Light Valley Solar

Environmental Statement Volume 1

Chapter 4: Approach to EIA

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Light Valley Solar

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

Light Valley Solar

DCO Submission

Chapter 4: Approach to EIA

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4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter provides an overview of the approach to the EIA, including the approach to the EIA assessment scenarios and the general methodology used to provide consistency across assessment topics.

4.1.2 An EIA is a staged, iterative process, the final findings of which are reported in this ES which is submitted in support of the application for a DCO for the Proposed Development. This ES reports the findings of the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development and has been undertaken in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Ref 1) and relevant guidance. Each of the stages is described in the following sections.

4.1.3 This assessment is based on baseline and design information available at the time of writing this chapter (see Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**]) and has been prepared to provide the information reasonably required for readers to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. A full assessment has been undertaken as part of the EIA, and the assessment has been developed and refined following statutory consultation and as additional information has become available, with the final assessment presented within the ES.

4.1.4 The scope and adopted methodologies of assessment for each of the investigated environmental topics are outlined in the corresponding topic chapters (Chapters 5-16 (ES Volume 1)) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**] where they depart from this general methodology.

4.1.5 Methodologies relating to any surveys undertaken as part of these specific investigations are also outlined in each of these topic chapters and their associated Appendices [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03**].

4.2 Legislation and planning policy context

Legislation

Planning Act 2008

4.2.1 As the Proposed Development comprises the ‘construction or extension of a generating station’ and will have a ‘capacity of more than 100 MW’, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 14(1)(a) and Section 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (‘the Act’) (Ref 1). Therefore, the Proposed Development requires a DCO Application to be submitted to the Secretary of State (‘SoS’) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (‘DESNZ’) for determination.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

4.2.2 The Proposed Development is categorised as 'Schedule 2' development under Paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 1), as it comprises *"industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water*".

4.2.3 The Proposed Development is considered to be EIA development as defined by the EIA Regulations and confirmed in the EIA Scoping Report pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations. Owing to the size, nature, and location of the Proposed Development, it is likely to have the potential for significant effects on the environment and is therefore considered to be EIA development.

National policy

National Policy Statements

4.2.4 National Policy Statements (NPS) are the primary policy basis for NSIP development and the SoS is directed under Section 104(2) of the Planning Act 2008 to determine a DCO Application in accordance with the relevant NPS.

4.2.5 Updated NPSs for Energy were published in December 2025 and designated on 6 January 2026 in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. The new NPSs reflect current energy policy, meaning that the investment required to achieve Clean Power by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050 can be delivered.

4.2.6 The relevant NPSs with effect for this ES are:

1) Overarching NPS for Energy EN-1 (Ref 4);
2) NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3 2025 (Ref 5); and
3) NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5 (Ref 6).

4.2.7 The approach taken by the EIA has been informed by the designated NPSs, as well as national and local planning policy and supplementary guidance insofar as it is considered important and relevant to the application. This is set out in each technical chapter of this ES.

National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1

4.2.8 NPS EN-1 sets out the national policy for the delivery of energy infrastructure, including solar renewable electricity generation. EN-1 provides the overarching policy position, of which solar PV generation falls within its definition of critical national priority (CNP) infrastructure.

4.2.9 Paragraphs 3.3.57 to 3.3.63 of EN-1 confirm the Government considers there to be a Critical National Priority (CNP) for the provision of low carbon energy infrastructure, including renewable generation such as solar PV. Paragraph 3.3.63 provides that, subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving the UK's energy objectives, together with national

security, economic, commercial and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. It goes on to say that "*Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible".*

4.2.10 Paragraphs 3.2.6 to 3.2.8 set out that all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by NPS EN-1 should be assessed on the basis that the Government has demonstrated there is an urgent need for those types of infrastructure. This includes solar development and battery storage. Substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent, and the SoS is not required to consider separately the specific contribution of any individual project to satisfying the need established in EN-1.

4.2.11 NPS EN-1 also places a strong emphasis on the urgency and scale of need for large-scale energy infrastructure to meet decarbonisation targets and ensure energy security with references to the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2024).

National Planning Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3

4.2.12 NPS EN-3 (Ref 5) provides the primary basis for informing the Secretary of State's decision on national significant renewable energy infrastructure applications.

4.2.13 Section 2.10 covers solar photovoltaic generation. This section reinforces the potential for solar in the UK and the Government's commitment to working with the solar industry to increase capacity and boost growth across the country. EN-3 aligns with the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan's commitment for least 45-47GW of solar PV to be deployed by 2030, unpinning the urgent need for solar development.

National Planning Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5

4.2.14 NPS EN-5 (Ref 6) is a relevant NPS for the Proposed Development as it contains policies in respect of the electricity network infrastructure required to support renewable energy infrastructure applications.

4.2.15 Paragraph 1.1.4 states "*the new network of infrastructure needed reflects the huge overhaul of the electricity grid as the UK continues its accelerated transition from fossil fuels to clean electricity generation, in support of Clean Power by 2030*."

National Planning Policy Framework

4.2.16 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) (Ref 7) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 2 of the NPPF states that "the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development".

