Policy is considered at both national and local levels.
- 1.1.2. This appendix does not assess the Scheme against legislation, policy and guidance, instead the purpose of considering legislation, policy and guidance in the EIA is twofold:
- To identify legislation, policy and guidance that could influence the sensitivity of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
  - To identify legislation, policy and guidance that could influence the methodology of the EIA and signposting where this is dealt with in the ES. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.3. Instead, policy compliance is assessed within the **Planning Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.1).
- 1.1.4. The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and guidance considered specifically relevant to the air quality assessment, which have been taken into account in preparing **ES Chapter 6: Air Quality** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

## 2. Legislation

### 2.1. The Environmental Protection Act 1990<sup>1</sup>

2.1.1. Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines matters that could be a private and public statutory nuisance. The prescribed matters of relevance to this assessment being any smoke, fumes, gases, steam or smell being prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

### 2.2. National Air Quality Legislation Originating from the European Union (EU)<sup>2,3</sup>

2.2.1. The principal air quality legislation within the United Kingdom is the Air Quality Standards Regulations<sup>3</sup> (as amended 2016).

2.2.2. The UK is no longer a member of the European Union following the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018<sup>4</sup>; however, some types of EU legislation such as Regulations and Decisions have been retained in UK law. The Air Quality Standards Regulations are retained through The Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020<sup>5</sup>.

2.2.3. The Air Quality Standards Regulations define 'limit value' concentrations to protect human health and 'target values' to protect the wider environment. The limit values defined therein are legally-binding and are considered to apply everywhere (with the exception of the carriageway and central reservation of roads and any locations where the public do not have access).

---

<sup>1</sup> HM Government (1990). *Environmental Protection Act 1990*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>2</sup> HM Government (2016). *The Air Quality Standards (Amendment) Regulations 2016*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1184/regulation/2/made> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>3</sup> HM Government (2010). *The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/contents> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>4</sup> *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/16/enacted/data.pdf> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>5</sup> *The Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1313/made/data.pdf> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

## 2.3. Environment Act<sup>6</sup>

- 2.3.1. The Environment Act 1995 as amended in 2021<sup>7</sup> requires the UK Government to produce an Air Quality Strategy which contains standards, objectives and measures for improving ambient air quality, and to update it at least every five years. The air quality objectives are a tool to help local authorities manage local air quality improvements under a regime called 'local air quality management', with the aim of avoiding, preventing or reducing harmful effects on human health and on the environment as a whole.
- 2.3.2. The national air quality objectives of relevance to this assessment, as well as to the local air quality management regime, were defined in The Air Quality (England) Regulations<sup>8</sup> (as amended 2002)<sup>9</sup>.

## 2.4. The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023<sup>10</sup>

- 2.4.1. The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 introduced two targets under the Environment Act 2021. These are a target level for annual mean concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> to be achieved at relevant monitoring stations by 31 December 2040 and an exposure reduction target for the Secretary of State to report on by 15 July 2041. For the purposes of these regulations, relevant monitoring locations are fixed monitoring stations within the national monitoring network. There are no such monitoring locations within the air quality Study Area for the Scheme.
- 2.4.2. How target values should be considered in development control and local air quality control is a matter that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) are currently undertaking a stakeholder engagement exercise on prior to bringing forward guidance for local authorities in England.

---

<sup>6</sup> HM Government (1995). *Environment Act 1995*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents>

<sup>7</sup> HM Government (2021). *Environment Act 2021*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>8</sup> HM Government (2000). *The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2000/928/contents/made> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>9</sup> HM Government (2002). *The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/3043/contents/made> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>10</sup> *The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/96/made/data.pdf>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

### 3. National Policy Statements

- 3.1.1. The EIA has been undertaken with reference to the following National Policy Statements (NPSs), which are relevant to the Scheme:
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)<sup>11</sup>;
  - National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (NPS EN-3)<sup>12</sup>; and
  - National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)<sup>13</sup>.
- 3.1.2. The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure, along with the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining applications for Development Consent Orders (DCOs). The NPSs provide specific guidance and criteria that applicants should cover when assessing the effects of their Scheme, and how the Secretary of State should consider these impacts and any mitigation measures applied.
- 3.1.3. The relevant NPS requirements for Air Quality are provided in Table 3-1, along with an indication of where in the ES this information can be sourced.

