



East Pye Solar Mental Health and Wellbeing Addendum

Revision 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 This document provides an addendum to the assessment of human health, mental health and wellbeing effects associated with the East Pye Solar Scheme, as reported in the **Human Health Summary Statement (ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054])** and the **Equality Impact Assessment [APP-214]**. This addendum should be read alongside these submitted documents.
- 1.1.2 The addendum has been prepared in response to matters raised by the Examining Authority and other interested parties during Examination. In particular, it provides a single, consolidated account of the pathways through which the Scheme may influence mental health and wellbeing and gives further consideration to the concerns and evidence presented during the Examination.
- 1.1.3 The addendum provides supplementary information and does not replace, amend or supersede the submitted Environmental Statement or Equality Impact Assessment. It draws together the relevant findings from those documents, the underlying technical assessments, the mitigation and management measures secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, and the representations and oral submissions made during the Examination.
- 1.1.4 The matters considered include uncertainty and perceived loss of control; environmental and landscape change; attachment to place; the enjoyment of homes and outdoor spaces; access to nature, recreation and Public Rights of Way; construction disturbance; social participation and community cohesion; perceived safety and risk; and the potential for in-combination and cumulative effects on wellbeing. Particular consideration is given to population groups that may be more sensitive to these changes, including older people, children and young people, disabled and neurodivergent people, carers, and people with existing physical or mental health conditions.
- 1.1.5 Accounts of stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, uncertainty and other effects reported by residents are treated as relevant qualitative evidence. The addendum recognises that the experience of individuals may differ from the conclusions reached at population or subgroup level. An absence of a likely significant population-level effect does not mean that no individual may experience distress, anxiety or a reduction in wellbeing.
- 1.1.6 The purpose of the addendum is therefore to:
- Consolidate the existing assessment of mental health and wellbeing effects in one document;

- Explain the relevant pathways, affected populations and evidence considered;
 - Provide clear signposting to the submitted technical assessments and secured mitigation;
 - Consider the representations and evidence submitted during the Examination;
 - Assess relevant in-combination and cumulative wellbeing effects; and
 - Test whether the submitted conclusions remain appropriate or whether any additional mitigation, engagement or monitoring commitments are required.
- 1.1.7 The addendum provides a proportionate, evidence-based assessment of the likely effects of the Scheme on mental health and wellbeing during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning. It does not provide a clinical assessment of individual mental health or seek to determine the cause of any individual health condition.

2 Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing Effects

2.1 Scoping Opinion and Consultation

- 2.1.1 An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 25 February 2025 and is presented in **ES Volume 3: Appendix 2.2 – EIA Scoping Opinion (Revision 1) [APP-114]**. The Scoping Opinion confirmed that a standalone Human Health chapter was not required within the Environmental Statement (ES) because potential health effects would be addressed through the relevant technical assessments. It also advised that health-related effects should be cross-referenced where relevant throughout the ES.
- 2.1.2 This approach does not exclude mental health and wellbeing from the assessment. Population health outcomes can arise through changes to environmental, social and economic determinants of health. Relevant changes were therefore assessed within the corresponding technical chapters, including climate change, landscape and visual effects, the water environment, transport and access, noise and vibration, air quality, socio-economics, soils and agricultural land, ground conditions and electromagnetic fields.
- 2.1.3 The relationship between those environmental changes and potential population-health outcomes was subsequently brought together in the **Human Health Summary Statement** within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054]**. Mental wellbeing and potential differential or disproportionate effects on people with protected characteristics and other potentially vulnerable groups were considered further through the **Equality Impact Assessment [APP-214] (EqIA)**.
- 2.1.4 The purpose of this addendum is not to reopen or duplicate the technical assessments undertaken within the ES. It considers whether the changes identified through those assessments, either individually or in combination, provide credible pathways through which the Scheme could affect mental health and wellbeing. It also gives further consideration to effects identified through Examination evidence that may not be fully represented by the significance conclusions of an individual technical topic.

2.2 Existing Provision in the Submitted Assessments

- 2.2.1 The **Human Health Summary Statement** is presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054]**. It provides a consolidated consideration of potential effects on population health and wellbeing arising from the Scheme. It draws on the findings from the relevant Environmental Statement technical chapters and considers baseline

conditions, embedded mitigation, likely effects, additional mitigation, residual effects, in-combination effects and cumulative effects.

- 2.2.2 The **Human Health Summary Statement** adopts a pathway-based approach by considering how changes in relevant determinants of health, including environmental quality, access and connectivity, noise, landscape and visual amenity, employment, recreation, safety and access to nature, may influence physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.
- 2.2.3 The **Human Health Summary Statement** adopts a proportionate approach consistent with ISEP guidance on the effective scoping of human health¹ and the determination of significance within EIA². It does not identify new effects beyond those assessed in the technical ES chapters but instead considers how environmental changes identified elsewhere in the ES may influence physical, mental and social health and wellbeing. The assessment is informed by:
- ES Volume 1: Chapter 6 - Climate Change [APP-042];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual [APP-043];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 9 - Water Environment [APP-045];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 11 - Transport and Access [APP-047];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 12 - Noise and Vibration [APP-048];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 13 - Air Quality [APP-049];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 14 - Socio-Economics [APP-050];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 15 - Soils and Agriculture [APP-051];
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 16 - Ground Conditions [APP-052]; and
 - ES Volume 1: Chapter 17 - Electromagnetic Fields [APP-053].
- 2.2.4 The **Human Health Summary Statement** considers residual effects following implementation of embedded and secured mitigation measures and evaluates in-combination and cumulative effects by bringing together interactions between health determinants and cumulative environmental changes identified across the ES.
- 2.2.5 The **EqlA** considers potential effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme and assesses a range of equality topics relevant to mental health and wellbeing, including:
- Access to nature, green space and recreational opportunities;

¹ ISEP (2022) Guide to 'Effective Scoping of Human Health Assessments in EIA'

² ISEP (2022) Guide to 'Determining Significance for Human Health in EIA'

- Public Rights of Way connectivity, accessibility and community severance;
 - Changes in views, landscape character and attachment to place;
 - Traffic, pedestrian amenity, fear and intimidation;
 - Noise, vibration, dust and air quality effects;
 - Employment, skills and training opportunities;
 - Perceived safety, neighbourhood character and community cohesion;
 - Social participation, inclusion and access to community infrastructure; and
 - Cumulative wellbeing effects, including uncertainty and perceived environmental change.
- 2.2.6 The **EqlA** draws on the findings of the Environmental Statement, including **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 17** listed above and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters (Revision 1) [APP-054]**, together with the associated management plans and application documents.
- 2.2.7 To support the assessment of mental health and wellbeing, the **EqlA** applies the Mental Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (MWHIA) framework developed by Cooke et al. (2011)³. The framework considers four domains: enhancing control, increasing resilience and community assets, facilitating participation, and promoting social inclusion. The assessment recognises that some groups, including older people, disabled people, children and young people, carers, neurodivergent people, pregnant people and those with existing health conditions, may be more sensitive to environmental change and construction-related disruption.

2.3 Approach Applied by This Addendum

- 2.3.1 This Addendum applies a qualitative, pathway-based and proportionate assessment. It draws on:
- The **Human Health Summary Statement [APP-054]**;
 - The **Equality Impact Assessment [APP-214] (EqlA)**;
 - The relevant technical Environmental Statement chapters and appendices;
 - The Scheme design, control documents, management plans and commitments;

³ Cooke, A., Friedli, L., Coggins, T., Edmonds, N., Michaelson, J., O'Hara, K., Snowden, L., Stansfield, J., Steuer, N. and Scott-Samuel, A. (2011) *Mental Well-being Impact Assessment Toolkit*. Available at: [Mental Well-being Impact Assessment Toolkit](#) (Accessed: 6 October 2026).

- Population health and mental wellbeing baseline information;
 - Consultation responses, Relevant Representations and other written submissions;
 - Oral submissions made during the Examination; and
 - The Applicant's responses to questions and matters raised during the Examination.
- 2.3.2 The representations and personal accounts submitted during the Examination are considered as qualitative evidence of community concerns and reported experiences. They assist in identifying potential pathways, affected locations and population groups and in understanding how the Scheme and the Examination process are perceived and experienced. They are not treated as clinical evidence or as establishing that the Scheme is the sole or direct cause of an individual mental health outcome.
- 2.3.3 Conclusions presented in the Addendum are based on professional judgement, informed by available evidence and the findings of the submitted technical assessments. The assessment distinguishes between effects experienced by individuals, localised effects on homes, routes or communities, disproportionate effects on potentially vulnerable groups, and effects likely to be significant at a population level.
- 2.3.4 The assessment takes account of mitigation that is embedded within the Scheme design or secured through the DCO, certified documents and associated management plans. Where the effectiveness of mitigation depends on detailed design or future management, the addendum identifies the relevant control mechanism and considers whether there is sufficient certainty that the required outcome can be achieved.

2.4 Signposting

- 2.4.1 This Addendum draws on information contained within the **Human Health Summary Statement** (ES Volume 1, **Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054]**) and the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) [APP-214]. Where relevant, the Addendum signposts to the technical assessments and supporting application documents that inform the assessment of mental health and wellbeing pathways.
- 2.4.2 Where mitigation or management measures are relied upon, the addendum identifies the relevant DCO requirement, certified document, management plan or other secured commitment. This includes, where relevant, the following documents:
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196];
 - Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197];

- Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [APP-198];
- Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-199];
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [APP-200];
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-201];
- Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan [APP-202];
- Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203]
- Outline Soil Resource Management Plan [APP-204]
- Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy [APP-205]; and
- Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213].

2.4.3 Requirement 4 of the **Draft DCO [AS-032]** provides for a Community Liaison Group to facilitate liaison between local residents and relevant organisations during construction. Where relevant, this addendum identifies the Community Liaison Group as part of the engagement and communication framework for providing information, raising Scheme-related concerns and supporting timely responses. It is not intended to provide clinical mental health advice or replace existing health and support services.

