



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.3 ES Appendix 12-1:
Landscape and Visual
Legislation, Policy and
Guidance

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

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

March 2026

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1. Purpose of this Appendix	1
2. Legislation	2
2.1. Council of Europe Landscape Convention 2000	2
2.2. The Environment Act 2021	2
2.3. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	2
2.4. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	2
2.5. The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012	3
2.6. The Hedgerow Regulations 1997	3
3. National Policy Statements	4
4. National Planning Policy Framework	31
5. Other National Policies and Guidance	38
6. Local Policy	40

Tables

Table 3-1: Relevant NPS Policy for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	5
Table 4-1: Relevant NPPF Requirements for Landscape and Visual	32
Table 6-1: Relevant Local Policy with respect to Landscape and Visual	41

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 landscape and visual. Policy, legislation and guidance 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 landscape and visual assessment, which have been taken into account in preparing **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

2. Legislation

2.1. Council of Europe Landscape Convention 2000¹

2.1.1. The Council of Europe Landscape Convention 2000 (Treaty No. 176), as amended by the 2016 Protocol, was signed by the UK Government in 2006 and came into effect in the UK in March 2007. Each signatory party has committed to upholding the principles it contains within the context of their own domestic legal and policy frameworks aimed at the planning, protection, and management of landscapes.

2.1.2. The Convention defines landscape as *“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”*. It includes *“landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes”*.

2.2. The Environment Act 2021²

2.2.1. The Environment Act 2021 provides a legal framework for environmental protection in the United Kingdom and includes the requirement for government and public bodies to set targets in relation to air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.

2.3. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981³

2.3.1. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covers the conservation of wild birds and other plant and animal species, their habitats and important landscapes.

2.4. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁴

2.4.1. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 includes provisions to safeguard public access rights within the countryside.

¹ Council of Europe, Landscape Convention 2000 (Treaty no. 176). Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/16807b6bc7> [Accessed 19/11/2025]

² Environment Act 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/data.pdf> [Accessed 19/11/2025]

³ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/data.pdf>. [Accessed 19/11/2025]

⁴ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/data.pdf>. [Accessed 19/11/2025]

2.5. The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012⁵

- 2.5.1. The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 provides powers to local planning authorities to make and administer Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) which in turn makes it an offense to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage, or destroy a tree without prior approval.

2.6. The Hedgerow Regulations 1997⁶

- 2.6.1. The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 provide statutory protection to certain hedgerows in the countryside, particularly to prevent their removal without appropriate consent.

⁵ *The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/data.pdf>. [Accessed 19/11/2025]

⁶ *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/made/data.pdf>. [Accessed 19/11/2025]

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)⁷;
 - National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (NPS EN-3)⁸; and
 - National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)⁹.
- 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 landscape and visual are provided in Table 3-1, along with an indication of where in the ES this information can be sourced.

⁷ DESNZ (2025). Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6915ba42bc34c86ce4e6e726/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed: 25.02.2026].

⁸ DESNZ (2025). NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6915b78bbc34c86ce4e6e71f/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf>. [Accessed: 25.02.2026].

⁹ DESNZ (2025). NPS for Electricity Networks (NPS EN-5). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6915b9049d50fc2fe8161744/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-web-accessible.pdf>. [Accessed: 25.02.2026].

Table 3-1: Relevant NPS Policy for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Overarching NPS for Energy EN-1		
4.7.2	Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.	<p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. This has been subsequently considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p> <p>A formal Design Champion has not been designated for the Scheme at the application stage. Good design has instead been embedded through a collaborative, multidisciplinary design process. Design quality during the detailed design phase will be carried forward through compliance with secured controls and the approval of certified plans and management documents.</p>
4.7.3	Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. Projects should look to use modern methods of construction and sustainable design practices such as use of sustainable timber and low carbon concrete. Where possible, projects should include the reuse of material.	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
4.7.4	Given the benefits of “ <i>good design</i> ” in mitigating the adverse impacts of a project, applicants should consider how “ <i>good design</i> ” can be applied to a project during the early stages of the project lifecycle.	
4.7.5	To ensure good design is embedded within the project development, a project board-level design champion could be appointed, and a representative design panel used to maximise the value provided by the infrastructure. Design principles should be established from the outset of the project to guide the development from conception to operation. Applicants should consider how their design principles can be applied post-consent.	
4.7.6	Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process.	
4.7.7	Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected.	
4.7.8	Applicants should consider taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal. In particular, the Design Council can be asked to provide design review for nationally significant infrastructure projects and applicants are encouraged to use this service. Applicants should also consider any design guidance developed by the LPA.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. This has been subsequently considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
4.7.11	[...] the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has considered both functionality (including fitness for purpose and sustainability) and aesthetics (including its contribution to the quality of the area in which it would be	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. This has been

