Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.3 ES Appendix 11-1: Hydrology and Flood Risk Legislation, Policy and Guidance

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

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

March 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this Appendix

1.1.1. This Environmental Statement (ES) appendix identifies and describes the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of Meridian Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme') with regards to hydrology and flood risk. Policy is considered at both national and local levels.

1.1.2. This appendix does not assess the Scheme against legislation and policy, instead the purpose of considering legislation and policy in the EIA is twofold:

- To identify legislation and policy that could influence the sensitivity of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
- To identify legislation and policy 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 supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the hydrology and flood risk assessment, which have been taken into account in preparing the ES.

2. Legislation

2.1. Environment Act (2021)

2.1.1. The Environment Act (2021)[1] enables better environmental protection to be included into law, includes new binding targets for water, which when set will need to be considered by new development that may affect the water environment.

2.2. Environmental Protection Act (1990)

2.2.1. The Environmental Protection Act 1990[2] brings together pollution prevention and disposal regulations, imposes duty of care on those involved with any waste stream

2.3. Water Resources Act 1991

2.3.1. The Water Resources Act 1991[3] sets out the responsibilities of the Environment Agency (EA) in relation to water pollution, resource management, flood defence, fisheries, and in some areas, navigation. The Act regulates discharges to controlled waters, namely rivers, estuaries, coastal waters, lakes and groundwater. Discharge to controlled waters is only permitted with the consent of the EA. Similarly, a licence is required to abstract from controlled waters.

2.4. Land Drainage Act 1991 and 1994

2.4.1. The Land Drainage Act 1991[4] and 1994[5] consolidates various enactments relating to Internal Drainage Boards and the functions of these Boards and local authorities, including Lead Local Flood Authorities, in relation to land drainage. Amongst other matters, the Act sets out provisions and powers in respect of the

[1] H.M. Government (2021). Environment Act 2021. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents [Accessed 15 September 2025]
[2] H.M. Government (1990) Environment Protection Act. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents [Accessed 15 September 2025]
[3] H.M. Government (1991) Water Resources Act. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents [Accessed 15 September 2025]
[4] H.M. Government (1991) Land Drainage Act 1991. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents [Accessed 15 September 2025]
[5] HM Government (1994) Land Drainage Act 1994. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1994/25/contents [Accessed 15 September 2025]

control of flow of watercourses and watercourse restoration/improvement works.

2.5. Water Act 2003

2.5.1. Water Act 2003[6] sets out regulatory controls for water abstraction, discharge to water bodies, water impoundment and protection of water resources.

2.6. Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Sustainable Drainage Systems: Written Statement (HCWS161)

2.6.1. Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Sustainable Drainage Systems: Written Statement (HCWS161)[7] takes forward some of the proposals set out in three previous strategy documents published by the UK Government: Future Water, Making Space for Water and the UK Government's response to the Sir Michael Pitt Review of the summer 2007 floods. In doing so, it gives the EA a strategic overview of flood risk and gives local authorities responsibility for preparing and putting in place strategies for managing flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.

2.7. Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

2.7.1. Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016[8] consolidate and replace the 2010 Regulations and the 15 associated amendments. The permitting regime covers a range of activities that release emissions to land, air or water or that involve waste.

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[6] Water Act 2003, Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/37/data.pdf. [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[7] Parliament. House of Commons. (2014) *Written Statement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (HCWS161)*. Available at: https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/commons-vote-office/December-2014/18-December/6.-DCLG-sustainable-drainage-systems.pdf. [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[8] *Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016*, Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/made/data.pdf. [Accessed 15 September 2025]

2.8. Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017

2.8.1. Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017[9] are a wide ranging piece of legislation that establishes a legal framework for the protection, improvement and sustainable use of surface waters, coastal waters and groundwater in order to:

- Promote sustainable water use;
- Contribute to the mitigation of floods and droughts;
- Prevent deterioration and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems, including groundwater; and
- Reduce pollution.

2.9. Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975[10]

2.9.1. Sets out protection for migration routes of salmon and trout.

2.10. Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (2015)[11]

2.10.1. Aims to prevent and remediate damage to the environment.

2.11. Eels (England and Wales) Regulation 2009[12]

2.11.1. Gives powers to the regulators to implement recovery measures in all freshwater and estuarine waters in England and Wales and for which new developments that could impact eels should take into account.