3 Mental Health and Wellbeing Baseline

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Mental Health and Wellbeing are influenced by a wide range of environmental, social and economic factors. Relevant baseline conditions have therefore been identified from across the ES and are summarised in **Table 3.1**, together with the relevant source document references. The baseline is used to identify population groups and locations that may be more sensitive to environmental change, disruption, uncertainty or changes in access to social and environmental resources.
- 3.1.2 Since the submitted assessment documents were prepared a Mental Health Needs Assessment was prepared by Norfolk County Council and published in June 2026. This has been reviewed and key findings are presented below in **Section 3.3**.

3.2 Summary of Baseline Conditions in Submitted Assessments

Human Health Summary Statement

- 3.2.1 A summary of the baseline health and wellbeing conditions outlined in the **Human Health Summary Statement** included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 18 – Other Environmental Matters [APP-054]** is provided below.
- 3.2.2 The study area has a population of approximately 45,200 people and is characterised by an older age profile than the national average, with around 28% of residents aged 65 years and over. Children and young people account for approximately 15.6% of the population.
- 3.2.3 Overall health outcomes within the study area are generally positive, with approximately 45% of residents reporting very good health and a further 36% reporting good health. However, a proportion of residents experience poorer health, long-term illness and disability. Disability prevalence is 18.5%, slightly above the national average. Poor mental health is identified as one of the four most common forms of long-term ill health within Norfolk.
- 3.2.4 The study area experiences low levels of deprivation compared with national averages. However, rural accessibility and access to services remain local challenges. Economic inactivity is higher than the national average, largely reflecting the area's older population, with around 30% of residents retired.
- 3.2.5 The **Human Health Summary Statement** identifies children and young people, older people, and people with pre-existing health conditions as potentially more vulnerable population groups. People with long-term illness or disability and low-income groups may also be more sensitive to indirect effects.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.2.6 The Equality Impact Assessment identifies a number of Protected Characteristic Groups (PCGs) that may be more susceptible to differential or disproportionate effects associated with environmental change, accessibility, community severance and changes to local services or community infrastructure. These include children and young people, older people, disabled people, people with long term health conditions, people who are pregnant or on maternity leave, carers and ethnic minority groups.
- 3.2.7 As outlined above, the study area contains a higher proportion of older residents than the national average and many residents remain within South Norfolk during family and retirement years. The local areas surrounding the Scheme also exhibit an older age profile than regional and national comparators. This may increase the importance of established social networks, access to local services and community facilities, and familiarity with the local environment for some residents.
- 3.2.8 The Equality Impact Assessment identifies a proportion of residents with long-term health conditions and disabilities, alongside a notable population of unpaid carers. These groups may experience different needs in relation to accessibility, mobility, social participation and access to healthcare and community support networks.
- 3.2.9 South Norfolk is a predominantly rural area and experiences recognised challenges relating to access to housing, services and transport connectivity. Approximately 19.3% of the district experiences barriers to housing and services, and residents without access to private vehicles may be at greater risk of social isolation. Rural accessibility was identified as an important consideration within the Equality Impact Assessment.
- 3.2.10 In relation to wellbeing, residents generally report positive wellbeing outcomes. Measures of happiness, life satisfaction and feeling that life is worthwhile are comparable to, or slightly higher than, national local authority averages. However, anxiety levels are reported to be marginally higher than the national local authority average.

Wider Determinants in ES

- 3.2.11 Mental health and wellbeing are influenced by a wide range of environmental, social and economic factors. Relevant baseline conditions have therefore been identified from across the ES and are summarised in **Table 3.1**, together with the relevant source document references.

Table 3.1: Signposting to Baseline Conditions for Mental Health and Wellbeing

ES Topic	Location in ES	Explanatory Notes
Chapter 6 –Climate Change [APP-042]	Paragraphs 6.7.1 to 6.7.22	The Scheme is located within a predominantly rural area comprising agricultural land used for

ES Topic	Location in ES	Explanatory Notes
		arable cropping, agri-environmental land management and livestock production. Baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are associated with existing land uses, vegetation, soils and agricultural activities. The climate baseline considers current climatic conditions and future climate projections, which indicate increases in average temperatures, more frequent heatwaves, warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, and increased intensity of extreme rainfall events. These changes have the potential to influence flood risk, water resources, soil quality, agricultural productivity, ecosystem health and human wellbeing. The assessment also recognises the wider role of renewable energy generation in supporting the transition to a low-carbon energy system and contributing to national greenhouse gas reduction targets.
Chapter 7 – Landscape & Visual [APP-043]	Paragraphs 7.6.1 to 7.6.25 Associated appendices APP-118 to APP-151	Predominantly rural landscape comprising agricultural land, dispersed settlements, Public Rights of Way and recreational routes, including the Boudicca Way. The landscape provides opportunities for recreation, access to nature, enjoyment of the countryside and contributes to sense of place.
Chapter 9 – Water Environment [APP-045]	Paragraphs 9.6.1 to 9.6.24 Associated appendices APP-162 to APP-164	The study area contains surface water and groundwater resources which support the local environment. Water availability and quality are important environmental assets, with future baseline conditions indicating potential increases in peak river flows, rainfall intensity and flood risk associated with climate change.
Chapter 11 – Transport and Access [APP-047]	Paragraphs 11.6.1 to 11.6.37 Associated appendices APP-174 to APP-177	The study area includes an extensive network of Public Rights of Way and recreational routes, including the Boudicca Way. These routes support walking, recreation and access to the countryside. The area is rural in nature, with high reliance on private vehicles and limited public transport provision. Access to services, community facilities, recreational opportunities and opportunities for active travel are important features of the local environment.
Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [APP-048]	Paragraphs 12.6.1 to 12.6.7 Associated appendices APP-178 to APP-179	The Scheme is located within a predominantly rural area characterised by a relatively tranquil acoustic environment, with existing noise levels influenced by road traffic, agricultural activities and commercial operations. Noise-sensitive receptors include nearby residential properties, schools and nurseries, places of worship, commercial premises and users of Public Rights of Way. The existing acoustic environment contributes to residential amenity, quality of life and opportunities for outdoor recreation, which are relevant determinants of health and wellbeing.
Chapter 13 – Air Quality [APP-049]	Paragraphs 13.6.1 to 13.6.14 Associated appendices APP-180 to APP-181	The Scheme is located within an area of generally good air quality, with no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within South Norfolk and the nearest AQMA located in central Norwich, approximately 9.6 km from the Order Limits. Baseline monitoring and mapped data

ES Topic	Location in ES	Explanatory Notes
		indicate that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), particulate matter (PM ₁₀) and fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5}) across the study area are below relevant air quality objectives, reflecting the predominantly rural nature of the area. Sensitive receptors include nearby residential properties, schools and other locations where people may be regularly exposed to air pollution, with air quality being an important determinant of health and wellbeing.
Chapter 14 – Socio Economics [APP-050]	Paragraphs 14.6.1 to 14.6.56	The Scheme is located within South Norfolk and Norfolk, where the socio-economic baseline considers employment, skills and training, the availability of temporary accommodation, and the tourism economy. The local economy supports existing jobs and businesses, with receptors including the resident workforce, local employers, education and training providers, accommodation providers, and tourism assets.
Chapter 15 – Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-051]	Paragraphs 15.6.1 to 15.6.40 Associated appendices APP-182 to APP-183	The Scheme is predominantly located on agricultural land that is currently used for arable farming, including cereals, oilseed rape, sugar beet and other break crops, with some areas used for grazing, agricultural schemes and biofuel crops. The baseline identifies a mixture of soil types with varying sensitivities and recognises soils and agricultural land as important resources that support agricultural productivity and the rural economy.
Chapter 16 – Ground Conditions [APP-052]	Paragraphs 16.6.1 to 16.6.67 Associated appendices APP-184 to APP 187	The Scheme is located within a predominantly rural area comprising agricultural land with a range of superficial geological deposits and generally low levels of potential contamination. The baseline assessment identified a limited number of potential contamination sources, including areas of historic landfill and previously disturbed land, although the preliminary risk assessment found a generally very low risk to human health across the Order Limits and surrounding study area.
Chapter 17 – Electromagnetic Fields [APP-053]	Paragraphs 17.8.1 to 17.8.7	The Scheme is located within an area crossed by existing electricity transmission infrastructure, including overhead power lines, with receptors including nearby residents, businesses, schools and users of Public Rights of Way.

3.3 Additional Baseline Considerations

Norfolk Mental Health Needs Assessment 2026

- 3.3.1 The Norfolk Mental Health Needs Assessment (published June, 2026)⁴ identifies mental health and wellbeing as being influenced by a complex interaction of social, economic, environmental and individual factors across the life course. Poor mental health is one of the four most common forms of long-term ill health in Norfolk. The Norfolk-wide findings are presented here

⁴ Norfolk County Council (2026) Mental Health Needs Assessment 2026. Available at: [Mental Health Needs Assessment July 2026.pdf](#).

as they provide contextual evidence regarding mental health determinants and potentially vulnerable population groups.

- 3.3.2 The Norfolk Mental Health Needs Assessment 2026 identifies mental ill-health as a significant public health issue that can affect people's ability to work, study, participate in family and community life, and maintain overall wellbeing. The assessment notes that mental health needs are frequently under-represented in routine data because many individuals experiencing psychological distress do not access formal support services. These findings are relevant to the assessment of the Scheme because environmental change, disruption, uncertainty and changes to places valued by local communities can influence wellbeing outcomes, particularly amongst people with existing mental health conditions or other vulnerabilities.

Key Findings

- 3.3.3 The assessment identifies deprivation, financial insecurity, housing instability, chronic illness and social isolation as key risk factors for poorer mental health outcomes.
- 3.3.4 Whilst South Norfolk experiences relatively low levels of deprivation, rural communities can experience challenges relating to transport connectivity, accessibility and access to services. Norfolk's depression prevalence has more than doubled over the past decade, reflecting wider national trends, whilst local evidence identifies loneliness and social isolation as important determinants of mental wellbeing, particularly amongst older people.
- 3.3.5 These factors are relevant to the assessment of solar infrastructure because consultation responses frequently identify concerns regarding changes to familiar landscapes, recreational routes, access to the countryside, community identity and social connections, all of which can contribute positively to mental wellbeing and resilience. Conversely, supportive social networks, community participation, access to nature and opportunities for recreation are identified as important protective factors that promote positive mental health.
- 3.3.6 The Mental Health Needs Assessment identifies a number of population groups that may be more vulnerable to adverse mental health and wellbeing outcomes, including children and young people, older people, carers, people with disabilities and those with long-term health conditions.
- 3.3.7 Approximately 40% of Norfolk pupils report low wellbeing, around 27% of mothers are estimated to experience perinatal mental illness, and loneliness amongst older adults is projected to increase by 30-40% in some districts over the next 15 years. The assessment also notes that wellbeing outcomes are generally positive across Norfolk, with levels of happiness, life satisfaction and feeling that life is worthwhile comparable to or slightly above national averages, although anxiety levels are marginally higher.