4.2.17 The NPPF does not contain specific policies relating to NSIPs. However, pursuant to Section 104(2)(d) of the Act (Ref 1) the SoS may consider the policies of the NPPF to be an important and relevant consideration to the determination of the Proposed Development. As such, each technical chapter in this ES considers relevant policies of the NPPF.

Local policy

4.2.18 Local planning policy and supplementary guidance is considered in this ES where relevant to the assessment.

4.2.19 The Proposed Development is located within the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) local authority area which formed as a new unitary council on 1 April 2023. NYC replaces seven former district and borough councils including Selby District Council whose district covers the area within the Order Limits. The other six councils were Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, and Scarborough Borough Council.

4.2.20 It is noted that existing local plans for the former district and county areas, including the North Yorkshire, City of York and North York Moors National Park Minerals and Waste Joint Plan (Ref 8); Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 (Ref 18) and the saved policies of the Selby District Local Plan 2005 (Ref 10) will remain in place until the new local plan for North Yorkshire Council is adopted. Work on the new, emerging Selby Local Plan was halted in February 2025, as a result the policies in this document have not been given consideration in this ES. However, for the purposes of the Cumulative Effects Assessment, draft allocations in the emerging Selby Local Plan were considered, and where potentially of relevance to the project, analysed appropriately.

4.2.21 The NYC Local Development Scheme (LDS), March 2025, (Ref 11) published a milestone for publication of the NYC pre-submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) in Q1 of 2027. It is expected that an adopted plan will be in place by 2029.

4.2.22 The need for temporary works required for construction access within the jurisdiction of City of York Council was previously considered. This is now confirmed as not required and as such the City of York Council Local Plan is not considered within this ES.

4.3 EIA guidance

4.3.1 In addition to the legislative and policy requirements as outlined above, the approach to the EIA has had regard to the guidance and advice provided within the following:

1) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development (Ref 13).
2) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (Ref 14).

3) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (Ref 15).
4) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application (Ref 16).
5) PINS Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (Ref 2).
6) PINS Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Ref 17).
7) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design (Ref 25).
8) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Ref 19).
9) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive (Ref 18).
10) Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Commitments Register (Ref 20).
11) Topic specific guidance as set out in the relevant chapters of the ES.

4.4 The purpose and process of EIA

Purpose

4.4.1 An EIA is a systematic process that examines the likely significant effects (beneficial or detrimental) on the environment resulting from the future construction, operation and decommissioning of a proposed development. The findings of an EIA are presented in a document known as an ES, which can then be used to inform decision makers and the public about the possible environmental implications of a development and help the decision maker (in the case of a DCO Application, the SoS) determine the application for development consent. The EIA Regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIAs which must be undertaken for NSIPs in England and Wales.

4.4.2 The key matters for ensuring a robust EIA process relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are:

1) An iterative project design process, considering feedback from consultation and applying it to the design process.
2) EIA Scoping and ongoing consultation and engagement with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, including consideration of responses and how these should be addressed as part of the EIA.
3) Technical assessments following good practice, EIA and topic-specific guidance. This applies to carrying out baseline studies, feeding environmental topic related input into the design and early identification of the potential likely significant environmental effects.

4) Proposed mitigation measures (both 'embedded' and 'additional' mitigation) where necessary, to avoid, reduce or compensate for likely significant adverse effects.

5) Consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

6) Preparation of the final ES to accompany the submission of the DCO Application.

Process

4.4.3 The EIA process, as outlined in Regulation 5 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 3) and PINS Advice Note Seven (Ref 2), is used to identify the likely significant effects on the environment that could occur as a result of a proposed development. The information gathered through EIA is taken into account by the decision-making body (the SoS) when determining an application for consent.

4.4.4 The main stages of the EIA process are as follows:

1) EIA Screening: screening is normally undertaken to determine whether a proposed development constitutes 'EIA development', where it is unclear if a project requires an EIA to be undertaken.

2) EIA Scoping: the EIA Scoping Report sets out the proposed scope of the Proposed Development's EIA. It also presents the data collected and the proposed assessment methodology and approach that will be used for the EIA. The EIA Scoping Report is issued to consultees by PINS on behalf of the SoS for comment on the scope, methodology and approach proposed. A scoping opinion is then issued that provides feedback on the proposed scope of the EIA. The scope of the EIA is updated to reflect that opinion.

3) PEIR: the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) sets out the information that "*is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development*" (Regulation12(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations) as set out in PINS Advice Note Seven (Ref 2), Section 8.3).

4) ES: the ES (this document) presents the results of the EIA undertaken for the proposed development. It sets out the likely significant effects that would result if the proposed development was implemented, and any proposed mitigation to reduce those significant effects. The ES is submitted as part of the application for development consent and is taken into account during the decision-making process.

EIA Scoping

4.4.5 EIA Scoping is the process of identifying the issues to be considered within the PEIR and ES and establishing the scope of the assessment. Although EIA Scoping is not a mandatory requirement under the EIA Regulations, it is recognised as a useful preliminary procedure which helps to identify the main effects that a proposed development is likely to have on the environment.