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[9] Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/made/data.pdf. [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[10] H.M. Government (1975) Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/51 [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[11] H.M. Government (2017) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/810/contents [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[12] HM Government (2009), Eels (England and Wales) Regulation 2009. Available at: *https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3344/contents* [Accessed 15 September 2025]

2.12. The Water Resources Act (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009[13]

2.12.1. Regulates water resources, water quality and pollution and flood defence and should be taken into account where necessary by any new development.

2.13. Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001[14]

2.13.1. Sets out the requirements for the storage of oil for quantities over 200 litres, which is relevant to any development that may involve the storage of oil during construction or operation.

2.14. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002[15]

2.14.1. Requirements to control and manage risks from hazardous substances, that may be used on construction sites or as part of the operation of new developments.

2.15. The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions (England and Wales) 2015[16]

2.15.1. Includes directions for classification of surface water and groundwater bodies for which new developments must consider as part of any Water Framework Directive Assessment.

2.16. The Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999[17]

2.16.1. Outlines the contents of any-pollution works notices served under the Water Resources Act 1991.

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[13] *HM Government (2009), The Water Resources Act (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3104/contents* [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[14] *H.M. Government (2001) Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/2954/contents*[Accessed 15 September 2025]

[15] *H.M. Government (2004) The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (As Amended). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2677/contents* [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[16] *The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions 2015. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1623/pdfs/uksiod_20151623_en_auto.pdf*[Accessed 15 September 2025]

[17] H.M. Government (1999) The Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999. Available at: *https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/1006/contents/made*[Accessed 15 September 2025]

2.17. The Building Regulations. Approved Document Part H: Drainage and Waste Disposal (2010) (Ref 32)[18]

2.17.1. Includes details of foul water drainage both above and below ground.

2.18. Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009[19]

2.18.1. Includes requirements for new development to need a Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation for works below Mean High Water Spring Tide.

[18] *The Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document Part H: Drainage and Waste Disposal.* Available at:https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80cf9ded915d74e33fc8ae/BR_PDF_AD_H_2015.pdf [Accessed 15 September 2025]

[19] HMSO, 2009, Marine and Coastal Access Act. Available at: *https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents* [Accessed 15 September 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)[20];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (NPS EN-3)[21];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)[22]; and

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 hydrology and flood risk are provided in Table 3-1, along with an indication of where in the ES this information can be sourced.

[20] 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 09January 2026]

[21] 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 January2026]

[22] 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 Hydrology and Flood Risk

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Overarching NPS for Energy EN-1		
4.12.9 and 4.12.10	In considering an application for development consent, the Secretary of State (SoS), should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of that land, and on the impacts of that use, rather than the control of processes, emissions or discharges themselves. The Secretary of State should work on the assumption that the relevant pollution control regime and other environmental regulatory regimes, including those on land drainage, water abstraction and biodiversity, will be properly applied and enforced by the relevant regulator. The Secretary of State should act to complement but not seek to duplicate those regulatory regimes, but without prejudice to the Secretary of State's duty to 'secure' compliance with the relevant regulatory requirements.	**ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) outlines pollution controls for the construction and operation phases of the Scheme.
4.12.14 and 4.12.15	Working in close cooperation with EA or NRW, and/or the pollution control authority, and other relevant bodies, such as the MMO, the SNCB, Drainage Boards, and water and sewerage undertakers, the Secretary of State should be satisfied, before consenting any potentially polluting developments, that: The relevant pollution control authority is satisfied that potential releases can be adequately regulated under the pollution control framework; and • The effects of existing sources of pollution in and around the site are not such that the cumulative effects of pollution	**ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) outlines pollution controls for the construction and operation phases of the Scheme. It also includes a cumulative assessment with other developments, where appropriate.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	when the proposed development is added would make that development unacceptable, particularly in relation to statutory environmental quality limits. The Secretary of State should not refuse consent on the basis of pollution impacts unless there is good reason to believe that any relevant necessary operational pollution control permits or licences or other consents will not subsequently be granted. On this basis, it is reasonable for the Secretary of State to consider residual amenity issues only when considering whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land or sea, and on the impacts of that use.	
5.8.5	Climate change is already having an impact and is expected to have an increasing impact on the UK throughout this century. The UK Climate Projections 2018 show an increased chance of milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers in the UK, with more intensive rainfall causing flooding. Sea levels will continue to rise beyond the end of the century, increasing risks to vulnerable coastal communities. Within the lifetime of energy projects, these factors will lead to increased flood risks in areas susceptible to flooding, and to an increased risk of the occurrence of floods in some areas which are not currently thought of as being at risk. A robust approach to flood risk management is a vital element of climate change adaptation; the applicant and the Secretary of State should take account of the policy on climate change adaptation in Section 4.10.	The ES for the Scheme includes **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.8.6 and 5.8.7	The aims of planning policy on development and flood risk are to ensure that flood risk from all sources of flooding is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding. Where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas, (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk overall. It should also be design and constructed to remain operational in times of flood.	The ES for the Scheme includes **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms.
5.8.13 and 5.8. 14	A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England, or Zone A in Wales, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving: • sites of 1 hectare or more in area; • land identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems; • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future; • land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water), or where the EA or NRW, Lead	The ES for the Scheme includes **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems. This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.	
5.8.15	The minimum requirements for FRAs are that they should: • Be proportionate to the risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the project; • Consider the risk of flooding arising from the project in addition to the risk of flooding to the project; • Take the impacts of climate change into account, clearly stating the development lifetime over which the assessment has been made; • Be undertaken by competent people, as early as possible in the process of preparing the proposal; • Consider both the potential adverse and beneficial effects of flood risk management infrastructure, including raised defences, flow channels, flood storage areas and other artificial features, together with the consequences of their failure and exceedance; • Consider the vulnerability of those using the site, including arrangements for safe access; • Consider and quantify the different types of flooding (whether from natural and human sources and including	The minimum requirements are noted and are incorporated in the FRA (presented **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)).

