

# The Drovers Solar Farm

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## **Appendix 15.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance**

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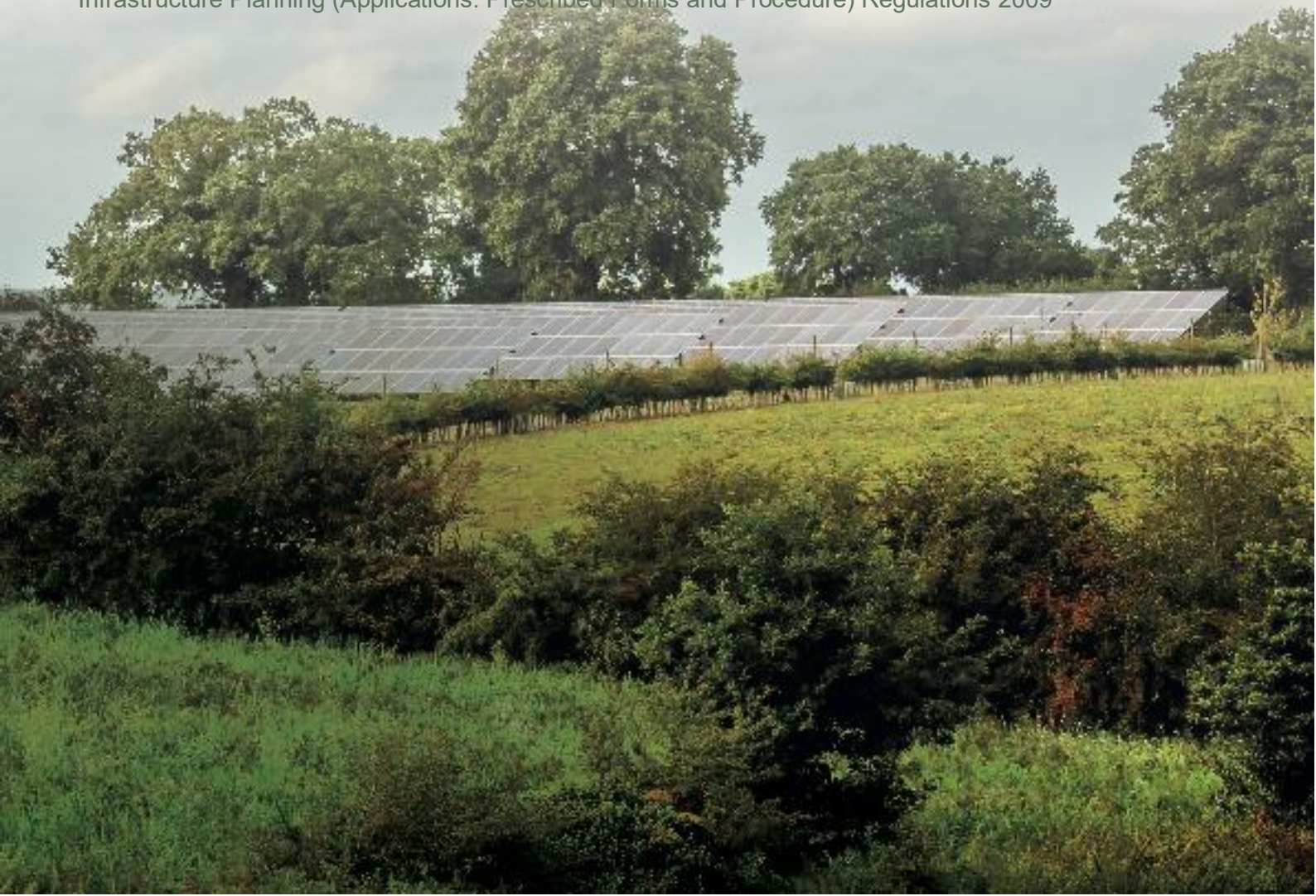
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APFP Regulation Reg 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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





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## 15 Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

### 15.1 Consultation

#### Scoping Opinion

- 15.1.1 A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was sought from the Secretary of State (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in November 2024. PINS subsequently issued the Scoping Opinion in December 2024.
- 15.1.2 The issues raised in the Scoping Opinion relating to socio-economics are summarised and responded to within **Table 15-1** which demonstrates how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion are addressed in this ES.