4.4.6 An EIA Scoping Report (see Appendix 1.1: EIA Scoping Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.01**] was prepared and submitted to PINS on 11 November 2024 with a request for the SoS to adopt an EIA Scoping Opinion in relation to the Proposed Development. In considering the request for an EIA Scoping Opinion, the SoS consulted with the relevant statutory stakeholder bodies. The EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by PINS on 19 December 2024 (see Appendix 1.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.02**]. A table showing how the EIA Scoping Opinion has informed the assessment is provided within each topic chapter (Chapters 5 to 16) in ES Volume 1 [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**].

4.4.7 Key EIA Scoping Opinion comments are outlined and addressed in the individual topic chapters (Chapters 5-16).

4.4.8 A summary of the scope agreed to be assessed within the EIA through the EIA Scoping process is presented in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Summary of scope of the EIA

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
Agricultural Land and Soils	Scoped in	See Chapter 5: Agricultural Land and Soils (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.05**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Agricultural Land and Soils that have been scoped in or out.
Air Quality	Scoped out	The Scoping Opinion agreed that air quality could be scoped out as a topic chapter on the basis that construction vehicle movements do not exceed the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) thresholds (Ref 26) or the Natural England (NE) thresholds (Ref 27) in regard to European designated nature conservation sites; and that an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) is to be produced (now produced [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.06**]) to cover unplanned air quality emissions due to a BESS fire and that a construction dust assessment is undertaken. As set out in Chapter 14: Traffic and Movement (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.14**], Construction traffic, on all routes, continues to remain below the IAQM threshold of: ▪ A change of Light Duty Vehicles (LDV) flows of more than 500 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) movements; or ▪ a change of Heavy-Duty Vehicles (HDV) flows of more than 100 AADT movements. Natural England screening criteria for road traffic emissions to air which are capable of affecting European designated sites notes that: "*Widely accepted Environmental Benchmarks for imperceptible impacts are set at 1% of the critical load or level, which is*

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
		considered to be roughly equivalent to the DMRB thresholds for changes in traffic flow of 1000AADT and for HDV 200AADT." As the construction traffic is below the more stringent air quality screening thresholds (by EPUK/IAQM), then the construction traffic by definition will be below the less stringent NEA001 (Ref 27) screening criteria from Natural England. Operational traffic, on all routes, including for replacement activities, remains below the IAQM thresholds. Further details on traffic numbers are provided in Chapter 14: Traffic and Movement (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.14**] A Construction Dust Assessment has been provided at Appendix 16.1 of this ES (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.01**]. A BESS Fire Emissions Modelling Technical Note has been undertaken in relation to unplanned air quality emissions due to a BESS fire event. This is provided at Appendix 16.5 of this ES (Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.05].** An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan has also been produced **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.06]**
Biodiversity (including Ornithology)	Scoped in	Biodiversity and Ornithology have been provided as two separate chapters in this ES. Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**] and Chapter 12: Ornithology (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.12**] An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is provided at Appendix 16.2 of this ES (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**]
Climate Change Resilience	Scoped in	See Chapter 7: Climate Change Resilience (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.07**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Climate Change Resilience that have been scoped in or out.
Cultural Heritage	Scoped in	See Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Cultural Heritage that have been scoped in or out.
Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	Scoped out	Due to the design, avoidance and mitigation measures proposed, no significant effects on EMF receptors are anticipated. However, a stand-alone EMF report has been produced to support the scoping out of this topic. This has been included as Appendix 16.6 of this ES (Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.06].**

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Scoped in	See Chapter 9: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.09**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Greenhouse Gas Emissions that have been scoped in or out.
Ground Conditions	Scoped out	It was agreed in the EIA Scoping Opinion that Ground conditions could be scoped out of the EIA on the basis of the EIA Scoping Report concluding 'no likely significant effects'. A Geo-environmental Preliminary Risk Assessment (including a section on coal mining risk) is provided at Appendix 16.3 of this ES (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.03**]
Human Health	Scoped out	A scoping exercise was undertaken for human health as part of the EIA Scoping Report (Appendix 1.1: EIA Scoping Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.01**]). This reviewed the likely impacts on the wider determinants of health and considered the potential for these to lead to health and wellbeing effects at the population level. In particular, the scoping exercise considered impacts on environmental amenity (e.g. noise, visual and air quality impacts); access to health and social care; community safety; access to open land and nature; and access to work and training. The scoping exercise did not identify any potentially significant effects on population health and therefore the human health topic was scoped out. The Planning Inspectorate accepted that a standalone human health assessment chapter was not required, provided that *'effects on human health (including impacts on mental health and wellbeing) are considered within other aspect chapters where relevant. The EIA Methodology ES Chapter should provide clear cross-referencing to where the relevant direct and indirect impacts on human health are considered in the ES. Where human health impacts have been assessed in the ES, consideration should be given to relevant guidance such as the IEMA 2022 guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment'.* As described below, the findings of the relevant assessment chapters have been considered and, where a significant effect on a health determinant has been identified, the IEMA (now known as ISEP) health assessment criteria have been applied. No potentially significant effects on population health have been identified and therefore the assessment findings are consistent with the human health scoping conclusions. The ES Chapter 11 Noise and vibration (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.11]** assesses the likely significant construction and operational noise effects at sensitive receptors