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	located, any potential amenity benefits, and visual impacts on the landscape or seascape) as far as possible.	considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
4.7.12	In considering applications, the Secretary of State should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy. Many of the wider impacts of a development, such as landscape and environmental impacts, will be important factors in the design process.	
4.7.13	The Secretary of State should consider such impacts under the relevant policies in this NPS. Assessment of impacts must be for the stated design life of the scheme rather than a shorter time period.	An assessment of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors is presented within Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
5.10.1	The landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development. In this context, references to landscape should be taken as covering seascape and townscape where appropriate.	This has been considered in Section 12.6 Baseline Conditions of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.10.4	Landscape effects arise not only from the sensitivity of the landscape but also the nature and magnitude of change proposed by the development, whose specific siting and design make the assessment a case-by-case judgement.	This has been considered in Sections 12.4 Assessment Methodology and 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
5.10.5	Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation.	
5.10.6	Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
5.10.12	Outside nationally designated areas, there are landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development	Local landscape character areas have been described in Section 12.6 Baseline Conditions and

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.	assessed in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
5.10.13	All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites.	This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects and Section 12.11 Cumulative Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices. The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
5.10.14	The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project.	
5.10.16	The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.	
5.10.17	The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>relevant to the proposed project. The applicant’s assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales.</p>	
5.10.19	<p>The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.</p>	
5.10.20	<p>The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character (including key characteristics) during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or a National Landscape the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas.</p>	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.10.21	The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on dark skies, local amenity and nature conservation.	
5.10.22	The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects light pollution and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, and how these will be minimised.	
5.10.24	Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality.	The OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16) sets out the proposed landscape strategy and provides the outline landscape masterplans. This has also been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
5.10.25	In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on equally sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development.</p>	<p>This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.</p>
5.10.26	<p>Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.</p>	
5.10.27	<p>Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its</p>	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	development site and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.	
5.10.28	Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	
5.10.29	The Secretary of State should take into consideration the level of detailed design which the applicant has provided and is secured in the Development Consent Order, and the extent to which design details are subject to future approvals.	This is set out in Section 2.3 The Rochdale Envelope of ES Chapter 2: The Scheme (Doc Ref. 6.1).
5.10.30	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that local authorities will have sufficient design content secured to ensure future consenting will meet landscape, visual and good design objectives.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7
5.10.35	The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should	Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.	and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices. The Applicant's assessment of the planning balance is set out within the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.1).
5.10.36	In reaching a judgement, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.	
5.10.37	The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of 'good design' have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation and Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
5.10.38	The Secretary of State should consider whether requirements to the consent are needed requiring the incorporation of	Landscape mitigation relied upon within the assessment is described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	particular design details that are in keeping with the statutory and technical requirements for landscape and visual impacts.	7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
NPS for Renewable Energy EN-3		
2.10.19	Utility-scale solar farms are large sites that may have a significant zone of visual influence. The two main impact issues that determine distances to sensitive receptors are therefore likely to be visual amenity and glint and glare. These are considered in Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity (paragraphs 2.10.85-2.10.93) and Glint and Glare (paragraphs 2.10.94 – 2.10.98) impact sections of this NPS	An assessment of impacts on visual amenity is provided within Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices. An assessment of impacts with regards to glint and glare is presented within Section 16.4 Glint and Glare of ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics (Doc Ref. 6.1) and ES Appendix 16-2: Glint and Glare Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3).
2.10.35	Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual impacts of the development for those using existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape	This has been addressed in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and within the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16).