**Table 15-1 Relevant Scoping Opinion Comments from Statutory Bodies relating to health**

Consultee and Date	Comment and Scoping Opinion ID No.	How has the comment been addressed in the ES chapter	Location of response in ES Chapter
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID: 3.12.1Paragraph 17.1.4 - Human health standalone assessment</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out a standalone Human Health assessment on the basis that health impacts related to socio-economics would be assessed in a combined socio-economics and Human Health chapter within the ES and in-combination physical environmental impacts to Human Health would be assessed in the in-combination chapter. The Inspectorate is content with this approach. The EIA Methodology ES chapter should provide clear cross-referencing to where the relevant impacts on Human Health are considered. Consideration should be given to direct and indirect impacts on Human Health receptors. The assessment should be informed by relevant guidance such as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 2022 guidance 'Determining Significance for</p>	<p>It is noted that during Statutory Consultation the PEIR presented a combined chapter covering both socio-economics and human health. For the purposes of the ES, these topics have been separated into distinct chapters. This approach has been adopted to improve clarity, ensure each topic is assessed in sufficient detail, and to align with the relevant technical guidance and assessment methodologies specific to each discipline.</p>	<p>The human health assessment can be found throughout <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> with the assessment of socio-economics found in <b>ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP/6.2]</b>.</p>



	Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment’.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.2, Table 17.5 - Physical activity – All phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that impacts to PRowS would be limited and temporary. The Inspectorate notes that PRow usage surveys have not been undertaken for the Proposed Development, and it is not explicit within the Scoping Report whether any PRowS are proposed to be closed or redirected during construction/decommissioning. The Inspectorate is therefore not in a position to scope this matter out and the ES should assess the health impacts associated with disruption to physical activity.</p>	This comment has been noted with PINS. The assessment of the health impacts associated with disruption to physical activity has been scoped into the assessment and is assessed in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .	The assessment of physical activity has been scoped into the assessment and is assessed in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.3, Table 17.5 - Risk taking behaviour – All phases</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that the Proposed Development is unlikely to significantly effect risk taking behaviours and this matter can be scoped out of the ES.</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping	ID 3.12.4, Table 17.5 - Diet and nutrition – All phases	PINS is content to scope out diet and nutrition on the basis that the impacts on Best and Most Versatile (BMV)	N/A





Opinion, December 2024	On the basis that any impacts on BMV agricultural land are assessed in the Socioeconomics ES chapter, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.	agricultural land is assessed in the <b>ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP/6.2]</b> . For the PEIR, Diet and Nutrition was considered across the combined Health and Socio-economics chapter. For the ES, with these topics now presented in separate chapters, Diet and Nutrition is scoped out of the human health chapter in line with the PINS advice, whilst effects on land uses remain addressed in the <b>ES Chapter 14: Socio-economics [APP/6.2]</b> .	
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.5, Table 17.5 - Social Environment, Housing, Relocation, Open Space, Leisure and Play, Transport modes, access and connections, Community Safety, Community, identity, culture, resilience and influence and Social participation, interaction and support – All Phases</p> <p>The Applicant proposes to scope out an assessment of impacts on the social environment. The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development will not result in the loss of any dwellings, and the majority of the operational workforce are expected to already be residents within the local area. It is stated that the Proposed Development does not involve any population displacement or</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A



	relocation and would not require compulsory purchase of homes or community facilities. There is no open, leisure and play space within the Proposed Development site and PRowS are not considered within this assessment. Traffic impacts will be mitigated by the measures set out in the CTMP. Security measures are proposed to be in place which would limit the potential for impacts on community safety, including from crime. These are proposed to be secured through a CEMP. Impacts to community identity would be mitigated through the employment of a community engagement officer, to be secured through the CEMP and the Proposed Development is unlikely to impact on any local community centres or meeting spaces. The Inspectorate agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment on this basis.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.6, Table 17.5 - Employment and income - Operation</p> <p>This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the operational phase of the Proposed Development is only likely to support a small amount of</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A