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	joint and cumulative effects) and include information on flood likelihood, speed-of-onset, depth, velocity, hazard and duration; • Identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall, making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management; • Consider the effects of a range of flooding events including extreme events on people, property, the natural and historic environment and river and coastal processes; • Include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk after risk reduction measures have been taken into account and demonstrate that these risks can be safely managed, ensuring people will not be exposed to hazardous flooding; • Consider how the ability of water to soak into the ground may change with development, along with how the proposed layout of the project may affect drainage systems. Information should include: i) Describe the existing surface water drainage arrangements for the site; ii) Set out (approximately) the existing rates and volumes of surface water run-off generated by the site. Detail the proposals for restricting discharge rates;	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	iii) Set out proposals for managing and discharging surface water from the site using sustainable drainage systems and accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change. If sustainable drainage systems have been rejected, present clear evidence of why their inclusion would be inappropriate iv) Demonstrate how the hierarchy of drainage options has been followed; v) Explain and justify why the types of SuDS and method of discharge have been selected and why they are considered appropriate. Where cost is a reason for not including SuDS, provide information to enable comparison with the lifetime costs of a conventional public sewer connection; vi) Explain how sustainable drainage systems have been integrated with other aspects of the development such as open space or green infrastructure, so as to ensure an efficient use of the site; vii) Describe the multifunctional benefits the sustainable drainage system will provide;	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	viii) Set out which opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding have been identified and included as part of the proposed sustainable drainage system; ix) Explain how run-off from the completed development will be prevented from causing an impact elsewhere; x) Explain how the sustainable drainage system been designed to facilitate maintenance and, where relevant, adoption. Set out plans for ensuring an acceptable standard of operation and maintenance throughout the lifetime of the development; • Detail those measures that will be included to ensure the development will be safe and remain operational during a flooding event throughout the development's lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere; • Identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall during the period of construction; and • Be supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events.	
5.8.18 and 5.8.19	Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the	Consultation undertaken (including with the EA and IDBs)

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	official pre-application stage of the NSIP process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators. Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by the Secretary of State to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The Secretary of State should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary but have not yet been addressed.	is outlined in Section 11.3 of **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the FRA presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
5.8.20	If the EA, NRW or another flood risk management authority has reasonable concerns about the proposal on flood risk grounds, the applicant should discuss these concerns with the EA or NRW and take all reasonable steps to agree ways in which the proposal might be amended, or additional information provided, which would satisfy the authority's concerns.	Consultation undertaken (including with the EA and IDBs) is outlined in Section 11.3 of **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the **FRA** presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
5.8.36	In determining an application for development consent, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that where relevant: • The application is supported by an appropriate FRA;	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	• The Sequential Test has been applied as part of site selection; • A sequential approach has been applied at the site level to minimise risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk; • The proposal is in line with any relevant national and local flood risk management strategy; • SuDS (as required in the next paragraph on National Standards) have been used unless there is clear evidence that their use would be inappropriate; and • In flood risk the project is design and constructed to remain safe and operational during its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere (subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph 5.8.42); • The project is includes safe access and escape routes where required, as part of an agreed emergency plan, and that any residual risk can be safely managed over the lifetime of the development; • Land that is likely to be need for present or future flood risk management infrastructure has been appropriately safeguarded from development to the extent that development would not prevent or hinder its construction, operation or maintenance.	in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms.
5.8.37 to 5.8.39	For energy projects which have drainage implications, approval for the project's drainage system, including during the construction	The Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme is included in