- 3.3.8 These baseline characteristics indicate that whilst overall population wellbeing is relatively good, some groups may be more sensitive to environmental change, perceived loss of tranquillity, changes in access to nature and recreation, construction-related disturbance, or uncertainty associated with major infrastructure projects such as the Scheme.

Small Area Mental Health Index (2022)

- 3.3.9 The Small Area Mental Health Index (SAMHI)⁵ is a composite measure of population mental health developed by the University of Liverpool and the Place-based Longitudinal Data Resource (PLDR). It provides a neighbourhood-level assessment of mental health need for every Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in England by combining several indicators associated with mental ill-health, including mental health-related hospital attendances, antidepressant prescribing, prevalence of depression, and disability benefit claims linked to mental health conditions. The index enables comparison of mental health outcomes between small areas and can be used to identify communities experiencing relatively poorer mental health and greater mental health inequalities. Higher SAMHI scores indicate higher levels of mental health need.
- 3.3.10 The **Human Health Summary Statement** defines the study area using five Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). For the purposes of this Addendum, the constituent LSOAs within these MSOAs have been used to obtain more detailed neighbourhood-level data on mental health and wellbeing and are presented in **Table 3.2** below.
- 3.3.11 The Small Area Mental Health Index (SAMHI) is presented by decile, with the 1st decile (dark blue) representing areas with the best mental health outcomes and the 10th decile (dark orange) representing areas with the poorest mental health outcomes relative to other areas in England.
- 3.3.12 The data indicates that mental health outcomes within the study area is generally comparable to or better than national averages, with most LSOAs falling within the less deprived mental health deciles. Although pockets of comparatively greater need are present in parts of South Norfolk 012 and 011, no areas were identified within the most deprived national deciles in 2022. Overall, the trend between 2020 and 2022 suggests stable or improving mental health outcomes across much of the study area.

⁵ PLDR (2022) Small Area Mental Health Index. Available at: [Small Area Mental Health Index \(SAMHI\) | Place-based Longitudinal Data Resource](#).

Table 3.2: SAMHI Data for the Human Health Summary Statement Study Area at LSOA Level

LSOA		SAMHI 2019		SAMHI 2020		SAMHI 2021		SAMHI 2022	
E01026913: South Norfolk 009A		3		2		2		2	
E01026914: South Norfolk 009B		3		4		4		3	
E01026915: South Norfolk 009C		3		3		3		2	
E01026919: South Norfolk 009D		5		4		4		3	
E01026920: South Norfolk 009E		3		4		2		2	
E01026941: South Norfolk 009F		3		2		1		4	
E01026942: South Norfolk 009G		1		1		2		2	
E01026877: South Norfolk 011A		3		3		2		2	
E01026878: South Norfolk 011B		3		4		2		3	
E01026897: South Norfolk 011C		4		4		2		3	
E01026938: South Norfolk 011D		3		4		4		5	
E01026939: South Norfolk 011E		3		3		3		3	
E01026940: South Norfolk 011F		8		7		5		4	
E01026892: South Norfolk 012A		7		6		4		7	
E01026893: South Norfolk 012B		5		6		6		7	
E01026894: South Norfolk 012C		5		5		4		4	
E01026903: South Norfolk 012D		6		3		3		2	
E01026904: South Norfolk 012E		2		3		3		2	
E01026872: South Norfolk 013A		4		4		3		4	
E01026900: South Norfolk 013B		5		5		4		4	
E01026901: South Norfolk 013C		3		2		2		2	
E01026902: South Norfolk 013D		3		4		4		4	
E01026873: South Norfolk 014A		3		2		2		2	
E01026874: South Norfolk 014B		2		4		3		3	
E01026886: South Norfolk 014C		2		2		2		2	
E01026887: South Norfolk 014D		3		5		5		3	
E01026934: South Norfolk 014E		3		3		2		3	
E01026935: South Norfolk 014F		7		4		5		4	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
← Best Mental Health Outcomes				Deciles				Worst Mental Health Outcomes →	

4 Summary of Effect Pathways Linked to Mental Health and Wellbeing

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides a summary of likely effects relevant to Mental Health and Wellbeing identified through technical assessments. The section summarises embedded mitigation measures, residual effects, in-combination effects and cumulative effects.

4.2 Embedded Mitigation Measures

- 4.2.1 A summary of the embedded mitigation measures relevant to human health is presented at paragraphs 18.6.78 to 18.6.91 of Section 18.6, “Human Health Summary Statement”, of **ES Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054]**. The measures cover the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme and address climate change, the water environment, landscape and visual effects, transport and access, noise and vibration, air quality, socio-economics, soils and agricultural land, ground conditions and electromagnetic fields.
- 4.2.2 Topic specific mitigation is detailed further within the relevant technical chapters of the Environmental Statement and secured, where appropriate, through the Scheme design and associated management plans. These include:
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196];
 - Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197];
 - Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [APP-198];
 - Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-199];
 - Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [APP-200];
 - Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-201];
 - Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan [APP-202];
 - Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203];
 - Outline Soil Resource Management Plan [APP-204]; and
 - Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy [APP-205].
- 4.2.3 The **Design Approach Document [APP-212]** also establishes Scheme-wide principles relating to the siting of infrastructure, buffers from sensitive

receptors, retention and enhancement of vegetation, protection of water quality, control of lighting, and protection of residential amenity and recreational routes.

- 4.2.4 The submitted **Human Health Summary Statement** did not identify a requirement for additional health-specific mitigation beyond the embedded and topic-specific measures described above, except for the further operational noise mitigation identified through the Noise and Vibration assessment. This addendum considers whether the evidence raised during the Examination indicates a need for any additional mental health and wellbeing mitigation, engagement or monitoring commitments.
- 4.2.5 The assessment in this addendum distinguishes between measures embedded within the Scheme design, measures secured through the DCO and certified documents, and measures that will be developed through detailed design. Where a conclusion depends on a future management plan or detailed design process, the relevant approval mechanism and required environmental outcome are identified.

4.3 Residual Effects

Climate Change

- 4.3.1 Residual climate change effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because climate change has the potential to influence human health through pathways including extreme weather events, heat stress, flooding, disruption to infrastructure and services, and wider environmental change. Climate change mitigation may also contribute to longer-term improvements in population health by helping to reduce future climate-related health risks. The assessment of residual effects, subject to the implementation of embedded design and mitigation measures, is set out in Section 6.11 of **ES Chapter 6: Climate Change [APP-042]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4.1** are those reported in the Climate Change assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4.1: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Climate Change Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Climate Change Effect and Significance
Construction		
Greenhouse gas emissions arising principally from embodied carbon within construction materials, transport activities and construction processes.	Paragraphs 6.11.3 to 6.11.4; Table 6.39	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Climate-related risks to workers and construction activities associated with extreme weather events,	Paragraphs 6.11.8 to 6.11.10; Table 6.39	Minor adverse. Not significant.

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Climate Change Effect and Significance
heatwaves, heavy rainfall, flooding and increased wildfire risk.		
Operation and Maintenance		
Renewable energy generation contributes towards climate change mitigation through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared with a future baseline without the Scheme.	Paragraphs 6.11.5 to 6.11.7; Table 6.39	Beneficial. Significant.
Climate-related risks to infrastructure, workers and operational activities associated with heatwaves, flooding, storms and wildfire risk. Embedded resilience measures have been incorporated into the Scheme design.	Paragraphs 6.11.8 to 6.11.10; Table 6.39	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Decommissioning		
Greenhouse gas emissions arising from decommissioning activities, worker transport, waste management and infrastructure removal.	Paragraphs 6.11.3 to 6.11.4; Table 6.39	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Climate-related risks to workers and decommissioning activities associated with extreme weather events, flooding, heatwaves and wildfire risk.	Paragraphs 6.11.8 to 6.11.10; Table 6.39	Minor adverse. Not significant.

- 4.3.2 Construction and decommissioning activities would generate greenhouse gas emissions and remain vulnerable to climate-related hazards such as heatwaves, flooding and extreme weather events. Following implementation of embedded mitigation and resilience measures, these residual effects are assessed as minor adverse and not significant. During operation, the Scheme would generate renewable electricity and contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared to a future baseline without the Scheme. The Climate Change assessment concludes that the operational effect of the Scheme is beneficial and significant in relation to climate change mitigation, whilst no significant climate change resilience risks have been identified.
- 4.3.3 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through reducing future climate-related health risks. However, the significance classifications reported in the Climate Change assessment do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects. Taking account of the embedded mitigation and climate resilience measures, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse health effects are anticipated through this pathway, whilst the Scheme's beneficial contribution to climate change mitigation may support positive long-term population health outcomes

Landscape and Visual

- 4.3.4 Residual landscape and visual effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because landscape character, visual amenity, access to nature, recreation and connection to place are recognised determinants of mental health and wellbeing. Exposure to attractive landscapes, natural environments and recreational routes can support psychological wellbeing, stress reduction, relaxation and restoration, whilst adverse changes to valued views, landscape character and the experience of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and recreational routes may influence perceptions of environmental quality, sense of place and overall wellbeing. Changes to these factors may therefore provide pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, particularly for nearby residents and recreational users.
- 4.3.5 The assessment of residual effects, subject to the implementation of embedded design and mitigation measures, is set out in Section 7.10 of **ES Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [APP-043]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4.2** are those reported in the Landscape and Visual assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects

Table 4.2: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Landscape and Visual Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Landscape and Visual Effect and Significance
Construction		
Temporary changes to landscape character, tranquillity, visual amenity and the experience of PRoW and recreational routes arising from construction activity, vehicle movements, compounds, vegetation removal and cable installation. Significant effects are primarily associated with receptors close to construction activity.	Paragraphs 7.8.2 to 7.8.27; Table 7.14	Up to Major adverse and Major to Substantial adverse. Significant for some landscape, residential and recreational receptors.
Operation and Maintenance (Year 1)		
Changes to rural landscape character and visual amenity arising from the introduction of solar arrays, substations, the BESS and associated infrastructure before mitigation planting has established.	Paragraphs 7.8.28 to 7.8.55; Table 7.14	Up to Major adverse and Major to Substantial adverse. Significant for a number of landscape, residential and recreational receptors.
Operation and Maintenance (Year 15)		
Reduced effects following establishment of landscape mitigation. Significant effects remain at a limited number of locations, particularly around major infrastructure and some nearby	Paragraphs 7.8.56 to 7.8.77; Table 7.14	Up to Major adverse for landscape receptors and Moderate adverse for visual receptors. Significant for some receptors.