	employment. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.7, Table 17.5 - Climate change and adaption – Construction and decommissioning</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not provide an estimation of the expected Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions during construction and decommissioning. As such, the Inspectorate considers that insufficient information has been provided to rule out significant effects. The Inspectorate is therefore not in a position to scope this matter out. The ES should provide an assessment of the impact of GHG emissions from the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme on Human Health.</p>	The ES provides an assessment of the impact of GHG emissions from the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme on human health within the <b>ES Chapter 13: Climate Change [APP/6.2]</b> .	This effect is addressed in <b>ES Chapter 13: Climate [APP/6.2]</b> .
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.8, Table 17.5 - Bio-physical environment – Air quality – All phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out health effects resulting from changes to air quality during the construction and decommissioning phases, stating that dust emissions would be</p>	As outlined in the Scoping Opinion Response ( <b>ES Appendix 2.3: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4]</b> ), the Air Quality section of <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters [APP/6.2]</b> provides information on the number of expected vehicle movements associated with the construction and decommissioning phases. The ES	Addressed in <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters [APP/6.2]</b> .



	<p>managed via a CEMP and are not expected to be significant. Insufficient information has been provided on the number of expected traffic movements to support this. As such, the Inspectorate is not in a position to scope this matter out and the ES should assess the health effects resulting from changes to air quality during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Scheme, or provide a statement, supported by information on expected vehicle movements, as to why effects would not be significant. The Inspectorate agrees that the number of vehicle trips generated by operation and maintenance of the Scheme are unlikely to result in significant effects and is content to scope this matter out for the operation/maintenance phase.</p>	<p>provides detail of construction vehicle traffic flows and locations of the nearest sensitive receptors associated with the construction and decommissioning phases which are not anticipated to exceed Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and IAQM screening criterion for either sensitive human or ecological receptors (<b>Ref 15-1</b>). For the purposes of this assessment of vehicle movement impacts in this PEIR, the construction vehicle movements are assumed to be 368 two-way LGV annual average daily traffic (AADT) movements and 86 two-way Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) AADT movements. As can be seen, the construction traffic vehicle movements do not exceed the screening criteria for detailed assessment, as set out in the EPUK and IAQM guidance and therefore the effects on human health are not expected to be significant. Therefore, air quality is scoped out the assessment.</p>	
<p>The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024</p>	<p>ID 3.12.9, Table 17.5 - Bio-physical environment – Water Quality and availability - All phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that it will be considered in Chapter 13 (Water Quality and</p>	<p>Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



	Ground Conditions) of the ES, no potentially sensitive Human Health receptors have been identified and any potential impacts on water quality would be managed through the CEMP. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.10, Table 17.5 - Bio-physical environment – Land quality – All phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out health effects related to land quality, stating that the agricultural land quality or soil resource is unlikely to be significantly affected during any phase of the Scheme. On this basis and having regard to the nature and characteristics of the Scheme, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. Should significant adverse effects be identified in ES Chapter 12: Water Quality and Ground Conditions for any phase, the ES should assess impacts on health where significant effects are likely.</p>	As <b>ES Chapter 12: Water Resources [APP/6.2]</b> finds no residual significant adverse effects on agricultural land quality or soil resource, this effect has been scoped out of this assessment in line with the Scoping Opinion.	Addressed in <b>ES Chapter 12: Water Resources [APP/6.2]</b>
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion,	<p>ID 3.12.11</p> <p>Table 17.5</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A



December 2024	Bio-physical environment – Noise and vibration – All phases – This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that it will be assessed in the in combination ES Chapter. The Inspectorate agrees that providing noise and vibration impacts on Human Health are assessed within the in-combination chapter, this matter can be scoped out of the Human Health chapter of the ES.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.12, Table 17.5 - Bio-physical environment – Radiation – All phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out health effects related to radiation for all phases of the Proposed Development on the basis that EMF emissions are predicted to be below the international Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection reference levels for magnetic fields and measures including minimum stand-off distances between receptors will be implemented to mitigate the risk to Human Health. The Inspectorate notes the intention to submit an EMF risk assessment setting out the routing and voltages of Low and High Voltage Cables up to 400kv. Providing the risks to Human Health are fully assessed</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A



	within the risk assessment, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of the ES.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.13, Table 17.5 - Institutional and built environment – Health and social care services and built environment – All phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out impacts to health and social care services on the basis that the demand for construction workers is temporary. Statistically, there are unlikely to be significant numbers of construction workers injured on site and best practice measures outlined in the CEMP will minimise the risk of injury. Operational employment is also expected to not be significant. The Inspectorate agrees that the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in significant pressure on health and social care services, and this matter can be scoped out of the ES. The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of the built environment health determinant for all phases, stating that construction would not significantly affect features of the built environment with respect to Human Health and provide positive land use effects during operation. On this basis, the</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A



	Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.		
The Planning Inspectorate, Scoping Opinion, December 2024	<p>ID 3.12.14, Table 17.5 - Wider societal infrastructure and resources – All phases</p> <p>This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the benefits of the Proposed Development will be addressed in the Planning Statement and benefits on employment and income assessed within ES Chapter 16: Socio-economics. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of the ES.</p>	Noted and agreed with PINS. This has been scoped out of the ES.	N/A
Norfolk County Council, February 2025	Ensuring mental health impacts of the Scheme are included in the assessment of health effects within the ES.	Mental health impacts are considered as part of this assessment.	Mental health impacts are considered throughout the assessment and can be found in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .
Norfolk Council, Breckland Council, King's Lynn and West Norfolk health teams, Norfolk and Waveney	Health: Norfolk County Council have confirmed that they are happy with the approach taken in Volume I, Chapter 14: Socio-economics and Human Health, provided that mental health impacts are considered throughout. Main comments were:	In the PEIR, socio-economics and human health were presented as a combined chapter. In the ES, these have been separated into two distinct chapters to improve clarity and ensure each topic is assessed in sufficient detail. All commitments made at PEIR stage, including the assessment of mental health and cumulative health effects, have been	Mental health impacts are considered as part of this assessment and can be found in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .



Integrated Care System, February 2025	<p>Socio-economic and Health Chapter</p> <p>It was agreed that the socio-economic and health assessments would be combined into a single chapter, provided that health has its own dedicated subsections and distinct conclusions separate from other socio-economic factors. The chapter should explicitly reference health in the title (e.g., "Socio-economic and Health"). While potential impacts (e.g., air quality) will be assessed in separate chapters, the health section should summarise these and assess any synergistic or cumulative effects.</p> <p>Importance of Mental Health</p> <p>The importance of assessing the project's impact on mental health and wellbeing was highlighted, particularly regarding changes to the local environment and perceived health risks, such as concerns about EMFs. It was agreed that mental health impacts would be meaningfully assessed, with reference to the MWIA Collaborative's Mental Well-being Impact Assessment Toolkit. An EMF assessment will also be undertaken, and the findings will</p>	<p>retained and are fully addressed within this chapter.</p> <p>In addition, <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters [APP/6.2]</b> assesses dust impacts during the construction and decommissioning phases. It concludes that dust emissions will be controlled through the mitigation measures set out in the <b>outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [APP/7.6]</b>, and that overall emissions are not anticipated to be significant. In addition, air quality is scoped out as the number of traffic movements associated with dust emissions is not considered significant. Accordingly, dust emissions are not scoped into this assessment, with the relevant assessment provided in <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters [APP/6.2]</b>.</p>	
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	<p>be incorporated into the health and wellbeing section.</p> <p>Construction Dust Assessment</p> <p>It was confirmed that a construction dust assessment will be undertaken. If the timing allows, the findings should be reflected in the health and wellbeing conclusions to ensure potential impacts are properly considered.</p>		
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## Statutory Consultation and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- 15.1.3 Statutory consultation was held between 21 May 2025 and 9 July 2025. Relevant responses to the PEIR relating to socio-economics and how these have been addressed through the ES are set out in **Table 15-2** below.