---

<sup>11</sup> DESNZ (2025). Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed 09 January 2026]

<sup>12</sup> DESNZ (2025). NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed 09 January 2026]

<sup>13</sup> DESNZ (2025). NPS for Electricity Networks (NPS EN-5). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d12e1b5c46330350ed9a1/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed 09 January 2026]

**Table 3-1: Relevant NPS Policy for Air Quality**

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
<b>Overarching NPS for Energy EN-1</b>		
5.2.8	Where the project is likely to have adverse effects on air quality the applicant should undertake an assessment of the impacts of the proposed project as part of the ES.	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme in relation to air quality.
5.2.9	The ES should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing air quality concentrations and the relative change in air quality from existing levels;</li> <li>any significant air quality effects, mitigation action taken and any residual effects, distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project;</li> <li>the predicted absolute emissions, concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and</li> <li>any potential eutrophication impacts.</li> </ul>	Section 6.6 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents the baseline air quality characteristics, and Section 6.8 provides an assessment of the Scheme in relation to air quality, including the predicted absolute concentrations and concentration changes due to the Scheme construction as determined by detailed air quality modelling.
5.2.10	In addition, applicants should consider the Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 and associated Defra guidance.	The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 have been considered in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1).

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.2.11	Defra publishes future national projections of air quality based on estimates of future levels of emissions, traffic, and vehicle fleet. Projections are updated as the evidence base changes and the applicant should ensure these are current at the point of an application. The applicant's assessment should be consistent with this but may include more detailed modelling and evaluation to demonstrate local and national impacts. If an applicant believes they have robust additional supporting evidence, to the extent they could affect the conclusions of the assessment, they should include this in their representations to the Examining Authority along with the source	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme in relation to air quality. Defra emission factors projections have been applied within this assessment. Defra's Emissions Factors Toolkit (EFT) version 13.1 was used to calculate emissions factors for road traffic.
5.2.12	Where a Scheme is likely to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets, or affect the ability of a non-compliant area to achieve compliance within the timescales set out in the most recent relevant air quality plan/strategy at the time of the decision, the applicant should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that those statutory limits, objectives or targets are not breached	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme against statutory air quality criteria. No exceedances are expected due to the Scheme.
5.2.13	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction emissions over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at this stage. In doing so the Secretary of State should have regard to the Air Quality Strategy in England,	Section 6.7 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents embedded mitigation measures for the Scheme in relation to Air Quality. An <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)</b>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	or the Clean Air Plan for Wales in Wales, or any successors to these and should consider relevant advice within Local Air Quality Management guidance and PM <sub>2.5</sub> targets guidance	(Doc Ref. 7.10) has been prepared to support the DCO Application.
5.2.16	The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality. This could for example include where an area breaches any national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives. However, air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of statutory limits, objectives or targets	The assessment reported on in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) found that no breaches to air quality limits, objectives, and targets or significant adverse changes to Air Quality are expected due to the Scheme.
5.2.17	The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project is proposed near a sensitive receptor site, such as an education or healthcare facility, residential use or a sensitive or protected habitat	The assessment reported on in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) found that whilst there are sensitive receptors in proximity to the Scheme, no significant adverse changes to Air Quality are anticipated at these locations due to the Scheme.
5.2.18	Where a project is proposed near to a sensitive receptor site for air quality, if the applicant cannot provide justification for this location, and a suitable mitigation plan, the Secretary of State should refuse consent	The assessment reported on in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) found that whilst there are sensitive receptors in proximity to the Scheme, no significant adverse changes to Air Quality are expected due to the Scheme at these locations with the implementation of mitigation in the <b>OCEMP</b>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
		(Doc Ref. 7.10), including a Dust Management Plan.
5.2.19	In all cases, the Secretary of State must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives and targets. If a project will lead to non-compliance with a statutory limit, objective or target the Secretary of State should refuse consent	The assessment reported on in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) found that no breaches to air quality limits, objectives, and targets are expected due to the Scheme.
5.7.5	The applicant should assess the potential for ... emissions of odour, dust... to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the ES.	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents the findings of a dust risk assessment. The assessment finds that no significant adverse impacts from odour and dust are anticipated to amenity.
5.7.6	<p>In particular, the assessment provided by the applicant should describe: the type, quantity and timing of emissions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aspects of the development which may give rise to emissions;</li> <li>• premises or locations that may be affected by the emissions;</li> <li>• effects of the emission on identified premises or locations; and</li> <li>• measures to be employed in preventing or mitigating the emissions.</li> </ul>	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1). The assessment considers all aspects of the Scheme which may give rise to emissions, all sensitive receptors which may be impacted by emissions, the extent of these impacts, and mitigation to prevent and mitigate these impacts.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.7.7	The applicant is advised to consult the relevant local planning LPA and, where appropriate, the EA about the scope and methodology of the assessment.	Section 6.3 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents a record of all engagement with stakeholders undertaken to date in relation to Air Quality.
5.7.8	Mitigation measures may include one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engineering: prevention of a specific emission at the point of generation; control, containment and abatement of emissions if generated</li> <li>• lay-out: adequate distance between source and sensitive receptors; reduced transport or handling of material.</li> <li>• administrative: limiting operating times; restricting activities allowed on the site; implementing management plans.</li> </ul>	Section 6.7 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents the embedded mitigation proposed in relation to Air Quality.
5.7.9	Construction should be undertaken in a way that reduces emissions, for example the use of low emission mobile plant during the construction, and demolition phases as appropriate, and consideration should be given to making these mandatory in Development Consent Order requirements.	Section 6.7 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) describes embedded mitigation to reduce emissions which includes avoiding vehicle idling and using battery powered equipment where practicable.
5.7.11	A construction management plan may help clarify and secure mitigation.	An <b>OCEMP</b> (Doc Ref. 7.10) has been prepared to support the DCO Application.
5.7.12	The Secretary of State should satisfy itself that:	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents the findings of a dust risk assessment. The assessment finds that no