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	period, will form part of the development consent issued by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will therefore need to be satisfied that the proposed drainage system complies with any National Standards published by Ministers under Paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In addition, the Development Consent Order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for the appropriate operation and maintenance of any SuDS throughout the project's lifetime. Where this is secured through the adoption of any SuDS features, any necessary access rights to property will need to be granted. Where relevant, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the most appropriate body is being given the responsibility for maintaining any SuDS, taking into account the nature and security of the infrastructure on the proposed site. Responsible bodies could include, for example, the landowner, the relevant lead local flood authority or water and sewerage company (through the Ofwat-approved Sewerage Sector Guidance), or another body, such as an Internal Drainage Board.	**Appendix 11-4** (Doc Ref 6.3) and is assessed in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1).
5.8.10	The Exception Test is only appropriate for use where the Sequential Test alone cannot deliver an acceptable site. It would be appropriate to move onto the Exception Test when the Sequential Test has identified reasonably available lower risk sites appropriate for the	The ES for the Scheme includes an **ES Appendix 11-3: FRA** (Doc Ref. 6.3), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter**

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	proposed development where, accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, application of relevant policies would provide clear reason for refusing development in any alternative locations identified. Examples could include alternative site(s) that are subject to national designations such as landscape, heritage and nature conservation designations, for example Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and World Heritage Sites (WHS) which would not usually be considered appropriate	**11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms. The Sequential and Exception tests have been considered within **ES Appendix 11-3: FRA** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
5.8.11	Both elements of the Exception Test will have to be satisfied for development to be consented. To pass the Exception Test it should be demonstrated that: • The project would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk; and • The project will be safe for its lifetime taking into account the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall	
5.8.12	Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.8.24	To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	
5.8.25	In this NPS, the term Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) refers to the whole range of sustainable approaches to surface water drainage management including, where appropriate: • Source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage; • Infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, that can include individual soakaways and communal facilities; • Filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns; • Filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed; • Basins ponds and tanks to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding; and • Flood routes to carry and direct excess water through developments to minimise the impact of severe rainfall flooding.	The Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme is included in **Appendix 11-4** (Doc Ref 6.3). The strategy includes the use of SuDS techniques.
5.8.26	Site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system, so that excess	Details of the proposed drainage arrangements are outlined in the