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Landscape and Visual Effect and Significance
residential and recreational receptors.		
Decommissioning		
Temporary changes to landscape character and visual amenity associated with infrastructure removal, resulting in short-term and reversible effects. Established mitigation planting and the retained National Grid Substation would continue to provide screening in some locations.	Paragraphs 7.8.78 to 7.8.104; Table 7.14	Up to Major adverse. Significant for some landscape and visual receptors.

- 4.3.6 Construction would result in temporary and reversible changes to landscape character, visual amenity and the experience of recreational routes, with significant adverse effects identified for some nearby residential, landscape and recreational receptors. During operation, effects generally reduce as mitigation planting establishes and matures, although significant residual effects remain at a limited number of locations, particularly around major infrastructure and for some nearby residential and recreational receptors. Decommissioning effects would also be temporary and largely reversible.
- 4.3.7 These effects provide credible pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing through changes to sense of place, visual amenity, access to nature, opportunities for recreation and the experience of the local environment. Access to attractive landscapes, natural environments and recreational routes can support psychological wellbeing, relaxation, stress reduction and restoration, whilst changes to landscape character, valued views and environmental quality may influence how people perceive and interact with their surroundings. Such changes may affect feelings of place attachment, enjoyment of outdoor spaces and overall wellbeing, particularly for nearby residents and recreational users. These effects may result in localised anxiety, distress or reduced enjoyment of homes and outdoor environments, particularly during construction and the early operational years.
- 4.3.8 However, taking account of the geographic distribution of effects, continued availability of the PRow network, landscape buffers and planting, and the reduction in visual effects as mitigation establishes, the effects are not considered likely to result in a significant adverse effect on mental health and wellbeing at population or identified vulnerable-group level. This conclusion does not discount adverse experiences reported by particular individuals or communities.

Water Environment

- 4.3.9 Residual Water Environment effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because water quality, water resource

availability and flood risk can influence health, wellbeing and perceptions of environmental safety. Concerns relating to contamination of water resources, flood risk or deterioration in environmental quality have the potential to influence wellbeing, while protection and enhancement of water resources can support healthy and resilient communities.

- 4.3.10 The assessment of residual effects, subject to the implementation of embedded design and mitigation measures, is set out in **Section 9.10** of **ES Chapter 9: Water Environment [APP-045]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-1** are those reported in the Water Environment assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-1: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Water Environment Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Water Environment Effect and Significance
Construction and Decommissioning		
Potential effects on water quality, water resources and groundwater arising from spills, sediment mobilisation, material storage, temporary impermeable areas, battery installation/removal and construction activities. Embedded mitigation measures are incorporated to manage pollution risks and runoff.	Sections 9.8 and 9.10; Table 9.7	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Potential effects on water supplies arising from construction and decommissioning water demand, particularly during periods of drought or water stress.	Sections 9.8 and 9.10; Table 9.7	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Potential effects on water quality, groundwater and water resources arising from runoff from operational infrastructure, battery replacement activities, contaminated firewater and groundwater recharge changes. Embedded mitigation and drainage systems are incorporated into the Scheme design.	Sections 9.8 and 9.10; Table 9.7	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Reduction in agricultural chemical and fertiliser application across land converted from intensive agricultural use, resulting in reduced nutrient loading to watercourses and groundwater receptors.	Sections 9.8 and 9.10; Table 9.7	Major beneficial. Significant.
Potential effects on water supplies arising from operational water demand during periods of drought or water stress.	Sections 9.8 and 9.10; Table 9.7	Minor adverse. Not significant.

- 4.3.11 Construction and decommissioning activities have the potential to affect water quality, water resources and groundwater through pathways such as spills, sediment mobilisation, runoff and temporary changes in groundwater recharge. Although these effects are environmental in nature, concerns regarding deterioration in water quality, contamination of water resources or increased flood risk can influence perceptions of environmental safety and contribute to anxiety or stress within local communities.
- 4.3.12 However, following implementation of embedded mitigation measures, all residual adverse effects are assessed as minor and not significant. During operation, drainage systems, pollution prevention measures, bunding, firewater containment and water management measures are incorporated into the Scheme design, resulting in no significant adverse residual effects on water quality, water resources or groundwater. A significant beneficial residual effect is identified through the reduction in agricultural chemical and fertiliser application across much of the Order Limits, which is predicted to reduce nutrient loading to watercourses and groundwater receptors.
- 4.3.13 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through perceptions of environmental quality, confidence in the protection of water resources, and management of flood and contamination risks. Good water quality and effective water management can contribute to feelings of environmental safety, whilst concerns regarding pollution or flood risk can adversely affect wellbeing. However, the significance classifications reported in the Water Environment assessment do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects.
- 4.3.14 Taking account of the embedded mitigation measures and the absence of significant adverse residual effects on water quality, water resources and groundwater, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway. The beneficial reduction in agricultural chemical and fertiliser application may contribute to improvements in water quality and the wider environmental condition of local watercourses, which may support positive perceptions of the local environment over the longer term.

Transport and Access

- 4.3.15 Residual Transport and Access effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because access to PROWs, pedestrian routes, recreational networks, community facilities and local services can influence opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, access to nature and overall mental wellbeing.
- 4.3.16 The ability to access and use local walking, cycling and recreational routes can support psychological wellbeing, stress reduction and social connectedness, whilst perceptions of safety, fear and intimidation associated

with traffic movements can influence people's willingness to use outdoor spaces and travel actively.

- 4.3.17 Temporary changes in traffic levels, construction vehicle movements, delays, community severance and restrictions to access may therefore provide pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, particularly for nearby residents, PRow users and other non-motorised users.
- 4.3.18 The assessment of residual effects is set out in **Section 11.10** of **ES Chapter 11: Transport and Access [APP-047]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-2** are those reported in the Transport and Access assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-2: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Transport and Access Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Transport and Access Effect and Significance
Construction		
Temporary increases in traffic associated with construction workers, HGVs, equipment deliveries and abnormal indivisible loads. Effects assessed include community severance, delays, NMU amenity, fear and intimidation, road safety and access.	Sections 11.8 and 11.10; Table 11.27	Not significant.
Temporary disruption to PRow users, pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users arising from construction activity and vehicle movements. Measures include route management, signage, temporary diversions and maintenance of access.	Sections 11.7, 11.8 and 11.10; Table 11.27	Not significant.
Temporary changes to community connectivity and perceptions of safety associated with increased construction traffic on selected local roads.	Sections 11.8 and 11.10; Table 11.27	Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Operational traffic effects scoped out from detailed assessment on the basis that traffic associated with operation, maintenance and replacement activities would be substantially lower than during construction and decommissioning.	Sections 11.1, 11.7 and 11.10	No significant effects identified.
Decommissioning		
Temporary increases in traffic associated with removal of infrastructure and decommissioning activities. Effects are anticipated to	Sections 11.8 and 11.10; Table 11.27	Not significant.

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Transport and Access Effect and Significance
be similar to, or lower than, those experienced during construction.		

- 4.3.19 Construction activities would result in temporary increases in traffic movements and some disruption to users of the local highway network, PRow and other routes. Temporary changes to access, traffic levels and construction activity have the potential to influence the experience of walking, cycling and other recreational journeys, which can contribute to wellbeing through opportunities for physical activity, access to nature and social interaction. Increased vehicle movements may also influence perceptions of safety, fear and intimidation among some users of PRow and local roads.
- 4.3.20 Route planning, internal haul roads, worker travel planning, construction traffic management measures and PRow management measures have been incorporated into the Scheme design to reduce these effects. The Transport and Access assessment concludes that residual effects relating to community severance, non-motorised user delay, non-motorised user amenity, fear and intimidation, road safety and hazardous or large loads are not significant. Decommissioning effects are expected to be similar to, or lower than, those reported for construction and are also assessed as not significant.
- 4.3.21 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through temporary changes in accessibility, opportunities for active travel, community connectivity, access to recreational routes and perceptions of safety. The ability to access and enjoy local walking, cycling and recreation routes can support psychological wellbeing, stress reduction and social connectedness, whilst concerns regarding safety, delays or temporary restrictions to movement may adversely influence wellbeing for some individuals.
- 4.3.22 It has been concluded that the Transport and Access significance classifications do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects. Taking account of the embedded mitigation measures, maintenance of access arrangements, continued management of PRow, provision of alternative routes where required and the temporary nature of construction and decommissioning activities, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway.

Noise and Vibration

- 4.3.23 Residual Noise and Vibration effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because the acoustic environment can

influence psychological wellbeing, stress levels, relaxation, sleep quality and overall quality of life. Noise can affect people's ability to rest and recover, enjoy their homes and outdoor spaces, and engage in recreation, whilst excessive or intrusive noise may contribute to annoyance, disturbance and reduced wellbeing.