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
		associated with the proposed development. The assessment considers the 'lowest observed adverse effect level' (LOAEL) and 'significant observed effect level' (SOAEL), which are defined by reference to national policy including NPSE and UK Government Guidance on Noise (Noise exposure hierarchy table) and take into account the effects of noise on health and quality of life as well as changes in behaviour. The assessment has found that there are no significant residual construction or operational effects on noise. No potential effects on population health associated with noise are identified. Air quality has been scoped out as a topic chapter on the basis that no there are no significant sources of air emissions during operation, and construction vehicle movements do not exceed the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) thresholds (Ref 26). These thresholds are based on links to human health effects. No potential effects on population health associated with air quality are identified. Chapter 14: Traffic and Movement (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.14**] provides an assessment of effects on severance, driver and pedestrian delay, pedestrian and cyclist amenity, fear and intimidation, and abnormal loads during construction. No significant residual adverse effects are identified, and as such it is considered that there is no potential for effects on health and wellbeing of the population as a result of effects on traffic and access. An assessment of effects on employment is provided in Chapter 13 Socioeconomics (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.13]**. This identified a minor (not significant) beneficial effect from employment during the lifespan of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning). While this may benefit individuals who are employed as a result of the Proposed Development, the scale of effect is not considered to be potentially significant for health and wellbeing at the population scale. An assessment of effects on PRoW users is provided in Chapter 13: Socioeconomics (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.13]**. The assessment has found that there are no significant residual effects on PRoW users during construction or operation. Diversions will ensure no loss of access to PRoW during construction and new permissive paths will link existing PRoW and increase access to wider PRoW network during operation. Chapter 10: Landscape and

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
		Visual (ES Volume 1) (ES [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10**] has identified moderate adverse (significant) visual effects from viewpoints on 17 PRoW during construction, reducing to 4 at Year 15 of operation. Responses to visual change will be varied and subjective, with a likely overall reduction in perceived amenity. Due to mitigation reducing the level of visual effect in the medium to long term, and the availability of alternative PRoW routes in the local area, overall usage and enjoyment of the PRoW network is not expected to be significantly affected. The magnitude of effect on access to green space and nature for the local community is therefore considered to be low. Based on IEMA guidance, the sensitivity of PRoW users is expected to be medium, which would result in a minor (not significant) adverse effect, consistent with the conclusions of the EIA Scoping Report. An assessment of impacts on visual amenity is provided in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10**]. In addition to significant visual effects on PRoW (discussed above), this has identified significant adverse effects on people travelling on seven local roads during construction, reducing to three in Year 1 of operation and none by Year 15 of operation. There will also be significant adverse visual effects on eight individual residential receptors or small groups of residential receptors during construction, reducing to six in Year 1 of operation and one by Year 15 of operation. Visual changes arising from the Proposed Development are likely to be perceived by some people in the community as changing the rural character of the area, which can affect wellbeing through changes to people's perceived quality of life and sense of place. However, as most of the significant effects are temporary construction effects, and most people will experience views of the Proposed Development briefly when travelling by vehicle or from rural PRoW, the magnitude of visual effects at population level is assessed as low. Assuming a medium level of sensitivity, this would result in a minor adverse (not significant) effect on population health, which is consistent with the judgements made at the EIA Scoping stage.
Landscape and Visual	Scoped in	See Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Landscape and Visual that have been scoped in or out.
Major Accidents and Disasters	Scoped out	It was agreed in the EIA Scoping Opinion that Major Accidents and Disasters could be scoped out of the EIA on the basis that potential risks are considered through other aspect chapters.

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
		Identification of utilities has been a key driver in setting the parameters for development and protections for them have been put in place through the Protective Provisions set out in the draft DCO [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/03.01**]. Appropriate best practice and mitigation measures will be in place via the CEMP including measures to reduce risk of electrical fires and explosions. A Glint and Glare Assessment has been provided at Appendix 16.4 of this ES (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04**]. The oBSMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.06**] contains measures to reduce the risk of electrical fires and explosions from the BESS element of the Proposed Development. Fire safety measures include spacing requirements between the BESS Enclosures and between the BESS Area and other infrastructure will also be included. Provision would also be made for fire water containment. Safety factors have been a key consideration for BESS location within the outline design such that, the combination of the distance from receptors of the chosen locations, coupled with the management measures, will mean that no likely significant effects would arise from battery fire events. A Geo-environmental Preliminary Risk Assessment (including a section on coal mining risk) has been appended to the ES (Appendix 16.3 ES Volume 3 [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.03**]). Security measures including fencing, gates and CCTV will be included in the Proposed Development as described in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**].
Noise and Vibration	Scoped in	See Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.11**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Noise and Vibration that have been scoped in or out.
Socioeconomics	Scoped in	See Chapter 13: Socioeconomics (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.13**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Socioeconomics that have been scoped in or out.
Traffic and Movement	Scoped in	See Chapter 14: Traffic and Movement (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.14**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Traffic and Movement that have been scoped in or out.
Water Resources and Flood Risk	Scoped in	See Chapter 15: Water Resources and Flood Risk (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.15**] for discussion of sub-aspects within Water Resources and Flood Risk that have been scoped in or out.