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.10.36	Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the inclusion, through site layout and design of access, of new opportunities for the public to access and cross proposed solar development sites (whether via the adoption of new public rights of way or the creation of permissive paths), taking into account, where appropriate, the views of landowners.	
2.10.40	Applicants should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and the visual impact of security measures.	An assessment of impacts on visual amenity is provided within Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
2.10.85	Generic landscape and visual impacts are covered in Section 5.10 of EN-1.	This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
2.10.86	The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are	This has been considered in Section 12.11 Cumulative Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	likely to be in low lying areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure.	and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
2.10.87	However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.	This has been considered in Section 12.6 Baseline Conditions, Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation, and Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
2.10.88	Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre-application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes and their settings should form a part of the pre- application process.	This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1). Visualisations of the Scheme are provided in ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22 (Doc Ref. 6.2).
2.10.89	Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment (LVIA) and report it in the ES. Photomontage visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm, on sensitive or valued landscapes, particularly designated landscapes, the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints.	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.10.90	Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices. It is also noted that there are no nationally designated landscapes within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the Scheme.
2.10.91	Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact (see paragraphs 2.10.38 – 2.10.40 of this NPS).	
2.10.92	The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity.	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.10.93	The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural / hedge assessment as appropriate.	This has been addressed in the ES Appendix 12-8 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Doc Ref. 6.3).
2.10.123	Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands.	This has been addressed in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and within the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16).
2.10.149	The Secretary of State will consider the landscape and visual impact of any proposed solar PV farm, taking account of any sensitive visual receptors, and the effect of the development on landscape character, together with the possible cumulative effect with any existing or proposed development. Nationally designated landscapes and their settings (National Parks, The Broads and National Landscapes) are afforded extra protection due their statutory purpose. Development in these areas needs to satisfy policy as set out in EN-1 Section 5.10.	This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects and Section 12.11 Cumulative Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices. It is also noted that there are no nationally designated landscapes within the ZTV of the Scheme.
NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5		
2.2.8	There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development's associated infrastructure such as	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	substations, and applicants should consider carefully their location, as well as their design.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
2.2.9	In particular, the applicant should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts. (See Sections 2.9 -- 2.10 below and Section 5.10 in EN-1.)	
2.9.9	New substations, sealing end compounds (including terminal towers), and other above-ground installations that serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.	This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects and Section 12.11 Cumulative Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.
2.9.10	Cumulative adverse landscape, seascape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and/or other new sources of generation.	
2.9.14	Where the nature or proposed route of an overhead line will likely result in particularly significant landscape and visual	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>impacts, as would be assessed through seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA), the applicant should demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the costs and benefits of feasible alternatives to the overhead line. This could include, where appropriate re-routing, underground or subsea cables and the feasibility e.g. in cost, engineering or environmental terms of these. Applicants should note the policy position for nationally designated landscapes at paragraph 2.9.21 below.</p>	<p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme in addition to how the Scheme design embodies the Holford and Horlock Rules. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and referenced figures and appendices.</p>
2.9.15	<p>The ES should set out details of this consideration, including the applicant’s rationale for eschewing feasible alternatives to the overhead line, and the mitigation cost-calculation methodology that this rationale may rely upon.</p>	<p>Information on the consideration of alternatives to the overhead line, including the cost calculation method used is provided within ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p>
2.9.16	<p>The Holford Rules (guidelines for the routing of new overhead lines) were originally set out in 1959. These guidelines, intended as a common-sense approach to overhead line route design, were reviewed and updated by the industry in the 1990s, and they should be embodied in the applicants’ proposals for new overhead lines.</p>	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.9.17	<p>In brief, the Holford Rules state that applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value, by so planning the general route of the line in the first place, even if total mileage is somewhat increased in consequence; • Avoid smaller areas of high amenity value or scientific interest by deviation, provided this can be done without using too many angle towers, i.e. the bigger structures which are used when lines change direction; • Other things being equal, choose the most direct line, with no sharp changes of direction and thus with fewer angle towers; • Choose tree and hill backgrounds in preference to sky backgrounds wherever possible. When a line has to cross a ridge, secure this opaque background as long as possible, cross obliquely when a dip in the ridge provides an opportunity. Where it does not, cross directly, preferably between belts of trees; 	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer moderately open valleys with medium or moderate levels of tree cover where the apparent height of towers will be reduced, and views of the line will be broken by trees; • Where country is flat and sparsely planted, and unless specifically preferred otherwise by relevant stakeholders, keep the high voltage lines as far as possible independent of smaller lines, converging routes, distribution poles and other masts, wires and cables, so as to avoid a concentration of lines or 'wirescape'; and • Approach urban areas through industrial zones, where they exist; and when pleasant residential and recreational land intervenes between the approach line and the substation, carefully assess the comparative costs of undergrounding. 	
2.9.18	The Horlock Rules (guidelines for the design and siting of substations) were established by National Grid in 2009 in pursuance of its duties under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	1989. These principles should be embodied in applicants' proposals for the infrastructure associated with new overhead lines.	
2.9.19	<p>In brief, the Horlock Rules state that applicants should:</p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [...]; • Take advantage of the screening provided by land form and existing features and the potential use of site layout and levels to keep intrusion into surrounding areas to a reasonably practicable minimum; • Keep the visual, noise and other environmental effects to a reasonably practicable minimum; • Consider the land use effects of the proposal when planning the siting of substations or extensions; • [...]; 	