- 4.3.24 The Noise and Vibration chapter identifies pathways through which noise may influence behavioural and physiological responses, including sleep disturbance, changes in behaviour and perceived reductions in quality of life. Vibration may also affect comfort and perceptions of environmental quality. These pathways are particularly relevant for nearby residents, users of PROWs and other sensitive receptors.
- 4.3.25 The assessment of residual effects, following the implementation of embedded and additional mitigation measures, is set out in Section 12.10 of **ES Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [APP-048]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-3** are those reported in the Noise and Vibration assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-3: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Noise and Vibration Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Noise and Vibration Effect and Significance
Construction		
Temporary noise associated with construction activities including site preparation, solar PV installation, BESS and substation construction, cable installation and vehicle movements. Embedded mitigation includes best practicable means, restricted working hours, route management and communication with nearby receptors.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.29	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.
Temporary noise associated with trenchless crossing techniques (including HDD), where required. Effects are short-term and subject to management measures and Section 61 controls where works outside standard hours are required.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.29	Negligible to Major adverse locally, but not significant overall due to duration.
Temporary vibration associated with construction activities, including piling, construction of access tracks and trenchless crossing works.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.29	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.
Temporary noise and vibration associated with construction traffic on local roads and access routes.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.29	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Operational noise from solar PV infrastructure, inverters, substations and the BESS following	Sections 12.9 and 12.10; Table 12.26 and Table 12.29	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Noise and Vibration Effect and Significance
implementation of operational mitigation including acoustic fencing, reduced fan duty, equipment orientation and noise controls secured through the Outline OEMP.		
Operational noise affecting PRoW users and recreational routes.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.24 and Table 12.29	Negligible. Not significant.
Operational noise associated with solar tracking motors.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.29	Negligible. Not significant.
Decommissioning		
Temporary noise and vibration associated with removal of infrastructure and decommissioning activities. Effects are anticipated to be similar to, or less than, those assessed during construction.	Sections 12.8 and 12.10; Table 12.29	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.

- 4.3.26 Construction activities would result in temporary increases in noise and vibration levels at some nearby receptors. Increased noise and vibration have the potential to affect aspects of mental health and wellbeing by influencing people's ability to relax, enjoy their homes and outdoor spaces, and maintain a sense of tranquillity. Elevated noise levels may also contribute to annoyance, stress and reduced quality of life, particularly where they affect sensitive activities such as rest, recreation or sleep.
- 4.3.27 However, effects are generally short-term and controlled through embedded mitigation measures including best practicable means, management plans, route controls and restricted working hours. Although short-term localised effects may occur during certain activities, such as trenchless crossings or works close to receptors, the assessment concludes that residual construction effects are not significant. Operational noise from the Scheme is controlled through embedded and additional mitigation measures secured through the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan, resulting in no significant residual operational effects at residential receptors, community facilities or Public Rights of Way. Decommissioning effects are anticipated to be similar to, or less than, those reported during construction and are also assessed as not significant.
- 4.3.28 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through changes to residential amenity, tranquillity, acoustic environment, sleep quality, relaxation and the experience of recreational environments. Noise can influence psychological wellbeing where it affects opportunities for rest, recovery and enjoyment of homes, gardens and outdoor spaces, whilst disruption to sleep has the potential to affect mood, wellbeing and daily functioning.

- 4.3.29 The Noise and Vibration assessment also recognises that noise may give rise to behavioural and physiological responses where exposure reaches levels capable of affecting quality of life. However, the significance classifications reported in the Noise and Vibration assessment do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects. Taking account of the embedded and additional mitigation measures, the temporary nature of construction impacts, the control of operational noise through the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan and the absence of significant residual operational effects, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway.
- 4.3.30 The conclusion for operational noise depends on the detailed Scheme design achieving the assessed and secured noise limits. Subject to those limits and the associated mitigation being secured and implemented through the relevant approval mechanisms, no significant adverse mental health and wellbeing effect is anticipated at population or identified vulnerable-group level. Short-term disturbance or anxiety may nevertheless be experienced by some receptors during noisier construction activities or where concerns about operational noise persist.

Air Quality

- 4.3.31 Residual air quality effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because air quality can influence both physical health and wider determinants of wellbeing, including perceptions of environmental quality, environmental safety and quality of life. Exposure to pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and traffic-related emissions can affect respiratory and cardiovascular health and may disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.
- 4.3.32 Poor air quality and concerns regarding air pollution may also contribute to anxiety about health and the local environment, whilst good air quality can support positive perceptions of place and wellbeing. The UK Health Security Agency recognises that reducing exposure to air pollutants has potential public health benefits, particularly for vulnerable groups.
- 4.3.33 The assessment of residual effects, following implementation of embedded mitigation measures, is set out in Section 13.10 of **ES Chapter 13: Air Quality [APP-049]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-4** are those reported in the Air Quality assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-4: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Air Quality Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Air Quality Effect and Significance
Construction		
Potential changes in concentrations of NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} arising from construction traffic movements on the local road network. Construction traffic management measures are incorporated into the Scheme design.	Sections 13.7, 13.8 and 13.10; Table 13.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Potential changes in pollutant concentrations affecting sensitive human receptors, including residential properties and other locations where long-term public exposure may occur.	Sections 13.8 and 13.10; Table 13.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Potential changes in pollutant concentrations, nitrogen deposition and acid deposition affecting sensitive ecological receptors.	Sections 13.8 and 13.10; Table 13.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Operational road traffic emissions scoped out of detailed assessment because anticipated maintenance and replacement traffic levels are substantially below relevant screening thresholds and are not expected to result in significant air quality effects.	Sections 13.5 and 13.7	No significant effects identified.
Embedded measures including avoidance of combustion-based energy generation, increased woodland planting, hedgerow restoration and green infrastructure are incorporated into the Scheme design.	Section 13.7	Beneficial design measures; no adverse significant effects identified.
Decommissioning		
Potential changes in concentrations of NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} arising from decommissioning traffic movements. Effects are expected to be no greater than construction and are anticipated to reduce further due to future improvements in vehicle emissions.	Sections 13.8 and 13.10; Table 13.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Potential changes in pollutant concentrations, nitrogen deposition and acid deposition affecting ecological receptors.	Sections 13.8 and 13.10; Table 13.14	Negligible. Not significant.

4.3.34 Baseline air quality within the study area is generally good, with monitored and modelled pollutant concentrations below relevant air quality objectives and PM_{2.5} targets. Construction traffic associated with the Scheme is

predicted to remain below the relevant EPUK and IAQM screening criteria and impacts on both human and ecological receptors are assessed as negligible. Operational impacts from road traffic, combustion plant emissions, dust generation and BESS fire events were scoped out on the basis that significant effects are not anticipated, and appropriate management measures are secured through the relevant management plans. Decommissioning effects are expected to be no greater than those experienced during construction and are also assessed as negligible.

- 4.3.35 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence health and wellbeing, principally through changes in exposure to traffic-related air pollutants. However, the significance classifications reported in the Air Quality assessment do not directly translate into equivalent health and wellbeing effects. Taking account of the low baseline pollutant concentrations, the embedded mitigation measures, the limited scale of traffic increases and the absence of significant residual effects, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway.

Socio-Economics

- 4.3.36 Residual mental health and wellbeing impacts resulting from socio-economic effects from the Scheme are a relevant consideration due to the important relationship between employment, job security, income, skills development and overall wellbeing.
- 4.3.37 Access to employment and training opportunities can support financial security, social inclusion, purpose and self-esteem, all of which are important determinants of mental health and wellbeing. Conversely, concerns relating to economic uncertainty, pressure on local accommodation or changes affecting community cohesion may have implications for psychological wellbeing and quality of life.
- 4.3.38 The assessment of residual effects is presented in **Section 14.10** of **ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP-050]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-5** are those reported in the Socio-Economics assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-5: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Socio-Economics Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Socio-Economics Effect and Significance
Construction		
Creation of direct, indirect and induced employment associated with Scheme construction activities, supporting workplace-based	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Major beneficial in South Norfolk (Significant); Minor beneficial in Norfolk and East of England (Not significant).

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Socio-Economics Effect and Significance
employment and economic activity in South Norfolk and the wider area.		
Provision of apprenticeships, training opportunities, local recruitment initiatives, education partnerships and skills development through implementation of the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy.	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Moderate beneficial (Significant).
Increased demand for temporary accommodation associated with workers from outside the region.	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Effects on tourism through changes in visitor behaviour, local amenity and expenditure patterns during the construction period.	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Continued employment, supply chain activity and skills development associated with operation, maintenance and periodic replacement activities.	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Minor beneficial for employment (not significant); Moderate beneficial for skills development (Significant).
Continued demand for temporary accommodation during periodic replacement activities.	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Potential effects on tourism associated with ongoing presence of the Scheme and its interaction with recreational and visitor assets.	Section 14.8; Table 14.28	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Decommissioning		
Employment, supply chain and skills opportunities associated with decommissioning activities, anticipated to be comparable with construction phase effects.	Sections 14.8 and 14.10; Table 14.28	Major beneficial for workplace-based employment in South Norfolk and Moderate beneficial for skills development (Significant).
Demand for temporary accommodation and effects on tourism associated with decommissioning activities.	Sections 14.8 and 14.10; Table 14.28	Minor adverse. Not significant.

- 4.3.39 Construction of the Scheme would support employment, economic activity and workforce development, including direct, indirect and induced jobs, supply chain expenditure and training opportunities. The assessment estimates that the Scheme could support approximately 1,044 net direct and indirect jobs during construction, with significant beneficial effects identified for workplace-based employment and skills development in South Norfolk. Commitments to apprenticeships, local recruitment, education partnerships and workforce training are embedded within the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy.
- 4.3.40 During operation and maintenance, employment levels reduce compared with construction, but opportunities for specialist skills development,

workforce retention and education outreach remain. Significant beneficial effects continue to be identified for skills and labour market development, while employment effects are assessed as minor beneficial. Minor adverse effects relating to temporary accommodation demand and tourism are identified but are not considered significant.

- 4.3.41 Employment, income and skills development are recognised as positive determinants of mental health and wellbeing. The Scheme's beneficial employment and skills effects may therefore support wellbeing for those who access these opportunities. However, the temporary nature of much of the employment and the absence of evidence on who will obtain the opportunities mean that a significant population-level mental health benefit should not be inferred. The identified adverse effects on temporary accommodation and tourism are minor and not significant and are not anticipated to result in a significant adverse mental health and wellbeing effect.
- 4.3.42 However, the significance classifications reported in the Socio-Economics assessment do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects at a population level. Taking account of the significant beneficial effects identified for employment and skills development, alongside the minor and non-significant adverse effects associated with tourism and temporary accommodation, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that the Scheme is likely to make a positive contribution to determinants of mental health and wellbeing through enhanced employment, training and economic opportunities.