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an assessment of the potential for... dust... to have a detrimental impact on amenity has been carried out</li> <li>• that all reasonable steps have been taken, and will be taken, to minimise any such detrimental impacts</li> </ul>	significant adverse effects from dust are anticipated to amenity.
<b>NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)</b>		
2.7.41	Applicants should include in the ES an assessment of the air emissions resulting from the proposed infrastructure and demonstrate compliance with the relevant regulations (see Section 5.2 and 5.3 of EN-1).	Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the Scheme in relation to Air Quality and compliance with relevant regulations.
2.7.42	Applicants should include in the ES an assessment of the air emissions associated with delivery and movement of people, fuel and materials. This should include consideration of cumulative effects from construction, operation and vehicle movements.	<p>Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) considers air emissions associated with delivery and movement of people, fuel and materials.</p> <p>Section 6.11 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of cumulative impacts as a result of the Scheme and other nearby developments.</p>
2.7.43	Applicants should take into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas, NO <sub>2</sub> Programme Clean Air Plans and proximity to large numbers of people and vulnerable receptors (e.g. health facilities, care homes and schools) when considering site selection.	A summary of the site selection process for the Scheme is provided in <b>ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) with further details provided within <b>Appendix D: Site Selection Report</b> of the <b>Planning Statement</b> (Doc Ref. 7.1). Baseline air

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
		quality designations and sensitive receptors are detailed in Section 6.6 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1).
<b>NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5</b>		
The NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5 does not contain provisions specific to Air Quality within the context of the Scheme.		

## 4. National Planning Policy Framework<sup>14</sup>

- 4.1.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) outlines the Government's planning policies for England and provides guidance on their implementation. Paragraph 5 outlines that while the NPPF does not contain specific policies for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), the NPPF is still relevant when considering the determination of DCOs. As a result, the EIA has taken the NPPF into account.
- 4.1.2. Relevant NPPF requirements relating to air quality, along with an indication of where the information is located within the ES to address these requirements, are provided in Table 4-1.