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use space effectively to limit the area required for development consistent with appropriate mitigation measures and to minimise the adverse effects on existing land use and rights of way, whilst also having regard to future extension of the substation; • [...]; and • Study the inter-relationship between towers and substation structures and background and foreground features so as to reduce the prominence of structures from main viewpoints. Where practicable the exposure of terminal towers on prominent ridges should be minimised by siting towers against a background of trees rather than open skylines. 	
2.10.5	<p>In addition to good design in accordance with the Holford and Horlock rules (please see paragraphs 2.9.16 - 2.9.19) and the ETDP once published (paragraph 2.9.20), and the consideration of undergrounding or rerouting the line where possible, the principal opportunities for mitigating adverse</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) explains the reasoning behind the selection of an overhead line instead of an underground cable for the Grid Connection Route</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>landscape and visual impacts of electricity networks infrastructure are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of network reinforcement options (where alternatives exist) which may allow improvements and/or extensions to an existing line rather than the building of an entirely new line; • Selection of the most suitable type and design of support structure in order to minimise the overall visual impact on the landscape. In particular, ensuring that towers are of the smallest possible footprint and internal volume; and • The rationalisation, reconfiguration, and/or undergrounding of existing electricity networks infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed development. 	<p>and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection as well as the rationale behind the selection. ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1) also provides further information on the alternative options considered.</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
2.10.6	<p>Additionally, there are more specific measures that might be taken, and which the Secretary of State could mandate through DCO requirements if appropriate, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping schemes, comprising off-site tree and hedgerow planting, are sometimes used for larger new overhead line projects to mitigate potential landscape and visual impacts, softening the effect of a new above ground line whilst providing some screening from important visual receptors. These may be implemented with the agreement of the relevant landowner(s), or the developer may compulsorily acquire the land or land rights in question. Advice from the relevant statutory authority should be sought on the design of such schemes, with particular consideration given to the selection of species mix which is appropriate to the local landscape character; and Screening, comprising localised planting in the immediate vicinity of residential properties and principal viewpoints can also help to screen or soften 	<p>This has been addressed in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1) and within the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16).</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	the effect of the line, reducing the visual impact from a particular receptor.	
2.10.7	As set out in the paragraphs above, where landscaping schemes and/or screening mitigation of the kind described above is required, rights over the land necessary for such measures may be compulsorily acquired as part of the DCO.	
2.10.8	Furthermore, since long-term management of the selected mitigation schemes is essential to their mitigating function, a management plan, developed at least in outline at the conclusion of the examination, and which sets out proposals within a realistic timescale, should secure the integrity and benefit of these schemes. This should also uphold the landscape commitments made to achieve consent, alongside any pertinent commitments to environmental and biodiversity net gain.	
2.11.5	Nationally designated landscapes have specific statutory purposes. The Secretary of State should have special regard to nationally designated landscapes, where the general presumption in favour of overhead lines should be reversed	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) explains the reasoning (including

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	to favour undergrounding. In addition, the Secretary of State must seek to further the purpose(s) of designated landscapes when making decisions which effect land within the designated area. EN-1 (Section 5.10) and paragraphs 2.9.7 to 2.9.26 above have further guidance on this requirement.	overhead lines being the strong starting presumption for electricity networks as per paragraph 2.9.31 of EN-5) behind the selection of an overhead line instead of an underground cable for the Grid Connection Route and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection .
2.11.6	Away from designated landscapes and in locations where there is a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has provided evidence to support a decision on whether undergrounding is or is not appropriate, having considered this on a case-by-case basis, weighing the considerations in paragraph 2.9.25 above.	

4. National Planning Policy Framework¹⁰

- 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 is taking the NPPF into account.
- 4.1.2. Relevant NPPF requirements relating to landscape and visual, along with an indication of where the information is located within the ES to address these requirements, are provided in Table 4-1.