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	water can be safely stored on or conveyed from the site without adverse impacts.	**ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
5.8.27	The surface water drainage arrangements for any project should, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the development's lifetime, be such that the volumes and peak flow rates of surface water leaving the site are no greater than the rates prior to the proposed project, unless specific off-site arrangements are made and result in the same net effect.	Details of the proposed drainage arrangements are included in **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref 6.3). These take account of climate change projections. The Sequential and Exception tests have been considered within the FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)).
5.8.28	It may be necessary to provide surface water storage and infiltration to limit and reduce both the peak rate of discharge from the site and the total volume discharged from the site. There may be circumstances where it is appropriate for infiltration facilities or attenuation storage to be provided outside the project site, if necessary, through the use of a planning obligation.	
5.8.29	The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. Vulnerable aspects of the development should be located on parts of the site at lower probability and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife habitat and flood storage uses. Opportunities should be taken to lower flood risk by reducing the built footprint of previously developed sites and using SuDS.	
5.8.30 and 5.8.31	Where a development may result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere through the loss of flood storage, on-site level-for-level compensatory storage, accounting for the predicted impacts of	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	climate change over the lifetime of the development, should be provided. Where it is not possible to provide compensatory storage on site, it may be acceptable to provide it off-site if it is hydraulically and hydrologically linked. Where development may cause the deflection or constriction of flood flow routes, these will need to be safely managed within the site.	
5.8.33 and 5.8.34	The receipt of and response to warnings of floods is an essential element in the management of the residual risk of flooding. Flood Warning and evacuation plans should be in place for those areas at an identified risk of flooding. The applicant should take advice from the local authority emergency planning team, emergency services and, where appropriate, from local resilience forum when producing an evacuation plan for a manned energy project as part of the FRA. Any emergency planning documents, flood warning and evacuation procedures that are required should be identified in the FRA.	
5.8.41	Energy projects should not normally be consented within Flood Zone 3b or Zone C2 in Wales, or on land expected to fall within these zones within its predicted lifetime. This may also apply where land is subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water). However, where essential energy infrastructure has to be located in such areas, for operational reasons, they should only be consented if	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	the development will not result in a net loss of floodplain storage, and will not impede water flows.	
5.16.3	Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent. (See Section 4.3 and 4.10)	An assessment of impacts on the water environment (including water quality, hydrogeology, hydromorphology, water resources and flood risk) is presented in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1).
5.16.7	The ES should in particular describe: • The existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges; • Existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance;	An assessment of impacts on the water environment (including water quality, hydrogeology, hydromorphology, water resources and flood risk) is presented in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1). This includes a Cumulative Effects assessment. A WFD Report has been undertaken and is presented in **ES Appendix 11-2: WFD Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	• Existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics; • Any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions; • How climate change could impact any of the above in the future; and • Any cumulative effects.	
5.16.8	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.	An **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan** is submitted with the DCO application (Doc Ref. 7.10).
5.16.15 and 5.16.16	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to the River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including Regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The Secretary of State must refuse development consent where a project is likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public Interest	An assessment of impacts on the water environment (including water quality, hydrogeology, hydromorphology, water resources and flood risk) is presented in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1). This includes a Cumulative Effects assessment.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not cause deterioration or compromise the achievement of good status or good potential. The Secretary of State should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline/Estuary Management Plans.	A WFD Report has been undertaken and is presented in **ES Appendix 11-2: WFD Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
5.16.17	The Secretary of State should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary.	Mitigation required to ensure the protection of the water environment are outlined in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1).
NPS for Renewable Energy EN-3		
2.4.11	Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in particular, how plant will be resilient to: • Increased risk of flooding; and • Impact of higher temperatures.	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms. **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref 6.3) has also been prepared.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.10.52	As set out above applicants will consider several factors when considering the design and layout of sites, including, proximity to available grid capacity to accommodate the scale of generation, orientation, topography, previous land – use and ability to mitigate environmental impacts and flood risk.	Factors considered when developing design and layout of the Scheme are detailed within the **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref 6.3).
2.10.76	Where a Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out this must be submitted alongside the applicant's ES. This will need to consider the impact of drainage. As solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant.	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** has been prepared for the Scheme.
2.10.78	Given the temporary nature of solar PV farms, sites should be configured or selected to avoid the need to impact on existing drainage systems and watercourses.	Details of the proposed drainage arrangements are outlined in **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref 6.3) and includes the use of SUDs techniques.
2.10.79	Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided.	Refer to **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) for details of structures.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.10.80	Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period.	Refer to **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) for details of structures.
2.10.84	Applicants should consider whether they need to provide geotechnical and hydrological information (such as identifying the presence of peat at each site) including the risk of landslide connected to any development work.	**ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) highlights where further geotechnical or hydrological information has been obtained or is committed to through the DCO. For example, ground assessment at locations where Horizontal Directional Drilling (or similar) is required would be post consent but is secured through the DCO.
2.10.146	Water management is a critical component of site design for ground mount solar plants. Where previous management of the site has involved intensive agricultural practice, solar sites can deliver significant ecosystem services value in the form of drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, and water quality management.	Refer to **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) for details of water management and assessment of impact on water resources.
NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5		
2.3.1 and 2.3.2	This paragraph of NPS EN-5 refers back to NPS EN-1. It states that Section 4.10 of EN-1 sets out the generic considerations that	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES**

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	applications and the SoS should take into account in order the ensure that electricity networks infrastructure is resilient to the effects of climate change. As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it would be resilient to: • Flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change; • Effects of wind and storms on overhead lines; • Higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; • Earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and • Coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively.	**Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) in EIA terms. **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref. 6.3) has also been prepared.
2.3.3	This paragraph of NPS EN-5 refers back to NPS EN-1. Section 4.10 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to climate change should be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES)	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Section 5.8 in EN-1).	

4. National Planning Policy Framework

4.1.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[23] 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 is taking the NPPF into account.

4.1.2. Relevant NPPF requirements relating to hydrology and flood risk, along with an indication of where the information is located within the ES to address these requirements, are provided in Table 4-1.