Soils and Agriculture

- 4.3.43 Residual soils and agricultural land effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing are an important consideration because agricultural land, soils and farming activity contribute to rural character, sense of place, environmental quality and the continued function of the local countryside.
- 4.3.44 For many people, particularly local residents, landowners and those working in the agricultural sector, the rural environment can influence wellbeing through connections to place, perceptions of landscape change and confidence in the long-term stewardship of natural resources. Soils also provide important environmental functions, including supporting agricultural production, water regulation, biodiversity and carbon storage, which can contribute to perceptions of environmental resilience and sustainability. Changes to agricultural land use, soil condition and farming practices may therefore provide pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing.
- 4.3.45 The assessment of residual effects, subject to the implementation of embedded design and mitigation measures, is set out in **Section 15.10 of ES Chapter 15: Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-051]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-6** are those reported in the Soils and

Agricultural Land assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-6: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Soils and Agricultural Land Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Soils and Agricultural Land Effect and Significance
Construction		
Temporary disturbance of agricultural land associated with construction compounds, access tracks, cabling and installation of Scheme infrastructure. Most impacts are temporary and reversible through implementation of the Outline Soil Resource Management Plan.	Section 15.10	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Worst-case permanent loss or downgrading of BMV agricultural land associated with fixed infrastructure, access tracks and mitigation planting where restoration to comparable agricultural quality is not achieved.	Section 15.10; Table 15.18	Moderate adverse. Significant (worst-case assessment).
Temporary disturbance to soil structure arising from construction activities and vehicle movements.	Section 15.10; Table 15.18	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Temporary disruption to farming operations during construction.	Section 15.10; Table 15.18	Negligible. Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Agricultural land quality remains largely unaffected during operation, with no significant ongoing disturbance to soils or agricultural capability.	Section 15.10	Negligible. Not significant.
Beneficial changes in soil condition associated with long-term grassland management, reduced cultivation intensity, increased organic matter and reduced erosion risk.	Section 15.8 and Section 15.10	Minor beneficial. Not significant.
Effects on agricultural businesses arising from changes in land use and farming operations, offset in part by diversification opportunities and secure income streams.	Section 15.10	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Effects on food production and the wider rural economy.	Section 15.10; Table 15.18	Negligible. Not significant.
Decommissioning		
Temporary and reversible disturbance to agricultural land and soils associated with removal of infrastructure and restoration works.	Section 15.10; Table 15.18	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Temporary disruption to farm businesses during decommissioning activities.	Section 15.10; Table 15.18	Minor adverse. Not significant.

- 4.3.46 The Soils and Agricultural Land assessment concludes that most effects on agricultural land, soils and farm businesses would be temporary, reversible and not significant following implementation of the Outline Soil Resource Management Plan and restoration measures. During operation, the assessment identifies potential benefits to soil health through long-term grassland management, reduced cultivation, increased soil organic matter and reduced erosion risk. Agricultural businesses would experience changes in land use and management practices but are generally considered capable of adapting without significant effects on viability, while effects on food production and the wider rural economy are assessed as negligible.
- 4.3.47 A notable exception relates to the chapter's worst-case assessment of permanent Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land loss. Under a conservative scenario where some infrastructure areas, access tracks and mitigation planting are not restored to comparable agricultural quality, up to 37.9 ha of BMV land could be permanently lost, resulting in a moderate adverse and significant effect. However, the assessment identifies a more likely scenario in which much of the affected land, including areas associated with the BESS, substations and temporary works, would be restored following decommissioning through implementation of the Soil Resource Management Plan.
- 4.3.48 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through changes to rural character, agricultural livelihoods, environmental quality and perceptions of long-term stewardship of the countryside. For some individuals, particularly those with strong connections to farming and the rural environment, changes to agricultural land use may influence sense of place and perceptions of landscape change.
- 4.3.49 However, the significance classifications reported in the Soils and Agricultural Land assessment do not directly translate into a significant mental health and wellbeing effect. Taking account of the relatively small proportion of agricultural land affected in the wider regional context, the anticipated restoration of most temporarily affected land, the limited effects on agricultural business viability and the potential benefits to soil health during operation, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway, notwithstanding the significant agricultural land effect identified under the chapter's worst-case BMV land assessment.

Ground Conditions

- 4.3.50 Residual mental health and wellbeing impacts resulting from ground conditions effects from the Scheme are a relevant consideration due to the influence that perceptions of land quality, contamination risks and environmental safety can have on psychological wellbeing and quality of life. Concerns regarding potential contamination, exposure to hazardous materials or adverse effects on the local environment may contribute to

stress and anxiety among nearby residents and other sensitive receptors. Conversely, confidence that ground conditions have been appropriately assessed and managed can support feelings of safety, reassurance and community wellbeing.

- 4.3.51 The assessment of residual effects, subject to the implementation of embedded design and mitigation measures, is set out in **Section 16.10 of ES Chapter 16: Ground Conditions [APP-052]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-7** are those reported in the Ground Conditions assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-7: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Ground Conditions Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Ground Conditions Effect and Significance
Construction		
Potential exposure of construction workers and nearby receptors to existing contamination through ground disturbance, including historical contamination associated with former RAF airfields and limited areas of potential made ground. Embedded mitigation includes ground investigations, contamination management measures and unexpected contamination protocols.	Sections 16.7, 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Potential mobilisation of existing contamination to surface waters during construction activities.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Potential mobilisation of existing contamination to groundwater and private water supplies.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Potential sterilisation of limited safeguarded mineral resources through construction activities.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Potential loss of peat soils within CRC7. Design avoidance through trenchless crossing methods prevents disturbance.	Sections 16.7, 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible. Not significant.
Operation and Maintenance		
Limited potential exposure to existing contamination during maintenance activities involving minor ground disturbance.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Limited potential mobilisation of existing contamination affecting surface water or groundwater receptors.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.
Temporary sterilisation of safeguarded mineral resources due to the presence of Scheme infrastructure.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible. Not significant.

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Ground Conditions Effect and Significance
Decommissioning		
Potential exposure to existing contamination during infrastructure removal and associated ground disturbance.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Potential mobilisation of contamination affecting surface water and groundwater receptors.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible to Minor adverse. Not significant.
Potential effects on safeguarded mineral resources and peat soils during decommissioning.	Sections 16.8 and 16.10; Table 16.14	Negligible. Not significant.

- 4.3.52 The Ground Conditions assessment identifies a limited number of potential sources of contamination within the Order Limits, principally associated with former RAF Hardwick, former RAF Seething, historical areas of infilled ground and former refuse disposal activities. Concerns regarding land contamination, groundwater quality and the protection of private water supplies can influence perceptions of environmental safety and wellbeing. A detailed assessment concluded that no credible risks to identified private water supplies were present. Embedded mitigation measures, including ground investigation, contamination management procedures, Foundation Works Risk Assessments and Hydrogeological Risk Assessments where required, are secured through the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196]** and associated management plans.
- 4.3.53 The assessment concludes that potential effects associated with existing contamination are negligible or minor adverse and not significant throughout construction, operation and decommissioning. Effects relating to safeguarded minerals and peat soils are also assessed as negligible and not significant, and no significant residual ground condition effects are identified.
- 4.3.54 These effects provide potential pathways through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through perceptions of environmental safety, confidence in the protection of groundwater and private water supplies, and concerns regarding the presence or mobilisation of contamination.
- 4.3.55 It is assessed that the significance classifications reported in the Ground Conditions assessment do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects. Taking account of the embedded mitigation measures, the absence of credible risks to private water supplies and the conclusion that all residual effects are not significant, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway.

Electromagnetic Fields

- 4.3.56 Residual mental health and wellbeing impacts resulting from electromagnetic field (EMF) effects from the Scheme are a relevant consideration due to the influence that perceptions of environmental safety and potential health risks can have on psychological wellbeing. Concerns regarding exposure to electromagnetic fields associated with electrical infrastructure may contribute to stress, anxiety and uncertainty amongst nearby residents and other sensitive receptors.
- 4.3.57 Conversely, confidence that EMF levels comply with recognised safety standards and regulatory requirements can support reassurance, feelings of safety and community wellbeing. The assessment of residual effects, subject to the implementation of embedded design and mitigation measures, is set out in Section 17.10 of **ES Chapter 17: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-053]**. The significance classifications presented in **Table 4-8** are those reported in the Ground Conditions assessment and do not represent separate conclusions regarding the significance of mental health and wellbeing effects.

Table 4-8: Signposting to Residual Effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing from Electromagnetic Fields Effects

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Electromagnetic Fields Effect and Significance
Construction		
EMF effects during construction are scoped out because cables and electrical infrastructure will not be energised during construction activities.	Sections 17.6 and 17.14	N/A
Operation and Maintenance		
Human exposure to EMFs associated with operation of underground cables, substations, transformers and associated electrical infrastructure. Embedded design measures include maintaining minimum separation distances from overhead lines and compliance with ICNIRP guidance.	Sections 17.9, 17.10 and 17.12; Table 17.7	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Magnetic field strengths associated with underground and overhead electrical infrastructure remain below relevant ICNIRP reference levels for human exposure.	Section 17.10	Minor adverse. Not significant.
Electric fields associated with underground cables are contained within cable insulation and sheath, resulting in no external electric field exposure.	Sections 17.9 and 17.10	Not significant.
Decommissioning		

Summary of Residual Effect	Location in ES Chapter	Residual Electromagnetic Fields Effect and Significance
EMF effects during decommissioning are scoped out because electrical infrastructure will not be energised during decommissioning activities.	Sections 17.6 and 17.14	N/A

- 4.3.58 The EMF assessment considered the proposed underground cables, substations and associated electrical infrastructure against International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines. The assessment concluded that magnetic field strengths associated with the Scheme would remain below applicable ICNIRP reference levels, while electric fields from underground cables would be contained within the cable insulation and sheath and would not result in external exposure. Embedded mitigation includes maintaining a minimum 15 m separation distance between overhead lines and human receptors, together with compliance with applicable UKCA and/or CE standards.
- 4.3.59 The assessment concludes that residual EMF effects during operation and maintenance would be minor and not significant, with no significant cumulative effects identified. Construction and decommissioning effects are scoped out as the electrical infrastructure would not be energised during these phases.
- 4.3.60 These effects provide a potential pathway through which the Scheme could influence mental health and wellbeing, principally through perceptions of environmental safety and concerns regarding exposure to electromagnetic fields. However, the significance classifications reported in the EMF assessment do not directly translate into equivalent mental health and wellbeing effects. Taking account of the embedded design measures, compliance with ICNIRP guidance and the conclusion that EMF levels would remain below recognised exposure limits, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that no significant adverse effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated through this pathway.