¹⁰ *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 Landscape and Visual

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
8(c)	To protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.	The landscape strategy for the Scheme is described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation and Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
105	Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.	The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). A permissive path, which links up with existing Public Rights of Way (PROW), has been incorporated within the Scheme to provide a benefit to the local community with regards to access. This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
117	...give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas...	
125	Planning policies and decisions should: a) encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new	

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside...	
135	<p>Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; • are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping; • are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);... 	
137	<p>Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local</p>	

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.</p>	
139	<p>Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary 	

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings. 	
187	<p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best 	<p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1). Assessment of biodiversity net gain from the Scheme is also presented within the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Doc Ref. 7.9).</p>

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures... 	
198	<p>Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should...:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and 	

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation. 	

5. Other National Policies and Guidance

5.1.1. **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1) has been prepared with reference to the most up to date landscape and visual guidance documents including:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)¹¹, Landscape institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013;
- Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) LITGN-2024-01¹²; Landscape Institute, 2024;
- Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2) – Scottish Natural Heritage. 2017¹³. Scottish National Heritage (SNH), now NatureScot, guidance is aimed at Landscape practitioners involved in producing visual representations. The methodology has been used due to it being the only available comprehensive methodology regarding Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) production for elements of height;
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment¹⁴, Natural England, 2014;
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment¹⁵, Natural England, 2019;
- Technical Guidance Note (02-21) Assessing landscape value outside national designations¹⁶, Landscape Institute, 2021;

¹¹ Landscape Institute. Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Third Edition. Available as hard copy only.

¹² Landscape Institute (2024) TGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

¹³ Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) *Visual Representation of Wind Farms*. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

¹⁴ Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf [Accessed 01/11/2025]

¹⁵ Natural England (2019) An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d2f005aed915d2fe684675b/landscape-sensitivity-assessment-2019.pdf>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

¹⁶ Landscape Institute (2021) TGN 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Available at: <https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2021/05/tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations.pdf>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

- Technical Guidance Note (04/2020) Infrastructure¹⁷, Landscape Institute, 2020;
- Technical Guidance Note (1/17) Tranquillity¹⁸, Landscape Institute, 2017;
- Technical Guidance Note (06/19) Visual representation of development proposals¹⁹, Landscape Institute, 2019;
- Tranquillity Map: England²⁰, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), 2007;
- The Holford Rules²¹, National Grid, 1959; and
- The Horlock Rules²², National Grid, 2009.

¹⁷ Landscape Institute (2020) TGN 04/2020 Infrastructure. Available at: <https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2018/01/LI-Infrastructure-TGN-FINAL-200924.pdf>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

¹⁸ Landscape Institute (2017) TGN 01/2017 Tranquillity. Available at: <https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2017/02/Tranquillity-An-Overview-1-DH.pdf>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

¹⁹ Landscape Institute (2019) TGN 06/19 Visual representation of development proposals. Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²⁰ Campaign to Protect Rural England (2007) Tranquillity Map: England. Available at: [Tranquillity Map: England – CPRE](#).

²¹ National Grid. (1959) The Holford Rules. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/sites/default/files/documents/13795-The%20Holford%20Rules.pdf>. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²² National Grid (2009). The Horlock Rules. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/sites/default/files/documents/13796-The%20Horlock%20Rules.pdf> [Accessed 01/11/2025]

6. Local Policy

6.1.1. Local policy relevant to the landscape and visual assessment comprises:

- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036²³;
- Strategic Landscape Capacity Study for South Holland District Council²⁴;
- Fenland Local Plan²⁵;
- South Kesteven District Council, Local Plan 2011-2036²⁶; and
- Peterborough Local Plan²⁷.

6.1.2. It should be noted that Fenland District Council is preparing a new Local Plan, which is planned to replace the current version, adopted in 2014. The adoption of the new plan is expected to be in 2028²⁸