---

<sup>14</sup> *National Planning Policy Framework 2024*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

**Table 4-1: Relevant NPPF Requirements for Air Quality**

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
187	<p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ...</li> <li>• preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans;</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p>Section 6.7 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) sets out embedded mitigation pertaining to Air Quality. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, there are not anticipated to be any significant changes to air quality, and the assessment presented in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) concludes that no breaches to air quality limits, objectives, and targets are expected due to the Scheme.</p>
199	<p>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</p>	<p>Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) provides an assessment of the effects of the Scheme on air quality. As set out in Section 6.6 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1), the Scheme is not located in or near an AQMA or Clean Air Zone, and air quality limits are not in danger of being exceeded.</p> <p>Section 6.11 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) presents an assessment of cumulative impacts</p>

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>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.</p>	<p>from the Scheme and other nearby developments. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated.</p>

## 5. Other National Policies and Guidance

### 5.1. National Planning Practice Air Quality Guidance<sup>15</sup>

- 5.1.1. The National Planning Practice Air Quality Guidance was published on the 6 March 2014 and revised in 2019 and provides more in-depth guidance to the NPPF. The NPPG 'Air Quality' provides guidance on how planning can take account of the impact of new development on air quality.
- 5.1.2. The NPPG notes that where air quality is a relevant consideration the local planning authority may need to establish:
- *The baseline air quality, including what would happen to air quality in the absence of development (i.e. future baseline); and*
  - *Whether the Scheme could significantly change air quality during the construction and operational phases (and the consequences of this for public health and biodiversity).*
- 5.1.3. Within paragraph 7 it is stated that air quality assessments need to be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposed and the potential impacts (taking into account existing air quality conditions), and because of this are likely to be locationally specific.

### 5.2. The Environmental Improvement Plan

- 5.2.1. The 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>16</sup>, originally published in 2018, sets out the actions the UK Government will take to help the natural world regain good health.
- 5.2.2. The Environment Plan was revised in 2023<sup>17</sup> with the publication of the Environmental Improvement Plan, and its update in 2025<sup>18</sup>. Goal 2 of the Plan is 'achieving clean air', underscoring a renewed governmental commitment to

---

<sup>15</sup> Air Quality Planning Practice Guidance 2019. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-quality--3> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>16</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2023) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ab3a67840f0b65bb584297e/25-year-environment-plan.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>18</sup> Environmental Improvement Plan 2025. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025/environmental-improvement-plan-eip-2025#chapter-2-environmental-quality> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

air quality improvements alongside recent legislative changes. The plan outlines a series of commitments and actions to meet this goal, including by supporting local authorities to take action, supporting the transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles, considering measure to cut emissions from domestic and small industrial sources, and working with farmers to reduce agricultural emissions.

- 5.2.3. The 2025 plan also sets out Interim targets for PM<sub>2.5</sub> representing increased ambition along the pathway to meeting the statutory targets set out in The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) Regulations 2023.

### 5.3. Clean Air Strategy 2019<sup>19</sup>

- 5.3.1. The UK Government published its Clean Air Strategy in 2019, a major component of the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Strategy demonstrates how the UK Government will tackle all sources of air pollution, making the air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.
- 5.3.2. In previous years, air quality management had primarily focused on nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and its principal source in the UK i.e. road traffic. However, the Clean Air Strategy broadens the focus to other areas. It outlined comprehensive measures to combat air pollution, from reducing emissions across various sectors to enhancing the country's monitoring and analytics capabilities. Recognizing that air pollution is a complex problem influenced by a range of factors, including industrial activity, agriculture, and domestic heating, the strategy advocated for a holistic approach to ensure cleaner air.

### 5.4. Air Quality Strategy<sup>20</sup>

- 5.4.1. The Air Quality Strategy: framework for local authority delivery was revised in 2023 and supersedes the Air Quality Strategy: Volume 1<sup>21</sup> in England only. In Northern Ireland and Scotland, the strategy (Volume 1) remains in force. The Air Quality Strategy sets out the actions that Defra expects local authorities to

---

<sup>19</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2019) *Clean Air Strategy 2019*. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c3b9debe5274a70c19d905c/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>20</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2023) *Air Quality Strategy: Framework for local authority delivery*. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64e8963d635870000d1dbf9d/Air\\_Quality\\_Strategy\\_Web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64e8963d635870000d1dbf9d/Air_Quality_Strategy_Web.pdf) [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>21</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2007) *The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Volume 1*. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a758459ed915d731495a940/pb12654-air-quality-strategy-vol1-070712.pdf> [Accessed 15/10/2025]

take in support of our long-term air quality goals. It provides a framework to enable local authorities to make best use of their powers and make improvements for their communities.