4.4 In-Combination Effects

- 4.4.1 As set out in the **Human Health Summary Statement (ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054])**, in-combination effects occur where a receptor is influenced by effects arising from more than one environmental topic and where the interaction of those effects may give rise to outcomes that differ from consideration of the individual topics in isolation. The **Human Health Summary Statement** reviewed interactions between environmental topics and concluded that no likely significant in-combination effects on human health were identified. This Mental Health and Wellbeing Addendum applies the same principle but considers how the interaction of environmental, social and economic determinants of health may influence mental health and wellbeing.

- 4.4.2 Mental health and wellbeing outcomes may arise through the interaction of pathways identified within **ES Chapter 6: Climate Change [APP-042]**, **ES Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [APP-043]**, **ES Chapter 9: Water Environment [APP-045]**, **ES Chapter 11: Transport and Access [APP-047]**, **ES Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [APP-048]**, **ES Chapter 13: Air Quality [APP-049]**, **ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP-050]**, **ES Chapter 15: Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-051]**, **ES Chapter 16: Ground Conditions [APP-052]** and **ES Chapter 17: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-053]**. The Human Health Summary Statement and Equality Impact Assessment recognise that wellbeing can be influenced by environmental quality, access to nature, recreation and physical activity, perceptions of safety, community participation, employment opportunities, social inclusion, place attachment and exposure to disruption or uncertainty.
- 4.4.3 During construction, potential interactions may arise between temporary landscape and visual effects (**ES Chapter 7**), construction traffic and changes to access (**ES Chapter 11**), noise and vibration effects (**ES Chapter 12**), air quality effects (**ES Chapter 13**) and concerns regarding perceived environmental change. Collectively, these factors could influence enjoyment of homes and outdoor spaces, the experience of PRoWs, sense of place, perceptions of tranquillity and opportunities for recreation. The **Equality Impact Assessment** identifies that older people, disabled people, carers, neurodivergent people, children and young people, and people with existing physical or mental health conditions may be more sensitive to these combined influences due to their potentially greater reliance on familiar environments, social networks, accessible routes and local green spaces.
- 4.4.4 Additional interactions may occur between landscape and visual change (**ES Chapter 7**), access to nature and recreational routes (**ES Chapter 11**), and broader perceptions of environmental quality associated with water resources (**ES Chapter 9**) and air quality (**ES Chapter 13**). These environmental determinants are recognised within the Mental Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment framework applied through the **Equality Impact Assessment** as supporting resilience, social inclusion, participation and wellbeing. Changes affecting more than one of these determinants simultaneously may therefore influence mental wellbeing for some individuals, particularly where concerns relate to changes in valued landscapes, recreational experiences or attachment to place.
- 4.4.5 Interactions between noise and vibration (**ES Chapter 12**), transport and access (**ES Chapter 11**) and landscape and visual effects (**ES Chapter 7**) may also contribute to perceptions of disturbance during construction. For some residents, these combined influences may contribute to stress, annoyance, uncertainty or reduced enjoyment of the local environment. However, these effects are temporary, localised and subject to extensive mitigation secured through the Outline CEMP, Outline CTMP, Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan and associated management measures.

- 4.4.6 Conversely, beneficial interactions are also identified. During operation, the retention and enhancement of green infrastructure and landscape mitigation (**ES Chapter 7**), continued access to PROWs and new permissive paths (**ES Chapter 11**), improvements in environmental management and water quality (**ES Chapter 9**), employment and skills opportunities (**ES Chapter 14**) and the Scheme's contribution to climate change mitigation (**ES Chapter 6**) collectively represent positive determinants of mental health and wellbeing. These factors may support opportunities for recreation, connection with nature, social participation, resilience and positive perceptions of environmental stewardship over the long term.
- 4.4.7 The potential for additional in-combination effects associated with soils and agricultural land (**ES Chapter 15**), ground conditions (**ES Chapter 16**) and electromagnetic fields (**ES Chapter 17**) has also been considered. The submitted assessments identify no significant residual effects for these topics and no evidence that their interaction with other environmental pathways would result in significant additional effects on population mental health and wellbeing. Concerns relating to soil resources, contamination risks or electromagnetic fields may contribute to perceptions of risk for some individuals; however, the assessments conclude that risks remain low and are controlled through embedded mitigation and compliance with recognised standards.
- 4.4.8 Overall, the interaction of effects identified across **ES Chapters 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17** has the potential to influence mental health and wellbeing through pathways relating to environmental change, access to nature and recreation, social participation, community cohesion, perceived safety, disturbance and uncertainty. The assessment recognises that some individuals may experience adverse effects through the combined influence of these factors, particularly during construction and in locations closest to Scheme infrastructure. However, taking account of embedded mitigation, the temporary and localised nature of most adverse effects, the continued provision of recreational access, the proposed environmental enhancements, and the conclusions of the **Human Health Summary Statement** and **Equality Impact Assessment**, no likely significant adverse in-combination effects on population mental health and wellbeing are anticipated.

4.5 Cumulative Effects

- 4.5.1 As set out within **ES Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [APP-038]**, cumulative effects arise where the effects of the Scheme interact with those of other existing, committed or reasonably foreseeable developments. A cumulative effects assessment has been undertaken within the ES and reported, where relevant, within the individual technical chapters. The **Human Health Summary Statement** draws together these findings to consider potential cumulative effects on health. This section considers whether the cumulative environmental and socio-economic changes identified across the ES could give rise to cumulative effects on mental health and wellbeing.

- 4.5.2 Mental health and wellbeing may be influenced by cumulative changes affecting environmental quality, access to nature, recreational opportunities, social participation, employment, perceptions of place, environmental safety and community identity. Accordingly, cumulative effects reported within **ES Chapter 6: Climate Change [APP-042]**, **ES Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [APP-043]**, **ES Chapter 9: Water Environment [APP-045]**, **ES Chapter 11: Transport and Access [APP-047]**, **ES Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [APP-048]**, **ES Chapter 13: Air Quality [APP-049]**, **ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP-050]**, **ES Chapter 15: Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-051]**, **ES Chapter 16: Ground Conditions [APP-052]** and **ES Chapter 17: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-053]** have been considered in relation to potential mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

Climate Change

- 4.5.3 The cumulative climate change assessment reported in **ES Chapter 6: Climate Change [APP-042]**, concludes that greenhouse gas emissions are inherently cumulative and are considered through comparison with national carbon budgets. Climate resilience effects are specific to the Scheme and no significant cumulative resilience effects are identified. From a mental health and wellbeing perspective, climate change is recognised as an important long-term determinant of health. The Scheme contributes to climate change mitigation through renewable energy generation, but the available evidence does not enable a specific local mental health and wellbeing benefit to be attributed to that contribution. No significant adverse cumulative mental health and wellbeing effect is identified through this pathway.

Landscape, Recreation and Access

- 4.5.4 The cumulative interaction of landscape and visual effects (**ES Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [APP-043]**) and transport and access effects (**ES Chapter 11: Transport and Access [APP-047]**) has particular relevance to mental health and wellbeing because of the role that access to attractive landscapes, countryside recreation, PRowS, physical activity and connection to place play in supporting psychological wellbeing. The **Equality Impact Assessment** identifies access to nature, social participation, community identity and attachment to place as important determinants of mental wellbeing.
- 4.5.5 The cumulative technical assessments do not identify significant effects on access, community severance, non-motorised user amenity, fear and intimidation, road safety or accessibility. However, the continued availability of routes does not necessarily preserve their existing character, tranquillity or recreational experience. Subject to confirmation of the relevant developments and shared receptors, cumulative landscape change may contribute to concern or reduced enjoyment of the environment for some individuals, but is not considered likely to result in a significant adverse mental health and wellbeing effect at population or identified vulnerable-group level.

Water Environment

- 4.5.6 The cumulative assessment reported in (**ES Chapter 9: Water Environment [APP-045]**) concludes that cumulative effects on water quality, water resources and flood risk are not significant, with the exception of a potentially beneficial cumulative effect associated with reductions in agricultural fertiliser use and nutrient loading where multiple schemes change land management practices. Water quality and perceptions of environmental quality can contribute to wellbeing through feelings of environmental safety and confidence in local environmental conditions. Accordingly, no adverse cumulative mental health and wellbeing effects are anticipated, whilst improvements in environmental quality may contribute to positive perceptions of the local environment over the longer term.

Air Quality

- 4.5.7 The cumulative assessment presented within **ES Chapter 13: Air Quality [APP-049]** concludes that cumulative construction traffic effects on air quality would not be significant. Given the generally good baseline air quality within the study area and the absence of significant cumulative air quality effects, no likely significant cumulative mental health and wellbeing effects are anticipated through air quality pathways.

Socio-Economics

- 4.5.8 The cumulative assessment within **ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP-050]** identifies significant beneficial cumulative effects relating to jobs, employment, skills development and supply chain opportunities. During construction, cumulative employment effects are assessed as major beneficial and significant within South Norfolk, whilst beneficial cumulative effects associated with employment and skills continue during operation. Employment, income security, skills development and opportunities for participation in the local economy are recognised determinants of mental health and wellbeing and contribute to resilience, social inclusion and community wellbeing. Consequently, the cumulative socio-economic benefits identified in the ES may provide a positive contribution to mental health and wellbeing outcomes within the wider area.

Soils and Agricultural Land

- 4.5.9 The cumulative assessment within **ES Chapter 15: Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-051]** identifies the potential for a significant cumulative effect associated with the loss of BMV agricultural land where multiple developments affect agricultural resources. Although this technical effect does not directly equate to a significant mental health and wellbeing effect, cumulative changes to agricultural land, working practices, rural character and local identity may contribute to stress, uncertainty or reduced sense of control for some farmers, landowners and rural communities. Subject to the

findings of the agricultural business assessment and secured mitigation, this is not considered likely to result in a significant adverse cumulative effect on mental health and wellbeing at population level. This conclusion does not determine effects on individual land interests or compensation matters.