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

²³ South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2019) *South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036*. Available at: <https://southeastlincslocalplan.org/media/21941/South-East-Lincolnshire-Local-Plan-2011-2036/pdf/Local-Plan-text-March-2019.pdf?m=1720710748483> [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²⁴ South Holland District Council (2003) *Strategic Landscape Capacity Study for South Holland District Council*. Available at: https://south-eastlincslocalplan.org/media/24158/Strategic-Landscape-Capacity-Study-for-South-Holland-District-Council/pdf/Strategic_Landscape_Capacity_Study_for_South_Holland_District_Council.pdf?m=1703961388580 [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²⁵ Fenland District Council (2014), Fenland Local Plan. Available at: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/12064/Fenland-Local-Plan-Adopted-2014/pdf/Fenland_Local_Plan-Adopted_2014.pdf?m=1591111057500 [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²⁶ South Kesteven District Council (2020), Local Plan 2011–2036. Available at: <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-local-plans/south-kesteven-local-plan> [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²⁷ Peterborough City Council (2019), Peterborough Local Plan 2016 to 2036. Available at: <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/planning-and-development/planning-policies/local-development-plan> [Accessed 01/11/2025]

²⁸ Fenland District Council, Local Development Scheme, March 2025. Available at: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/17153/Local-Development-Scheme-March-2025/pdf/25-03_FDC_Local_Development_Scheme_sr9xpwa75xxo.pdf?m=1744731927420 [Accessed 01/11/2025]

Table 6-1: Relevant Local Policy with respect to Landscape and Visual

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
SELLP 2011-2036	<p>Policy 2: Development Management</p> <p>An overarching policy relevant to all development proposals. Elements of this policy most relevant to this chapter include paragraph 3.3.11, which states that opportunities for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be designed into the landscape and paragraph 3.3.12 which states that development proposals should protect and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure, where possible.</p> <p>Policy 28: The Natural Environment</p> <p>Policy principally regarding protection of designated sites, however paragraph 7.2.13 details opportunities for landscape buffers which assist in providing ecological networks, this is directly relevant to the development of the landscape and visual mitigation strategy.</p> <p>Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p> <p>Policy details the requirement to consider implications of renewable energy proposals against published landscape</p>	<p>The Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of ‘good design’ have been applied to the Scheme. Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	character assessments to protect landscape character, quality, skyline and visual amenity.	
Strategic Landscape Capacity Study for South Holland District Council	The Strategic Landscape Capacity Study for South Holland District Council (2003) assists in understanding the capacity of South Holland to accommodate change to its landscape without significantly impacting its character or altering its key characteristics.	This has been considered in Section 12.6 Baseline Conditions of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).
Fenland Local Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Policy (LP) 14 - Responding to Climate Change and Managing the Risk of Flooding in Fenland - refers to the need for renewable energy projects to be assessed individually and cumulatively with regards to impacts on the surrounding landscape, townscape, heritage assets and residential and visual amenity; • LP16 - Delivering and Protecting High Quality Environments Across the District - refers to development proposals needing to retain natural and historic features of the site, such as trees, hedgerows, field patterns, drains and water bodies. Furthermore, development proposals need to make 	Landscape mitigation is described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1). Cumulative Effects are described in ES Appendix 12-7 (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised in Section 12.11 Cumulative Effects of ES Chapter 12

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness and character of the area and not adversely impact on the amenity of the area.</p>	<p>Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p>
<p>South Kesteven District Council, Local Plan 2011-2036</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP5: Development in the Open Countryside - refers to development in the open countryside being limited to that which has an essential need to be located outside of the existing built form of a settlement. • RE1: Renewable Energy Generation - refers to proposals for renewable energy generation being supported subject to meeting the detailed criteria as set out in the accompanying Renewable Energy Appendix 3²⁹. <p>Appendix 3, as referenced above, includes the following relevant landscape and visual criteria in relation to large scale ground mounted solar farms:</p>	<p>This has been considered in ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p> <p>Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p> <p>Cumulative Effects are described in ES Appendix 12-7 (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised in Section 12.11 Cumulative</p>

²⁹ South Kesteven District Council (2020), Local Plan 2011-2036, Appendix 3. Available at: https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/Appendix_3_Renewable_Energy_Appendix.pdf [Accessed 21/11/2025]