Topic	Scoped in / out of the PEIR/ES	Notes / Rationale
Cumulative and In-combination Effects	Scoped in	Assessment provided within Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**]

Commitments Register

4.4.9 A number of commitments have been developed through the EIA process and these will continue to be updated in response to design development and environmental assessment work. This is to ensure that potential environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development are mitigated as far as possible and in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) has published guidance on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Commitments Register (Ref 20) and recommends that these commitments should be recorded on a Commitments Register. The purpose of a Commitments Register is to track commitments made by The Applicant throughout the NSIP planning process, including post decision, including, detailed design, procurement, construction, operation and decommissioning.

4.4.10 A Commitments Register for the Proposed Development is included at Appendix 1.3 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.03**]. This Commitments Register has been updated throughout the pre-application process and will be further updated to ensure that all commitments are up to date at the time the Application is decided by the Secretary of State. If the DCO Application is granted, the Commitments Register would then be further updated to incorporate any additional or modified commitments imposed as part of the decision. It can then be used during the post-DCO consent phase as a tool to demonstrate compliance with commitments.

4.5 Overview of approach to assessment

4.5.1 This section of the ES sets out further detail on certain aspects of the assessment methodology that have been adopted in the EIA. The following general methodology applies to all assessments undertaken unless otherwise specified within the individual topic methodologies.

Baseline conditions and data collection

4.5.2 An important step in the EIA process is to establish a baseline against which to assess the effects of the Proposed Development.

4.5.3 Information relating to the existing environmental baseline has been collected through field and desktop study, including:

1) online/digital resources;
2) data searches, e.g. Local Biological Record Centres, Historic Environment Record, etc.;

3) baseline field surveys; and

4) available environmental information submitted in support of other planning applications for development in the vicinity.

4.5.4 The current environmental and physical conditions of the relevant Study Areas ('the baseline') have been established so that a comparison of future changes as a result of the Proposed Development can be understood, and potentially significant effects can be identified, where relevant to the assessment methodology.

4.5.5 Site visits, walkover surveys and desk-based baseline data collection have been undertaken to determine the baseline conditions. Details of specific visits and survey results are provided in individual assessment chapters of this ES.

4.5.6 Due to the long timescales required to deliver the construction of the Proposed Development, the EIA has also been carried out in relation to conditions that are likely to occur in future construction and operational years (the 'future baseline'), defined further below in Table 4-2.

4.5.7 The baseline conditions information used within the assessment is detailed within Chapters 5 to 16 of this ES (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**] and each topic outlines any limitations and assumptions with the data.

Spatial and temporal scope

4.5.8 The appropriate Study Area has been determined, with reference to the Order Limits, for each environmental topic and is set out in ES Chapters 5 to 16 (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**]. Specific Study Areas are defined in each topic section and will allow for assessment of indirect as well as direct effects, together with off-site factors such as traffic routes, where relevant.

4.5.9 Specific temporal periods are defined for the assessment of baseline conditions and the impacts of the Proposal Development. In doing so, consideration is given to the likely durations of construction, operational and decommissioning activities. Where relevant, consideration is given to the duration for environmental design measures to become established and effective.

4.5.10 The assessment considers effects at the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The definitions of these are presented below in Table 4-2:

1) Construction phase: this relates to all works associated with construction (including site preparation and installation).

2) Operational phase: this relates to effects once the Proposed Development is installed and in use (including maintenance and replacement activities).

3) Decommissioning phase: this relates to effects after operation has ceased as the Proposed Development is dismantled and removed from site.

4.5.11 The potential effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development are assessed within this ES against three baseline scenarios as shown in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2 Baseline scenarios

Baseline scenarios	Description
Construction phase (current baseline)	The construction phase is proposed to take place over 24-36 months, commencing in 2028 at the earliest. The baseline environment is assumed to be as per existing at the commencement of construction.
Operation phase (future baseline)	The opening year when the Proposed Development is to become operational, and a future operational year scenario (if relevant to topic) after the opening year when mitigation measures are likely to have achieved their desired outcome. The Proposed Development is assumed to be operational for up to 60 years.
Decommissioning phase (future baseline)	The decommissioning phase is expected to take approximately 12-24 months and will start once the operational phase of the Proposed Development has ended. A 24 month decommissioning period has been assumed for the purposes of a worst-case assessment in this ES, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Identification of receptors

4.5.12 Receptors are defined as the physical resource or 'user group' that would experience an effect. The environmental effect would depend on the spatial relationship between the source of the effect and the receptor. Some receptors will be more sensitive to certain environmental effects than others. The baseline studies within Chapter 5 to 16 identify the potential environmental receptors for each topic and their sensitivity.