[23] *National Planning Policy Framework (2025).* Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf [Accessed 10 October 2025]

Table 4-1: Relevant NPPF Requirements for Hydrology and Flood Risk

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
170	Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1).**ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref. 6.3), has also been prepared.
177	If it is not possible for development to be located in areas with a lower risk of flooding (taking into account wider sustainable development objectives), the exception test may have to be applied. The need for the exception test will depend on the potential vulnerability of the site and of the development proposed, in line with the Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification set out in Annex 3 [of the NPPF].	
178	The application of the exception test should be informed by a strategic or site specific flood risk assessment, depending on whether it is being applied during plan production or at the application stage. To pass the exception test it should be demonstrated that: a) the development would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh the flood risk; and b) the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall.	
179	Both elements of the exception test should be satisfied for development to be allocated or permitted.	

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
181	When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that: • 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; • 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; • it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate; • any residual risk can be safely managed; and • safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan.	
182	Applications which could affect drainage on or around the site should incorporate sustainable drainage systems to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff, and which are proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal. These should provide multifunctional benefits wherever possible, through facilitating	Details of the proposed drainage arrangements are outlined in the **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref 6.3) and

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	improvements in water quality and biodiversity, as well as benefits for amenity. Sustainable drainage systems provided as part of proposals for major development should: • take account of advice from the lead local flood authority; • have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards; • have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development.	includes the use of SuDs techniques.
187	Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: • (…) e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.	Refer to **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1) for details of water management and assessment of impact on water resources.

5. Other National Policies and Guidance

5.1. National Planning Practice Guidance[24]

5.1.1. National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was updated in 2025 and provides more in-depth guidance to the NPPF. The NPPG for Flood Risk advises on how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.

5.1.2. It outlines a number of main steps to be followed which are designed to ensure that if there are better sites in terms of flood risk, or if a proposed development cannot be made safe, it should not be permitted. These steps include: assess flood risk; avoid flood risk; and manage and mitigate flood risk. The guidance states that developers and applicants needs to consider flood risk to and from the development site and it is likely to be in their own best interests to do this as early as possible. In addition, the guidance provides detail on the application of the Sequential Test and the Exception Test, which has been considered in the FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

5.2. Environmental Improvement Plan 2023[25]

5.2.1. In 2023, the UK Government published the Environmental Improvement Plan, the first revision of the 25 Year Improvement Plan. The plan covers the provision of clean air and water; protection and enhancement of habitats, wildlife and biosecurity; reducing the risk from environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change; using resources more sustainable and efficiently, minimizing waste and managing exposure to chemicals; enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. Ten goals were set out by the original plan and the 2023 iteration document reviewed the progress made against each goal, specific targets and commitments and the plan to continue to deliver these goals. One of these specific goals is improving water environmental quality. Defra's goals for the forthcoming period include to tackle nutrient pollution, including by upgrading 160 wastewater treatment works by

[24] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2022) *Planning Practice Guidance: Flood Risk and Coastal Change*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[25] Defra (2023) *Environmental Improvement Plan 2023*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

2027 and providing increased advice and incentives to support a shift to sustainable agricultural techniques, restore 400 miles of river through the first round of Landscape Recovery projects, establish 3,000 hectares of new woodlands along England's rivers, and roll out water efficiency labelling across appliances and ensure water companies deliver a 50% reduction in leakages by 2050.

5.3. A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

5.3.1. In 2018 Defra published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' setting out the UK Government's goals for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it. The plan covered the provision of clean air and water; protection and enhancement of habitats, wildlife and biosecurity; reducing the risk from environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change; using resources more sustainably and efficiently, minimising waste and managing exposure to chemicals; and enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

5.3.2. With regards to the water environment, the Plan includes specific goals to reduce the environmental impact of water abstraction, meet the objectives of River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive, reduce leakage from water mains, improve the quality of bathing waters, restore protected freshwater sites to a favourable condition, and do more to protect communities and businesses from the impact of flooding, coastal erosion and drought. The foundation of the Plan incorporates a natural capital approach with the aspiring goal that there should always be a net gain in biodiversity from new development.

5.4. The UK Government's Plan for Water: Our Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water (2023)

5.4.1. In the above plan, more investments, tighter regulation and effective enforcement are being made to transform and integrate the water system, address sources of pollution and boost water supply. A few of the key actions include giving the Environment Agency the power to issue bigger penalties for when water companies pollute, and authorising Ofwat under the new powers in the Environment Act 2021 to link the dividends of water company to their environmental performance.