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Solar Energy Criterion 1 <i>“The Council requires a LVIA is required as part of an EIA for large solar farm energy developments. The required study area for the LVIA may vary depending on the size of development proposed (see Scottish Heritage Visual Representations of Windfarms and the Landscape Institute’s Advice Note 01/11 (Photography and Photomontage in Landscape Visual Impact Assessment as a guide)). The LVIA shall cover all the points above. Information on landscape and visual impacts shall also be provided for non-EIA development. Visualisations should be based on photography with a 70/75 mm lens. The Council welcomes pre-application discussions with developers to agree the scope of LVIA required”.</i></p> <p>Solar Energy Criterion 2 <i>“The Council requires that a residential visual amenity assessment, covering a study area of at least 2km from any proposed solar farm shall be undertaken. The study area should be agreed with the Planning Authority”.</i></p> <p>Solar Energy Criterion 3 <i>“The Council requires that a cumulative impact</i></p> 	<p>Effects of ES Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1). A detailed LVIA methodology is provided in ES Appendix 12-2 (Doc Ref. 6.3).</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p><i>assessment, taking account of the points in paragraph 3.20 above, shall be undertaken. This shall consider solar farm developments that are under construction, consented or the subject of a valid planning application, or formally notified at the scoping stage. The study area for the cumulative assessment shall be proportionate to the size of the development and enable the assessment to focus on significant cumulative effects as required by the EIA Regulations. The study area will need to be agreed with the Planning Authority”.</i></p>	
<p>Peterborough Local Plan</p>	<p>Policy LP22 – Green Infrastructure states that: <i>“The council ... will seek to maintain and improve the existing green infrastructure network in Peterborough. ... All development proposals should ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design from the outset. Where new green infrastructure is proposed, the design should maximise the delivery of ecosystem services and support healthy and active lifestyles. Strategic and major development proposals should incorporate opportunities for green infrastructure provision, to reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore ecological</i></p>	<p>This has been considered in Section 12.8 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1). Landscape mitigation is also described in the OLEMP (Doc Ref. 7.16). This has been considered in Section 12.7 Embedded Mitigation of ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref.</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p><i>networks at a landscape scale, reverse habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity of habitats, and to preserve, restore and create priority and other habitats within and adjacent to development schemes.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals will be expected to provide clear arrangements for the long-term maintenance and management and/or enhancement of green infrastructure assets. ...</i></p> <p><i>Development must protect the existing linear features of the green infrastructure network that provide connectivity between green infrastructure assets, including public rights of way, bridleways, cycleways and waterways, and take opportunities to improve such features.</i></p> <p><i>Development proposals that cause loss or harm to the green infrastructure network will not be permitted, unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts on the green infrastructure network are unavoidable, development will only be permitted if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided. ...”.</i></p> <p>Policy LP27 – Landscape Character</p>	<p>6.1). Cumulative Effects are described in ES Appendix 12-7 (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised in Section 12.11 Cumulative Effects of ES Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual (Doc Ref. 6.1).</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p><i>New development in and adjoining the countryside should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting; retaining, enhancing or restoring the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area and sub area in which it would be situated.</i></p> <p><i>There are six landscape character areas (with associated sub-areas), which have been identified in the Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment. ...</i></p> <p><i>For each Landscape Character Area and sub area, specific details of which are provided in the Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment, planning permission will be granted if the proposed development would:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. recognise and, where possible, enhance the character and special qualities of the local landscape through appropriate design and management;</i> <i>b. reflect and enhance local distinctiveness and diversity;</i> <i>c. identify, maintain and, where possible, enhance any natural or man-made features of significant landscape, historical, cultural, wildlife and geological importance. Where a proposal may result in significant harm, it may be permitted</i> 	

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p><i>in exceptional circumstances, if the overriding benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh the harm: in such circumstances the harm should be minimised and mitigated;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>d. safeguard and enhance important views and vistas, including sky lines in to, out of and within the development layout;</i> <i>e. protect the landscape settings and separate identities of settlements; and</i> <i>f. provide appropriate landscape mitigation proportionate in scale and design, and/or suitable off-site enhancements.</i> <p><i>In considering the impacts of a proposal, the cumulative as well as the individual impacts on the landscape will be considered, including the potential impacts on adjacent Landscape Character Areas”.</i></p> <p>Policy LP29 – Trees and Woodland – refers to an application needing to demonstrate an assessment of its impacts and the protection and retention of existing trees. Where appropriate and practical, opportunities for new tree planting should be explored as part of all development proposals (in addition to, if applicable, any necessary compensatory tree provision).</p>	

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>Policy LP31: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p> <p><i>“... Proposals for non-wind renewable technology will be assessed on their merits, with the impacts, both individual and cumulative, considered against the benefits of the scheme, taking account of the following: Surrounding landscape and townscape, heritage assets; residential amenity, [...]. Proposals will be supported where the benefit of the development outweighs the harm caused by the development and reasonable measures for mitigation can be demonstrated. ...”</i></p>	