Operation and maintenance

4.5.13 As set out in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**], the Proposed Development will require a maintenance and replacement to ensure efficient operation. This has been assessed within Chapters 5 to 16 of this ES (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**]. A worst-case scenario approach has been used for the assessment. In some cases, replacement over a short period of time is the reasonable worst case but for some topics a longer, staggered, approach may be the worst case. The approach taken is set out in each of the technical assessments within Chapters 5 to 16 (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**].

4.6 Assessment of effects

Significance of effects

4.6.1 The ES provides an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects (beneficial or adverse) arising from three phases (construction, operation and decommissioning) of the Proposed Development. The significance of effects is determined by reference to the criteria set out for each environmental topic.

4.6.2 Residual effects are the effects that remain following the implementation of proposed additional mitigation measures.

4.6.3 The approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect is derived from a variety of sources including:

1) Legislative requirements, including the EIA Regulations (Ref 3);
2) National policy, including Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (Ref 5); National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (Ref 5); National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (Ref 6) and the National Planning Policy Framework (Ref 7);
3) Local planning policy and relevant planning practice guidance;
4) Topic specific guidelines, standards and codes of practice;
5) Advice from statutory consultees and other stakeholders; and
6) Expert judgement of the EIA team.

4.6.4 The likely effect that the Proposed Development may have on identified environmental receptors will be influenced by a combination of the sensitivity or value of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of impact from the baseline conditions.

4.6.5 Assignment of environmental sensitivity of a receptor will generally depend on the vulnerability, recoverability and value of the receptor. The environmental sensitivity (or importance) is determined using the categories set out in Table 4-3, or as stipulated in individual topic chapters.

Table 4-3 Indicative environmental sensitivity of a receptor

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	High importance and rarity, international level and very limited potential for substitution
Medium	High or medium importance and rarity, regional level and limited potential for substitution
Low	Low or medium importance and rarity; and local level
Negligible	Very low importance or rarity and local level

4.6.6 Where other categories of sensitivity have been used, this is set out in the individual environmental topic assessment.

4.6.7 The categorisation of the magnitude of impact takes into account the following factors, or as stipulated in individual topic chapters:

1) scale of alteration /change;
2) geographical extent;
3) duration and reversibility (for example: temporary, short term and reversible; or permanent and irreversible); and

4) frequency.

4.6.8 Impacts are defined as either beneficial or adverse. The magnitude of impact is assigned using the categories outlined in Table 4-4, or as stipulated in individual topic chapters.

Table 4-4 Indicative magnitude of impact

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	Total loss or major alteration to key elements / features of the baseline (i.e. pre-development) conditions
Medium	Partial loss or alteration to one of more key elements / features of the baseline (i.e. pre-development) conditions
Low	Minor shift away from baseline (i.e. pre-development) conditions
Negligible	Very slight change from the baseline (i.e. pre-development) conditions

4.6.9 Further details of the topic-specific methodologies adopted for the EIA are defined within the methodology section of each of the topic chapters.

4.6.10 The level of an environmental effect is assigned by the interaction of both sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of impact. Levels of environmental effects generally follow the matrix outlined in Table 4-5, but are confirmed in each technical assessment which consider relevant topic-specific legislation, planning policy and guidance.

Table 4-5 Environmental effects matrix

		Magnitude of Impact			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Sensitivity of resource	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

4.6.11 Significant effects are generally defined as those that are Moderate or Major, but this will be defined in the topic methodology section for each topic. Effects could be both beneficial or adverse.

Limitations and assumptions

4.6.12 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, any difficulties encountered during assessment work that could affect the assessment and limitations and assumptions used for individual assessment areas are set out in this ES.

4.6.13 General limitations include:

1) Baseline conditions are specific to each aspect of the environment and are considered to be accurate at the time when surveys are undertaken, however, it is recognised that environmental conditions may change during

the course of the Proposed Development, and these are described as appropriate as part of the future baseline.

2) The assessment presented in this ES is based on survey work completed at the time of writing.

3) The assessment presented is based on construction information available at the time of writing based on the construction phases and programme described in Chapter 2.

4.7 Mitigation measures and monitoring

4.7.1 This ES includes a description of the measures to prevent or reduce any significant adverse effects. If necessary, monitoring may also have been prescribed.

4.7.2 In line with IEMA Guidance (now known as ISEP) and professional best practice, consideration has been given to two types of mitigation:

1) Embedded mitigation (measures adopted to avoid or prevent adverse environmental effects).

2) Additional mitigation (measures required to reduce and if possible offset likely significant adverse environmental effects, further to the reported significance of effects in the environmental assessment).

4.7.3 Mitigation has been applied in line with the following mitigation hierarchy.

1) **Avoid:** Consider and address impacts to avoid them.

2) **Minimise:** Reduce impacts as much as possible.

3) **Restore:** Restore any impacted areas.