5.4.2. Besides setting new legally binding targets to significantly reduce pollution from farming, wastewater, and abandoned metal mines, the UK Government has also

initiated a significant investment in water infrastructure improvements. Monitoring of storm overflows has also been substantially increased from only 10% in 2015 to over 90% today (Ref 46). Further actions are listed within the plan to address multiple sources of pollution impacting water bodies.

5.4.3. With almost £500 million of additional investment in new large-scale water infrastructure, water companies are required to develop plans to meet water demands in a changing climate. Key actions to reduce drought impacts on water reliant business and farmers have also been identified.

5.5. Future Water, The Government's Water Strategy for England (2011)[26]

5.5.1. The Government's Future Water strategy, published in June 2011[26], sets out the Government's long-term vision for water and the framework for water management in England. It aims to permit the supply of secured water supplies whilst ensuring an improved and protected water environment. Future Water brings together the issues of water demand, water supply, water quality in the natural environment, surface water drainage and river/coastal flooding into a single coherent long-term strategy, in the context of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

5.5.2. The strategy also considers the issue of charging for water. The water environment and water quality have great economic, biodiversity, amenity and recreational value, playing an important role in many aspects of modern day society, and thus the functions provided must be sustainably managed to ensure they remain available to future generations without compromising environmental quality.

5.6. Planning Inspectorate Advice Note: Water Framework Directive[27]

5.6.1. The Planning Inspectorate has produced Advice Note on WFD - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive[27]. This contains advice on the preparation and submission of any separate WFD

[26] Defra (2011) Future water: The government's water strategy for England
Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[27] Planning Inspectorate (2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-water-framework-directive. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

assessment reports by Applications. This note includes advice of bodies to be consulted, and screening, scoping and impact assessment, together information on derogations under Regulation 19 of the 2017 WFD Regulations.

5.7. DEFRA (2013) Rainfall Runoff Management for Developments[28]

5.7.1. DEFRA 'Rainfall Runoff Management for Developments' (2013) guidance advises regulators, developers and local authorities on the requirements for storm water drainage design for new developments and sets out recommended methods for the sizing of storage measures for the control and treatment of storm water runoff.

5.8. Environment Agency (2022) Flood Risk Assessments: Climate Change Allowances[29]

5.8.1. Environment Agency (2022) Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances guidance was published by the EA in February 2016 (last updated in May 2022)[29] and should be used as the basis for preparing Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs). The guidance sets out the climate change allowances for peak river flow, peak rainfall intensity, sea level rise, offshore wind speeds and extreme wave height.

5.9. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2025) National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems[30]

5.9.1. The DEFRA 'National Standards for sustainable drainage systems' (2025)[30] contains details of technical standards for the design, maintenance and operation of sustainable drainage systems serving housing, non-residential or mixed-use developments.

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[28] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Environment Agency (2013) *Rainfall Runoff Management for Developments*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/602e7158d3bf7f7220fe109d/_Rainfall_Runoff_Management_for_Developments_-_Revision_E.pdf. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[29] Environment Agency (2022) *Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[30] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2025) *National standards for sustainable drainage systems*, Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds. [Accessed 10 October 2025]

5.10. DEFRA (2013) Rainfall Runoff Management for Developments[31]

5.10.1. DEFRA 'Rainfall Runoff Management for Developments' (2013)[31] guidance advises regulators, developers and local authorities on the requirements for storm water drainage design for new developments and sets out recommended methods for the sizing of storage measures for the control and treatment of storm water runoff.

5.11. South East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (March 2017)[32]

5.11.1. South East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (March 2017)[32] was prepared by the South East Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit and provides the evidence base for the Local Plan and development planning decisions. It includes 'standing advice' that sets out design principles for flood risk mitigation.

5.12. Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) (2001) Report C532: Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites – Guidance for Consultants and Contractors[33]

5.12.1. CIRIA 'Report C532: Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites – Guidance for Consultants and Contractors' (2001)[33] provides advice on environmental good practice for the control of water pollution arising from construction activities. It focuses on the potential sources of water pollution from within construction sites and the effective methods of preventing its occurrence. The guide provides information on benefits and obligations, managing water pollution, legislative frameworks, construction contracts, and water management techniques.