**Table 15-2 Responses to the PEIR relating to health**

Consultee and Date	Comment	How has the comment been addressed in the ES chapter	Location of response in ES Chapter
Sporle Palgrave PC with	<p>The impact on mental health and wellbeing of residents living in the area</p> <p>We are concerned about the impact on people's mental health as the existing natural environment will be replaced with a built environment and it will no longer offer the benefits to wellbeing that it currently does. The tranquillity, landscape, PRow, proximity to other beautiful parts of Norfolk are some of the many reasons why people choose to live in and visit the area and the presence of an industrialised landscape will have an adverse impact on residents' wellbeing. It should be noted that the surrounding landscape and PRow were of great benefit during the Covid Pandemic.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Paragraphs 15.5.5 and 15.5.6 of <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> set out the approach to assessing well-being impacts within this chapter for those effects scoped into the assessment. <b>ES Appendix 2.1: Scoping Report [APP/6.4]</b> provides the justification for scoping out effects on the built environment as agreed with PINS from this assessment and should be referred to for further detail.</p>	<p>Mental health impacts are considered as part of this assessment and can be found in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b>.</p>
Sporle Palgrave PC with	<p>Scientific studies have shown time spent in the natural environment can: Reduce stress, improve mood, boost cognitive function, enhance the immune system, lower blood pressure and heart rate, promote better sleep and increased creativity. This industrialisation of the landscape will not help</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Paragraph 15.6.24 of <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> outlines the evidence linking the natural environment with improved mental and physical well-being, including reductions in blood pressure and stress levels. This provides the context for assessing the</p>	<p>Human health impacts are considered as part of this assessment and can be found in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b>.</p>



			Scheme's effects on physical activity and well-being. The assessment of physical activity is set out in <b>Section 15.8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> , while the wider approach to assessing well-being impacts is described in 15.5.5 and 15.5.6 of <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .	
Sporle Palgrave PC	with	In addition, this industrialisation will lead to the loss of agriculturally related employment and its subsequent impact on wellbeing. (Although the suicide rate amongst farmers is well known it is double that rate amongst farm workers.) The main impact will be on the ancillary services such as on lorry drivers and other support businesses to agriculture.	The overall loss of employment is expected to be negligible and, as agreed with PINS at scoping, has therefore not been included within the assessment. In addition, mental health impacts relating to employment are considered as part of <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .	
Public England	Health	The Public Health team welcomes the inclusion of Human Health considerations in chapter 14 of the PEIR.	The Applicant notes this comment.	N/A
Public England	Health	NCC Public Health also welcomes the mitigation measures outlined in sections 14.4, 14.4.1 and 14.5.55, including those relating to mental health, visual and dust impacts.	The Applicant notes this comment.	N/A



Public England	Health	The Public Health team supports the commitment to further review the cumulative impact of this Scheme, together with High Grove Solar Farm, in the ES.	The Applicant notes this comment and concurs that this chapter assesses the wider human health impacts arising from the Scheme cumulatively, including in relation to the High Grove Solar Farm.	The assessment of the wider socio economic benefits arising from the Scheme cumulatively can be found in <b>Section 15.11 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .
Public England	Health	The Public Health team notes that electromagnetic fields (EMFs) remain out of scope. As raised at the scoping stage, concerns surrounding electromagnetic fields (EMFs) can contribute to stress and anxiety in local communities. Even perceived impacts can have real effects on mental health and should be considered appropriately, as such, the Public Health team refers back to comments made in our response to the applicant's Scoping Report.	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. <b>ES Chapter 16: Other Matters [APP/6.2]</b> details that Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) radiation is scoped out of the EIA as the EMF levels are predicted to be below International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection reference levels for magnetic fields. In addition, where the Scheme has cables exceeding 132kV, mitigating techniques such as minimum stand-off distances between receptors will be implemented to mitigate the risk to human health. It is therefore unlikely that EMF radiation would lead to significant effects on human health and is therefore scoped out as agreed with PINS.</p> <p>Perceived impacts of EMF radiation on mental well-being</p>	Perceived impacts of EMF radiation on mental well-being are discussed in Paragraph 15.5.7 of <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .



			are discussed in Paragraph 15.5.7 of <b>ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .	
Public England	Health	The Public Health team supports the commitment to further identify relevant vulnerable groups in relation to health effects and to incorporate this into the ES.	The Applicant notes this comment. Vulnerable groups in relation to health are identified in <b>Table 15-8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .	Vulnerable groups in relation to health are identified in <b>Table 15-8 of ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]</b> .
Public England	Health	Should you have any queries with the above comments please contact the Public Health team <a href="mailto:phplanning@norfolk.gov.uk">phplanning@norfolk.gov.uk</a>	The Applicant notes this comment.	N/A



- 15.1.4 A further round of targeted consultation was undertaken between 3 September and 1 October 2025 following changes to the development boundary area of the Scheme presented in the PEIR and during Stage Two Statutory Consultation. Further detail regarding the targeted consultation is provided in **ES Chapter 1: Introduction [APP/6.1]**.