4) **Offset:** Compensate for any remaining loss

Embedded mitigation

4.7.4 Defined as "*an intrinsic part of the project design*", embedded mitigation is a result of design evolution and describes efforts undertaken to prevent or reduce potential significant adverse effects. This includes the Design Principles that have guided design development and measures to iteratively alter design throughout the evolution of the Proposed Development (See Section 2.6 (Chapter 2: Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**]; Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Iteration [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.03**]); Appendix 1: Design Principles and Parameters of the Design Advice Document (DAD) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.05.01].** Intrinsic measures to introduce or enhance beneficial effects are also included in this category. As they form part of the Proposed Development, these measures would inherently be delivered and are therefore considered to form part of the Proposed Development and are taken into account in the initial assessment of effects of the EIA.

4.7.5 The Proposed Development has been through design development which has identified mitigation measures and the Design Principles that have been

embedded into the design and layout of the Proposed Development. Embedded mitigation is set out in each of the technical assessments within Chapters 5 to 16 (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01].**

4.7.6 These embedded mitigation measures will be secured through the DCO, either through the limits of deviation shown on the Works Plans **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03]**, DCO Requirements, or Protective Provisions. The mechanisms which secure this mitigation are outlined in Appendix 1.3: Commitments Register (ES Volume 3) [**EN0100112/APP/LVS/06.03.01.03**].

4.7.7 Good practice measures are defined as actions "*required regardless of any EIA assessment*" and are assumed as a result of standard good practice and/or legislative requirements. For example, these would include practices to manage contractor activities and minimise nuisance effects. The Applicant commits to implementing such good practice measures, and experience indicates that they can reasonably be delivered. Therefore, they have been considered to form part of the Proposed Development and are taken into account in the initial assessment of effects.

4.7.8 Management Plans are provided as part of the DCO Application, as a mechanism for securing required mitigation, and are therefore considered to be embedded mitigation. This includes the oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**], which includes practices to manage contractor activities and minimise nuisance effects that the contractor will be obliged to implement. A list of supporting management plans to secure mitigation in the DCO Application are identified in Table 4-6.

Additional mitigation (enhancement)

4.7.9 Individual topic assessments have developed additional mitigation that is to be implemented to reduce any identified significant adverse effects that are identified even after embedded mitigation has been taken into account. Additional mitigation measures have been taken into account when evaluating residual effects, i.e. those effects remaining after all measures/mitigation has been taken into account.

4.7.10 These measures will be secured through the DCO, either through the limits of deviation shown on the Works Plans [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03**], DCO Requirements, or Protective Provisions. Mechanisms which secure this mitigation are outlined in Appendix 1.3: Commitments Register (ES Volume 3) [**EN0100112/APP/LVS/06.03.01.03**].

4.8 Other supporting studies and management plans

Management plans and strategies

4.8.1 A key control in limiting the impacts upon the environment from the Proposed Development is the suite of management plans and strategies submitted alongside the DCO Application which will be in place throughout construction, operation and decommissioning (as relevant).

4.8.2 The management plans and strategies detailed in Table 4-6 have been prepared and submitted in outline form alongside the DCO Application. A Requirement in the DCO will require The Applicant to develop the final version of each plan (or versions dependent on phasing) in substantial accordance with the outlines in advance of the relevant phase of development.

4.8.3 These management plans and strategies incorporate standard industry good practice, considered as embedded measures, as well as any further mitigation that is deemed required as a result of the EIA process.

Table 4-6 Management plans and strategies

Management plan	Purpose	Stage
Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**]	Sets out how negative environmental impacts will be minimised and managed during construction.	Construction
Outline Materials and Waste Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.07**]	Sets out how excavated materials that will be generated during construction of the Proposed Development will be re-used, recycled or disposed of in a manner that is compatible with the Waste Framework Directive and associated regulations.	Construction
Outline Soil Resources Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.14**]	Sets out the overall approach to managing soil resources affected by the Proposed Development.	Construction Operation Maintenance Decommissioning
Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.12**]	Sets out how construction traffic and staff vehicles will be managed during construction.	Construction
Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.11**]	Sets out details of agreed mitigation strategies and may include additional mitigation measures.	Construction Decommissioning
Outline Drainage Strategy [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.15.04**]	Sets out the how runoff from the Proposed Development will be managed during operation.	Operation
Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.06**]	Sets out the key measures to minimise the chances of a battery fire event and fire spread in the event of a fire. Sets out the proposed operational response to a fire event.	Operation
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05**]	Sets out the management of the landscape and ecological features of the Proposed Development (including Public Rights of Way).	Operation

Management plan	Purpose	Stage
Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (oSSCEP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.13**]	Sets out The Applicant's commitments and overall approach to promoting competition, innovation and skills within the local and regional areas of the Proposed Development. It outlines how The Applicant will identify and secure the workers, skills, equipment and services required to deliver the Proposed Development and includes commitments to engage with relevant stakeholders on opportunities for local employment, skills development and supply chain participation throughout the delivery of the Proposed Development.	Construction Operation Decommissioning
Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.03**]	Set out a clear and consistent approach to the control of operational and maintenance activities within the Order Limits. This document does not address construction or decommissioning activities, which are subject to separate environmental management plans and procedures	Operation
Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.04**]	Sets out how negative environmental impacts will be managed during decommissioning (including in relation to traffic management).	Decommissioning
Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.09**]	Provides outline details of the mitigation measures proposed to manage impacts upon Public Rights of Way within the Proposed Development's Order Limits during construction, operation and decommissioning.	Construction Operation Decommissioning
Outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.08**]	Sets out intended strategies for managing pollution and spillage incidents on site within the Order Limits.	Construction Operation Decommissioning

Standalone assessments

4.8.4 In addition to the ES, a number of standalone assessments accompany the DCO Application for the Proposed Development, these include:

1) Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.09**];
2) Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.11**];

4.8.5 The findings of these support the ES where applicable, and feed into the mitigation proposals for the Proposed Development.