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[31] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Environment Agency (2013) *Rainfall Runoff Management for Developments*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/602e7158d3bf7f7220fe109d/_Rainfall_Runoff_Management_for_Developments_-_Revision_E.pdf. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[32] South East Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee (2017) *South East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: March 2017*. Available at: https://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SE-Lincolnshire-SFRA-2017-v6-24th-Jan-2018.pdf. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[33] CIRIA (2001) *Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors (C532D)*. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C532D&Category=DOWNLOAD. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

5.13. CIRIA (2023) Report C811: Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide (fifth edition)[34]

5.13.1. CIRIA 'Report C811: Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide' (fifth edition) (2023)[34] provides up to date practical guidance on delivering sustainable construction at the site level and includes ecology, nuisance (e.g. noise, vibration, lighting, dust, emissions, odours) and water resources.

5.14. CIRIA (2016) Report C750: Groundwater Control: Design and Practice (second edition)[35]

5.14.1. CIRIA 'Report C750: Groundwater control: design and practice' (second edition) (2016)[35] provides information and guidance on dewatering methods used to control groundwater as part of the temporary works for construction projects.

5.15. CIRIA (2015) Report C753: The SuDS Manual[36]

5.15.1. CIRIA 'Report C753: The SuDS Manual' (2015)[36] covers the planning, design, construction and maintenance of SuDS to assist with their effective implementation within both new and existing developments. It looks at how to maximise amenity and biodiversity benefits and deliver the key objectives of managing flood risk and water quality.

5.16. CIRIA (2004) Report C624D: Development and Flood Risk – Guidance for the Construction Industry[37]

5.16.1. CIRIA 'Report C624D: Development and Flood Risk – guidance for the construction industry' (2004)[37] sets out practical guidance in assessing flood risk as part of the development process. It describes the mechanisms and impacts of flooding, whether caused by rivers, the sea, estuaries, groundwater, overland flow, artificial drainage systems or infrastructure failure. The guidance

[34] CIRIA (2023) *Environmental good practice on site guide (C811).* 5th edn. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C811d&Category=DOWNLOAD. [Accessed 10 October 2025].
[35] CIRIA (2016) *Groundwater control: design and practice (C750).* 2nd edn. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C750D&Category=DOWNLOAD. [Accessed 10 October 2025].
[36] CIRIA (2015) *The SuDS Manual (C753).* Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C753. [Accessed 10 October 2025].
[37] CIRIA (2004) *Development and Flood Risk – guidance for the construction industry (C624D).* Available at: https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C624D&Category=DOWNLOAD. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

recommends a tiered approach to flood risk assessment and provides a simple-to-use toolkit to help practitioners complete the assessments.

5.17. Other Guidance

5.17.1. Due reference is also be made to UK government guidance for preventing pollution, working on or near water, and for managing water on land[38].

[38] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Environment Agency (2016) *Pollution prevention for businesses*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

6. Local Policy and Guidance

6.1.1. Local policy and guidance relevant to the hydrology and flood risk assessment comprises:

- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036[39].
- Lincolnshire County Council (2018) Sustainable Drainage Design and Evaluation Guide[41].
- Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership: Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-20[50].

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

Table 6-1: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Hydrology and Flood Risk

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036[39]	Policy 4 sets out the approach to flood risk and reflects the requirements of the NPPF and associated PPG.	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** has also been prepared (Doc Ref 6.3).
Lincolnshire County Council (2018) Sustainable Drainage Design and Evaluation Guide[40]	The Lincolnshire County Council (2018) Sustainable Drainage Design and Evaluation Guide promotes the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments through a planning-led approach and it sets out the principles and parameters that should be adopted when designing SuDS.	**ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** (Doc Ref 6.3) has been prepared and includes the use of SuDS techniques.
Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership: Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk	The Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership: Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-205015 sets out the strategic vision and objectives for flood risk and water management, alongside an implementation and action plan,	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA (presented in **ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** of this ES (Doc Ref. 6.3)), the findings of which are summarised in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** has also been prepared (Doc Ref 6.3).

[39] South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2019) *South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036*. Available at: https://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Local-Plan-text-March-2019.pdf. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

[40] Lincolnshire County Council (2018) *Sustainable Drainage: Design and Evaluation Guide*, Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1951/sustainable-drainage-design-and-evaluation-guide-pdf. [Accessed 10 October 2025].

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050[41]	comprising a programme of works/projects to be delivered by the Partnership.	

[41] Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership (2019) *Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050*. Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2365/joint-lincolnshire-flood-risk-and-water-management-partnership-framework-draft-strategy-2019-2050-pdfa. [Accessed 10 October 2025].