## 15.2 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

- 15.2.1 An overview of the legislation, planning policy and guidance against which the Scheme will be considered for the human health assessment is set out below.

### Legislation and Regulations

- 15.2.2 The requirement to consider human health in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was introduced in the EIA Regulations, 2017. However, there is no statutory guidance on how to assess health impacts within an EIA. This chapter does; however, refer to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance documents, including Determining Significance and Health in EIA (**Ref 15-2**), to help inform the assessment.

### Planning Policy

#### **National Planning Policy**

- 15.2.3 The National Policy Statements (NPS) are a suite of documents issued by the Secretary of State, setting out the government's policy for delivery of major energy infrastructure and represent the primary policy tests against which this Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the Scheme have been considered. Listed below are the details of the elements of NPS considered relevant to the Human Health assessment.
- 15.2.4 The NPS guidance makes it easier for decision makers, applicants and the wider public to understand:
- Government policy on the need for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs)
  - How applications for energy infrastructure will be assessed; and
  - The way in which impacts and mitigations will be judged.

#### ***Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 15-3)***

- 15.2.5 Paragraph 4.4.4 of NPS EN1 states that:

*“where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess these effects for each element of the project, identifying any potential adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate.”*

- 15.2.6 Paragraph 4.4.6 of NPS EN1 states that:

*“Opportunities should be taken to mitigate indirect impacts, by promoting local improvements to encourage health and wellbeing this includes potential impacts on*





*vulnerable groups within society and impacts on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, i.e. those groups which may be differentially impacted by a development compared to wider society as a whole.”*

***NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 15-4)***

- 15.2.7 Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3, which provides the primary policy basis for decisions on renewable energy DCO applications relating to solar photovoltaic generation.

***NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 15-5)***

- 15.2.8 Paragraph 2.9.46 of NPS EN-5 states that:

*"All overhead power lines produce EMFs. These tend to be highest directly under a line and decrease to the sides at increasing distance. Although putting cables underground eliminates the electric field, they still produce magnetic fields, which are highest directly above the cable. EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health, aquatic and terrestrial organisms."*

***National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) (Ref 15-6)***

- 15.2.9 The NPPF as revised in December 2024 sets out national planning policies that reflect priorities of the Government for operation of the planning system and the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the development and use of land. The NPPF has a strong emphasis on sustainable development, with a presumption in favour of such development. The NPPF has the potential to be considered important and relevant to the SoS' consideration of the Scheme. Listed below provides details of the elements of the NPPF that are relevant to this chapter, and how and where they are covered in the ES:
- 15.2.10 Chapter 8 of the NPPF emphasises the importance of promoting healthy and safe communities. It highlights the need to encourage social interaction, promote healthy lifestyles, and ensure that local facilities and services are provided to meet the needs of the community, contributing to overall well-being and social cohesion.
- 15.2.11 Chapter 12 of the NPPF focuses on achieving well-designed places. It underscores the importance of high-quality, inclusive, and accessible design that supports local character, creates a strong sense of place, and promotes safe, healthy, and attractive environments where people want to live, work, and visit.
- 15.2.12 Chapter 15 of the NPPF seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment. It emphasises the need to protect and improve biodiversity and minimise pollution, ensuring that developments contribute positively to environmental sustainability and overall quality of life. Paragraph 198 of the NPPF within Chapter 15 also requires that potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development are mitigated and reduced to a minimum, and that noise giving rise to significant adverse effects on health and quality of life is avoided.



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***National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Ref 15-7):***

- 15.2.13 The Healthy and Safe Communities of the PPG highlights the role of planning in creating environments that support physical and mental health, encourage active travel, reduce exposure to pollution, and improve access to green spaces, community services, and social infrastructure.