- 5.4.2. Local authorities have a duty to address air quality exceedances in their area, including declaring Air Quality Management Plans (AQMAs) and publishing Air Quality Action Plans setting out the measures they will take with the aim of achieving ongoing compliance. The Air Quality Strategy summarises current objectives and targets but does not define them.

## 5.5. Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2017) Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality<sup>22</sup>

- 5.5.1. 'Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality' (2017) ('the IAQM guidance') is non-statutory good practice guidance published by the IAQM. In the absence of statutory technical guidance for air quality impact assessments in England, the guidance provides developers with a means of reaching sound decisions, having regard to the air quality implications of development proposals.
- 5.5.2. The IAQM guidance describes a method for screening the requirement for an air quality assessment and determining the significance of any air quality impacts associated with a development proposal. These elements have been adopted for the assessment of air quality impacts due to the Scheme.
- 5.5.3. The guidance states that "*development is not inherently negative for air quality. Whilst a new development at a particular site may have its own emissions, it may also bring an opportunity to reduce overall emissions in an area over time by installing new, cleaner technologies and applying policies that promote sustainability*".

---

<sup>22</sup> Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management (2017) *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality*. Available at: <https://www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-planning-guidance.pdf>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

## 5.6. IAQM (2020) A Guide to the Assessment of Air Quality Impacts on Designated Nature Conservation Sites<sup>23</sup>

- 5.6.1. IAQM 'A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites' (2020) ('the IAQM 2020 guidance') provides a non-statutory framework for assessing the risk of vehicle emissions on designated ecological sites. This has been adopted for the assessment of air quality impacts on ecological sites due to the Scheme.

## 5.7. IAQM (2024) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction<sup>24</sup>

- 5.7.1. The IAQM has produced non-statutory guidance ('the IAQM 2024 guidance') that is to be used in the preparation of construction impact assessment (including demolition and earthworks as appropriate). This guidance provides a framework to classify the risk of dust impacts from a site, and suggestions of mitigation measures commensurate with the identified risk. This guidance addresses the potential for statutory nuisance by using a more demanding test based on the risk of significant adverse effects on amenity. The dust risk assessment in this report has been carried out following this guidance.

## 5.8. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22)<sup>25</sup>

- 5.8.1. DEFRA 'Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22)' provides guidance for local authorities to assess and, where required, deliver improvements in air quality within their jurisdiction, under the local air quality management regime. TG22 also recommends where the AQOs should be applied. Although not statutory guidance for EIA purposes, this assessment adopts the use of calculation methods and MS Excel based tools from this

---

<sup>23</sup> Institute of Air Quality Management (2020) *A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites*. Available at: <https://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2020.pdf>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>24</sup> Institute of Air Quality Management (2024) *Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction*. Available at: <https://iaqm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Construction-Dust-Guidance-Jan-2024.pdf>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

<sup>25</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2022) *Local Air Quality Management: Technical Guidance (TG22)*. Available at: <https://iaqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LAQM-TG22-August-22-v1.0.pdf>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

guidance as good practice methods to enable the assessment of concentrations of local air pollutants.

## 6. Local Policy

6.1.1. Local policy and guidance relevant to the Air Quality assessment comprise:

- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036<sup>26</sup>.

6.1.2. The relevant considerations are summarised within Table 6-1.

---

<sup>26</sup> South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2019) *Local Plan 2011 – 2036* Available at <https://southeastlinclslocalplan.org/article/20102/Adopted-Plan>. [Accessed 15/10/2025]

**Table 6-1: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Air Quality**

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
<p>South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036</p>	<p><b>Policy 30 (Pollution):</b> development proposals will not be permitted where, taking account of any proposed mitigation measures, they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts upon the health and safety of the public, the amenities of the area, or the natural, historic and built environment, by way of air quality, including fumes and odour.</p>	<p>The assessment set out in Section 6.8 of <b>ES Chapter 6: Air Quality (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b>, concludes that the Scheme is not expected to result in adverse impacts on air quality.</p>

