



# Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.3 ES Appendix 16-3: Long  
List of Major Accidents and  
Disasters

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

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

March 2026

**Table 1: Long List of Major Accidents and Disasters**

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
<b>Geological Disasters</b>				
Landslides	No	<p>No landslides have been recorded within the vicinity of the Site as per the British Geological Survey (BGS) National Landslide Database<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>The risk of landslides will be considered as part of geotechnical design at detailed design stage, ensuring that the risk is designed out in terms of the vulnerability of the Scheme to these types of events; however, given the flat nature of the land this risk is considered minimal.</p> <p>The Scheme is not anticipated to increase the risk of a landslip occurring on-site or elsewhere; it will not significantly change the erosion potential of the soil or stability of the land.</p>	Scheme	N/A
Earthquakes	No	The Scheme is not located in a geologically active area and as such earthquakes are not considered to be a plausible risk. Should such an event arise, national guidance would be followed.	Scheme	N/A
Sinkholes	No	The Scheme is not located in an area where sinkholes are known to occur. The risk of sinkholes will be considered as part of the geotechnical design at detailed design stage, ensuring that any risk is	Scheme	N/A

<sup>1</sup> BGS National Landslide Database. Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/geology-projects/landslides/national-landslide-database/> [Accessed 20/10/2025]

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		designed out, both in terms of the vulnerability of the Scheme to these types of events, and also in terms of the potential for the Scheme to increase the risk of such an event happening.		
Hydrological Disasters				
Flooding	Yes	<p>Parts of the Scheme are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Flood events can result in damage to property, pollution to land or water and impact communities through displacement.</p> <p>The assessment of flood risk is outlined in <b>ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) and assessed in <b>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment</b> (Doc Ref. 6.3). Flooding is also considered in <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1) (Section 16.5: Major Accidents and Disasters).</p>	Property and people in areas of increased flood risk.	<p><b>ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)</p> <p><b>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment</b> (Doc Ref. 6.3)</p> <p>Section 16.5 of <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)</p>
Meteorological Disasters				
Low temperatures and snow	No	The Scheme is considered to be no more vulnerable than any other development. The Scheme has been designed with consideration to the UK climate and extreme weather events.	Scheme	<b>ES Chapter 7: Climate Change</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)

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		Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a Major Accident and Disaster.		
High temperatures and heat waves	No	<p>High temperatures and heat waves present a risk to the Scheme, with extreme weather events expected to increase as a result of climate change. This risk however is not expected to affect the Scheme more than other developments. The Scheme has been designed with consideration to the UK climate and extreme weather events.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a Major Accident and Disaster.</p>	Scheme	<b>ES Chapter 7: Climate Change</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Droughts	No	<p>Droughts are only considered as a disaster due to water shortages for essential services and where there are indirect impacts on food production, loss of soils etc. The Scheme is not considered to be vulnerable to drought or expected to exacerbate drought impacts due to its limited reliance on water resources.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a Major Accident and Disaster.</p>	Scheme, properties within the surrounding area	<b>ES Chapter 7: Climate Change</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
Thunderstorms	No	<p>As the Scheme includes metal components, there is a risk of lightning strikes. However, these risks will be removed or reduced through inbuilt control systems, such as lightning arresters included in substations.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a Major Accident and Disaster.</p>	Scheme	<b>ES Chapter 7: Climate Change</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Tornadoes	No	<p>The risks associated with tornadoes in the area is considered low and is not expected to affect the Scheme more than other developments. The Scheme has been designed with consideration to the UK climate and extreme weather events.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a Major Accident and Disaster.</p>	Scheme	<b>ES Chapter 7: Climate Change</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Wildfires	No	<p>With drier summers expected in future climate projections, the occurrence and magnitude of wildfires is likely to increase. In the event weather conditions become hot and dry over an extended period of time, further consideration would be given to hot work activity locations.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a</p>	Scheme	N/A

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
		Major Accident and Disaster. Fire on site are considered in a separate row under fire and explosions.		
<b>Technological or Man-Made Major Accidents</b>				
Road Accidents	Yes	There will be transport movements associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme which could result in road accidents and potential for road related spillages into the surrounding environment.  The risk of road accidents has been assessed within <b>ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1).	Road users and pedestrians	<b>ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Rail Accidents	No	The closest railway line is the Peterborough to Lincoln line which is approximately 2.7km from the Site boundary. There is no potential to impact on the operation of railways.	N/A	N/A
Aircraft Disasters	Yes	There is potential for glint and glare from the Solar Development Area to impact nearby aviation infrastructure, namely Fenland Airfield and Crowland Airfield.  In addition, the potential for aviation obstruction related to the siting of Scheme infrastructure would need to be considered.	Aircraft users	<b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics</b> , Section 16.4 Glint and Glare and Section 16.5 Major Accidents and Disasters (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
Dam Collapse	No	The Environment Agency flood risk from reservoirs map indicates the land parcels A, B and C (partially), the Inter-Array Connection (between land parcels A and B) and the Grid Connection Route are located in an area at risk of flooding associated with Eyebrook Reservoir and Rutland Water. Despite this, a dam breach within the UK is considered highly unlikely. In the event a breach occurs, it is anticipated that the emergency services will issue a warning and may decide to evacuate the Scheme. The reservoir flood extents overlap with the extents of Flood Zones 2 and 3 for fluvial flooding and, therefore, mitigation specified for fluvial flood risk, will also protect against reservoir flooding. Therefore, it is considered that this is Category 2 event and even if the disaster did occur, it is unlikely that it would be classified as a Major Accident and Disaster.	Scheme	<b>ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)  <b>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment</b> (Doc Ref. 6.3)
Fire or explosions	Yes	Though considered unlikely, the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and substations associated within the Scheme present a risk of fire or explosions. The risk of fire or explosions will be considered both in terms of the potential for a major accident and disasters resulting from debris from an explosion, and the potential for a major accident or disasters caused by the air quality effects from a potential fire.	Scheme, Residential properties, local residents, habitats and species	<b>Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics</b> , Section 16.5 Major Accidents and Disasters (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Utilities Failure (gas, electricity, water, sewage,	Yes	The Scheme is located within the inner, middle and outer consultation zones for a major accident hazard pipeline operated by InterGen (UK) Limited. In addition, several other utilities intersect	Scheme, Residential properties,	<b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental</b>