***Local Planning Policy***

- 15.2.14 The Scheme is located within the administrative areas of Norfolk County Council (NCC) and Breckland Council (BC), who are the host authorities. The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (KLWN) is a neighbouring authority. Local planning policies which are relevant to human health and have informed the human health assessment in **ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2]** are detailed below.

***Better Together for Norfolk. Norfolk County Council Strategy (2021-2025) (Ref 15-8)***

- 15.2.15 This document outlines the strategic objectives being prioritized for the 2021–2025 period. These objectives include creating a vibrant and sustainable economy, providing better opportunities for children and young people, fostering healthy, fulfilling, and independent lives, building strong, engaged, and inclusive communities, and promoting a greener, more resilient future. NCC's vision is for the County to be a place where everyone can start life well, live well, and age well, ensuring that no one is left behind. The aim is to cultivate a vibrant, entrepreneurial, and sustainable economy, supported by the right jobs, skills, training, and infrastructure. Additionally, communities should feel safe, healthy, empowered, and connected, with their unique characteristics respected and preserved.

***Breckland Local Plan (2023) (ref 15-9)***

- 15.2.16 BC's Local Plan identifies 19 strategic objectives for all new development. The objectives relevant to the Scheme in relation to human health are:
- Strategic objective 14 – “Promote a safe and healthy environment, and high quality design minimising the impacts of development and ensuring quality of life and sense of place”; and
  - Strategic objective 17 – “To improve the health and well-being of our communities by reducing health inequalities, promoting healthy living and supporting locally accessible, high quality health care”.

***Future Breckland – Thriving People and Places (2023) (Ref 15-10)***

- 15.2.17 The Future Breckland programme sets out a comprehensive set of plans, co-designed with residents, businesses/public sector agencies and town council partners, to transition Breckland for the future. The anchor to the Future Breckland approach has been to focus the depth of detail on the opportunities presented within BC's five Market Towns, and their surrounding hinterlands. As a collectively owned community plan, Future Breckland informs future priorities and investment.



## Other Guidance

- 15.2.18 There is no specific guidance available which establishes a methodology for assessing the health effects of a solar farm. This section, therefore, provides a summary of the assessment methodology including the baseline analysis, and the relevant standards and guidance that will be used.
- 15.2.19 The human health assessment is undertaken in line with the latest best practice guidance on health impact assessment (HIA). The following standards and guidance have informed the health assessment:
- Public Health England, 2020. Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning: a guide for local authority public health and planning teams. **(Ref 15-11)**
  - Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board, 2022. Planning in health. **(Ref 15-12)**
  - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (IEMA, 2022). **(Ref 15-13)**
  - IEMA Health in Environmental Impact Assessment – A Primer for a Proportionate Approach (IEMA, 2017). **(Ref 15-14)**
  - International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Human Health: Ensuring a high level of protection (IAIA, 2020). **(Ref 15-15)**
  - Mental Well-being Impact Assessment: a Toolkit (National MWIA Collaborative, 2011). **(Ref 15-16)**
  - Health and Social Care Act 2012 **(Ref 15-17)** – This Act introduced legal duties about health inequalities. It included specific duties for health bodies which require the bodies to consider reducing health inequalities in England. The Act also creates duties on local planning authorities to take steps they consider appropriate for improving the health of the people in their area.
  - Equality Act 2010 **(Ref 15-18)** – This Act requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It also requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:
    - Eliminate discrimination
    - Advance equality of opportunity; and
    - Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.
  - Environmental Protection Act 1990 **(Ref 15-19)** – Part III of this Act sets out provisions in relation to statutory nuisance. This includes where any premises emit fumes, gases, dust, artificial light or noise that is prejudicial to health or a nuisance.



## References

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- Ref 15-6 National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024)
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- Ref 15-11 Public Health England, 2020. Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning: a guide for local authority public health and planning teams
- Ref 15-12 Planning in health, Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (2022)
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- Ref 15-15 Human Health: Ensuring a high level of protection, International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) (2020)
- Ref 15-16 Mental Well-being Impact Assessment: a Toolkit, National MWIA Collaborative (2011)
- Ref 15-17 Health and Social Care Act 2012, Department for Health and Social Care (2012)
- Ref 15-18 Equality Act 2010, Government Equalities Office (2010)
- Ref 15-19 Environmental Protection Act 1990



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