4.9 Consultation

4.9.1 Effective and meaningful engagement and consultation with stakeholders is an essential aspect of developing the design of the Proposed Development and of undertaking a comprehensive EIA.

4.9.2 As advised in Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)) guidance on pre-application consultation for major infrastructure projects (Ref 21) The Applicant's approach to engagement and consultation has been iterative to enable stakeholders to gain understanding of the proposals early on in the process and to have genuine opportunities for influence.

4.9.3 Consultation has been undertaken with regard to the guidance provided in PINS Advice Note on EIA Notification and Consultation (Ref 22) in taking a precautionary approach to identifying relevant consultees for the Proposed Development and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the Act and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

4.9.4 All reporting on engagement and consultation activities has been carried out in accordance with PINS Advice Note on the Consultation Report (Ref 23) and PINS NSIP 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (Ref 24). The Applicant has submitted a Consultation Report as part of the DCO Application which evidences how consultation has been carried out and how feedback has been taken into account in developing the proposals for the Proposed Development.

4.9.5 Stakeholder engagement for the Proposed Development throughout the EIA process has sought to achieve the following aims:

1) engage early to allow stakeholders and the public to shape the project's design at a formative stage;
2) commit to understanding local issues that are important for communities;
3) ensure community involvement is central to the project's ongoing design; and
4) create a project that benefits the local area for up to the next 60 years (the design life).

4.9.6 Engagement with stakeholders has been undertaken throughout the EIA process to gather feedback on the emerging project proposals, baseline survey methodologies and results; assessment methodology; and to inform design development. This includes as part of the Phase 2 Statutory Consultation. A summary of engagement undertaken with statutory consultees as well as how the assessment has responded to these has been included in the corresponding topic chapters (Chapters 5 to 16 (ES Volume 1)) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01]**.

Further information on the engagement to date was provided in Chapter 1: Introduction (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.01]**.

4.9.7 The Applicant considers that compliance with the requirements of the Act and the EIA Regulations have been evidenced in the Consultation Report and ES submitted with the DCO Application.

4.10 Cumulative and in-combination effects

4.10.1 In accordance with the Schedule 4, Paragraph 5 of the EIA Regulations an assessment of 'cumulative effects' is included within this ES.

4.10.2 The EIA Regulations require that the assessment includes a description of the cumulation of effects as a result of 1) more than one effect on a receptor from the Proposed Development (intra-project effects) and/or 2) with other existing or approved projects (inter-project effects); which in-combination with each other, may be more (or less) than the sum of the individual effects.

4.10.3 In-combination effects, or intra-project effects, occur when a resource, receptor or group of receptors are potentially affected by more than one source of direct environmental impact resulting from the same development. For example, a community may be affected by noise and traffic effects resulting from the construction phase activities of a single development. In-combination effects are analysed within Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**].

4.10.4 Inter-project cumulative assessment is undertaken to identify whether other developments may lead to an elevated effect on the environment during construction, or once a development is built and in use. Other developments need to be of a sufficient scale and/or proximity to the Proposed Development for potential cumulative effects to be likely. Other developments may also precede the development being assessed thereby changing future baseline conditions, or in some cases introducing new sensitive receptors.

4.10.5 The zone of influence for cumulative effects will vary on a topic-by-topic basis and will be defined in the assessments as relevant where cumulative effects are scoped into the assessment. Further information on the approach to cumulative and in-combination effects is provided in Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**].

4.10.6 Each of the technical chapters of this ES (Chapter 5 to 16) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**] contains an assessment of inter-project cumulative effects. The identified residual cumulative effects for all topics are then summarised and presented in Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**].

4.11 Assessment of transboundary effects

4.11.1 Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 1) specifies the procedural obligations that apply when the Secretary of State determines that a project is likely to have significant environmental effects on a European Economic Area (EEA) State, or

when an EEA State considers its environment likely to be significantly affected by such a project.

4.11.2 Consideration has been given to PINS Advice Note 12: Transboundary Impacts in particular Annexes 1 and 2, which outlines the considerations PINS takes into account when screening a development for likely significant effects on the environment in another EEA state.

4.11.3 The Applicant considers that significant transboundary effects associated with the Proposed Development are not anticipated due to the localised physical nature of the Proposed Development and given that emissions from the Proposed Development are unlikely to gravel to a neighbouring EEA state.

4.11.4 PINS outlined within the EIA Scoping Opinion (Appendix 1.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.02**]) that they consider that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Proposed Development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening.

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