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oil, communications)		with the Site, including electricity utilities. These most often follow the boundaries of fields in agricultural use or local roads.  The Scheme therefore has the potential to affect existing utility infrastructure above and below ground. In the absence of suitable mitigation, impacts to or failure of this infrastructure could potentially lead to a major accident and potential impacts to human health.	local residents, habitats and species	<b>Topics</b> , Section 16.5 Major Accidents and Disasters (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Defence Industry	No	Not applicable as there is no defence manufacturing nearby.	N/A	N/A
Nuclear Power	No	Not applicable as there are no nuclear power plants nearby.	N/A	N/A
Oil and Gas Refinery/Storage	No	No oil and gas refineries or storage plants are located within the Site or surrounding area.	N/A	N/A
Chemical Industry	No	Not applicable as there is no relevant industry nearby.	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing Industry	No	The Moulton Bulb Company Ltd major accident hazard site, an onion, shallot and garlic packing and supply for retail facility is located approximately 250m from the Grid Connection Route at its closest point. It is considered unlikely that a major accident at this facility would impact on the Scheme due to its distance from the Site and the nature of the major accident hazard site.	Scheme, Residential properties, local community, business premises	N/A

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)	Yes	The surrounding area's utilisation for air bases, known aircraft crash sites, anecdotal knowledge of bomb offloading, as well as the nearby town of Spalding potential as a military and industrial target during World War II mean there is a risk of detonating UXO during the construction and decommissioning phases.	Scheme, Local communities, agricultural land	<b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics</b> , Section 16.5 Major Accidents and Disasters (Doc Ref. 6.1)
Mining/extractive industry	No	No active or abandoned mines are located within the Site or surrounding area.	N/A	N/A
Crime and vandalism	No	Fencing and security measures are proposed as part of the Scheme design are outlined within <b>ES Chapter 2: The Scheme</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1). This will include, internal-facing perimeter CCTV, fencing around BESS, On-Site Substation Compounds and Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs), as well as perimeter fencing for the Solar Development Area. Risk in relation to crime and vandalism is considered under the outline management plans included as part of the DCO Application ( <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)</b> (Doc Ref. 7.10), <b>Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OOEMP)</b> (Doc Ref. 7.11), <b>Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP)</b> (Doc Ref. 7.12)). This will be updated by the appointed contractor prior to the construction period to ensure measures are in place from the earliest point. The Scheme risk assessment will be managed by the	N/A	<b>OCEMP</b> (Doc Ref. 7.10) <b>OOEMP</b> (Doc Ref. 7.11) <b>ODEMP</b> (Doc Ref. 7.12)

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
		operator and updated as appropriate throughout the operational phase, as well as during decommissioning. With these control measures in place, it is unlikely that this risk event would constitute a Major Accident and Disaster.		
Disease				
Human disease	No	The Scheme is no more vulnerable than any other infrastructure and the Scheme is not considered to increase the risk associated with human disease. As such, this is unlikely to constitute a Major Accident and Disaster. Should such an event arise, national guidance would be followed.	N/A	N/A
Animal disease	No	The Scheme is no more vulnerable than any other infrastructure and the Scheme is not considered to increase the risk associated with human disease. As such, this is unlikely to constitute a Major Accident and Disaster. Should such an event arise, national guidance would be followed.	N/A	N/A
Plant disease	No	Landscaping and planting across the Scheme may introduce biosecurity issues. The risk of plant disease will be considered as part of the design, in accordance with the <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP)</b> (Doc Ref. 7.16), when implementing mitigation and enhancement in relation to landscape and visual and ecology and biodiversity. Standard control measures would be implemented during the construction phase by the appointed contractor to handle and dispose of any identified	Ecological receptors	<b>OLEMP</b> (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Major Accident and Disaster	Relevant for short list?	Why? (note if risk to the Scheme, or Scheme exacerbates risk)	Potential Receptor	Covered already in ES? If so, where?
		invasive or diseased plants. With these control measures in place, it is unlikely that this risk event would constitute a Major Accident and Disaster.		