Ground Conditions and Electromagnetic Fields

- 4.5.10 The cumulative assessments within **ES Chapter 16: Ground Conditions [APP-052]** and **ES Chapter 17: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-053]** identify no significant cumulative effects. Although concerns regarding contamination or electromagnetic fields can contribute to perceptions of environmental risk and anxiety amongst some individuals, the ES concludes that risks remain low and controlled through embedded mitigation and compliance with recognised standards. No likely significant cumulative mental health and wellbeing effects are therefore anticipated through these pathways.

Overall Cumulative Mental Health and Wellbeing Effects

- 4.5.11 The assessment recognises that cumulative environmental change and the perceived concentration of energy infrastructure may contribute to anxiety, uncertainty, consultation fatigue or reduced wellbeing for some individuals. Examination representations indicate particular concern among communities around Great Moulton, Tivetshall St Margaret and Wacton. These accounts are relevant qualitative evidence and have been considered alongside the findings of the technical cumulative assessments.
- 4.5.12 Subject to verification of the relevant cumulative developments, shared receptors and construction timing, the available evidence does not indicate that the Scheme, in combination with other assessed developments, would result in a significant adverse cumulative effect on mental health and wellbeing at population or identified vulnerable-group level. This conclusion does not discount concern or reduced wellbeing experienced by particular individuals or communities. The potential for proactive engagement and monitoring to manage avoidable uncertainty is considered in Section 5.

4.6 Conclusion

- 4.6.1 The assessment identifies credible pathways through which the Scheme may influence mental health and wellbeing, including uncertainty, landscape and visual change, reduced tranquillity, construction disturbance, changes to recreational experience, perceived safety and the interaction of these factors.
- 4.6.2 Some individuals, particularly those living closest to the Scheme or with existing vulnerabilities, may experience anxiety, disturbance, reduced enjoyment of homes or outdoor environments, or a reduced sense of place.

These experiences are not discounted by the conclusion reached at population level.

- 4.6.3 Taking account of the nature, duration and distribution of the identified effects, the sensitivities of the potentially affected populations, the embedded and secured mitigation and the assessment of in-combination and cumulative effects, the Scheme is not considered likely to result in a significant adverse effect on mental health and wellbeing at population or identified vulnerable-group level. Potential additional engagement and monitoring measures arising from the evidence submitted during the Examination are considered in Section 5.

5 Additional Considerations Arising During Examination

5.1 Context and Process for Comments and Written Responses

- 5.1.1 Given the scale of the Scheme and the extent of the affected area, the application has generated substantial interest from local residents, community groups, parish councils, statutory consultees and local authorities. Human health, mental health and wellbeing have been recurring themes throughout consultation and Examination.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant has responded to these matters through Relevant Representation responses, Examination submissions, responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions, and additional health and equalities evidence submitted during the Examination. Particular focus has been placed on concerns relating to mental wellbeing, community impacts, vulnerable groups, construction effects, access to nature, place attachment, perceptions of safety, and cumulative wellbeing effects.
- 5.1.3 This section draws together the principal health and wellbeing matters raised during the Examination and should be read alongside the **Human Health Summary Statement** contained within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 18 – Other Environmental Matters [APP-054]**, the **Equality Impact Assessment [APP-214]**, and the Applicant's Examination responses.
- 5.1.4 This section does not treat representations as clinical or epidemiological evidence. It considers them as qualitative evidence of reported experiences, community concerns, possible pathways and the distribution of potential effects, and examines whether they alter the conclusions of Section 4 or indicate a need for additional mitigation, engagement or monitoring.

5.2 Summary of Key Themes from Outstanding Comments Raised

- 5.2.1 Representations raised a range of concerns about how the Scheme and the Examination process could affect mental health and wellbeing. These concerns, which are discussed in more detail under the themes below, relate to both direct disturbance and the wider effects of uncertainty, perceived environmental change and loss of control.
- 5.2.2 The main concerns related to stress, anxiety and uncertainty; landscape change and loss of tranquillity; access to nature and recreation; noise and disturbance; safety and perceived risk; community life and social connections; and the cumulative and long-term effects of multiple environmental changes and nearby infrastructure proposals. Respondents described potential effects including sleep disturbance, difficulty planning for

the future, reduced enjoyment of homes and outdoor spaces, loss of place attachment or “solastalgia”, isolation and reduced community cohesion.

- 5.2.3 Particular concern was expressed for nearby residents, including those living around Great Moulton, as well as older people, people with existing physical or mental health conditions, children and families, farmers and landowners, and people involved in prolonged consultation and Examination processes.

Landscape character, Amenity Values and Homes

- 5.2.4 Representations described the existing landscape as a tranquil rural environment characterised by open countryside, dark skies, low background noise and limited built development. These qualities were considered important to local amenity, community identity, sense of place, access to nature and mental wellbeing. Concerns were raised that solar infrastructure, substations, the BESS, overhead lines, fencing, lighting and access roads would industrialise the landscape, alter village character and reduce the area's peaceful and restorative qualities. Representations considered these changes could harm mental wellbeing by weakening connections to nature and place and reducing opportunities for walking, relaxation and social interaction.
- 5.2.5 Representations also raised concerns about effects on nearby homes, particularly from visual intrusion, noise, lighting and construction disturbance. Changes to views, rural character and environmental conditions were considered likely to reduce residential amenity, quality of life and enjoyment of homes and gardens. Some representations also raised concerns about potential impacts on property values, saleability and long-term financial security, resulting in stress and uncertainty. It was suggested that these effects may be felt most strongly by households closest to the Proposed Development and may not be fully captured by a population-level assessment.

Access to Nature, Recreation and Public Rights of Way

- 5.2.6 Representations described access to nature, green space, recreational routes and Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including footpaths, bridleways, byways and Quiet Lanes, as important for physical activity, mental wellbeing, social interaction and access to the countryside. Walking, cycling, horse riding, photography, wildlife observation and group activities were identified as valuable for relaxation, managing stress, maintaining social connections and enjoying the rural environment. The tranquillity, safety, connectivity and familiarity of these routes were considered particularly important, especially for children, older people, disabled people and those experiencing poor mental health who may rely more heavily on accessible local green spaces.
- 5.2.7 Concerns were raised that construction traffic, temporary closures or diversions, fencing, severance, noise and changes to views could reduce the

accessibility, safety, tranquillity and enjoyment of these routes. Representations noted that retaining routes would not necessarily preserve their existing character or users' experience if paths became enclosed or passed through a more industrialised landscape. It was considered that the loss of rural character, visual intrusion and reduced restorative value could discourage use, reduce opportunities for exercise, social participation and contact with nature, and result in adverse effects on wellbeing and mental health.

Community Life and Social Connections

- 5.2.8 Representations raised concerns that the Scheme could affect community life by disrupting the places, routes and activities that support everyday social interaction. Village walking groups, Public Rights of Way, community facilities, local businesses and recreational spaces were described as important for helping people meet, stay active and maintain social connections. Concerns were raised that construction traffic, temporary route diversions, reduced access to facilities, changes to the rural environment and potential effects on local businesses could disrupt established routines, reduce participation in community activities and increase feelings of loneliness or isolation.
- 5.2.9 Representations also suggested that the scale and cumulative nature of the Scheme could affect community cohesion, sense of belonging and trust within local communities. Some respondents described a shared psychological burden associated with ongoing uncertainty and a perceived lack of control over local change, and expressed concerns about feeling unheard, excluded or pushed out of their local environment. Questions were also raised about whether consultation had been fully accessible for older people, disabled people and those without reliable digital access, which some considered may have limited participation. It was further suggested that the Scheme's adverse effects would be concentrated within host communities while benefits would be more widely distributed, leading to concerns about fairness and community cohesion. Particular concerns were raised for older people, disabled people, people with existing mental health conditions and those without access to a private vehicle, who may rely more heavily on local facilities, routes and social networks.

Construction Impacts

- 5.2.10 Representations raised concerns that construction activity and associated traffic could affect mental health and wellbeing. Particular concerns related to heavy plant and HGV movements, road closures, noise, vibration, dust, increased air pollution and prolonged disruption during construction. Respondents considered that temporary closures, diversions, managed crossings and increased vehicle movements could disrupt daily travel, recreation and social activities, reduce access to familiar roads and Public Rights of Way, and create safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Particular concerns were also raised about road safety, school

travel, access to healthcare and community facilities, and potential impacts on emergency access. Concerns were raised that ongoing or unpredictable construction activity could lead to stress, anxiety, fatigue, sleep disturbance and reduced enjoyment of homes, gardens and outdoor spaces.

- 5.2.11 Children, older people, disabled and neurodivergent people, carers, people with existing physical or mental health conditions, people with sensory sensitivities and those working from home were identified as groups who may be more affected by these impacts.

Vulnerable Population Groups

- 5.2.12 Representations identified several population groups that may be more sensitive to disruption, environmental change, uncertainty or changes to familiar places and routines. These included older people, children and young people, disabled and neurodivergent people, carers, people with existing physical or mental health conditions, people with sensory sensitivities, farmers and landowners, and people without access to private transport. Concerns related both to greater exposure and to reduced ability to avoid, adapt to or recover from adverse changes.

Operational Noise and Vibration

- 5.2.13 Representations raised concerns that operational noise from the BESS, substations, transformers, inverters and tracker motors could affect mental wellbeing. Respondents referred particularly to continuous or low-frequency hum and vibration, which they considered could alter the quiet rural acoustic environment, reduce enjoyment of homes and gardens, and contribute to anxiety, distress and sleep disruption. Some considered that these effects could arise even where predicted noise levels remained below the relevant assessment criteria.

Safety and Perceived Risk

- 5.2.14 Representations raised concerns regarding battery energy storage systems, substations and associated electrical infrastructure. Specific concerns included thermal runaway, fire, explosion, toxic smoke, firewater contamination and emergency response arrangements. Some respondents were concerned about the proximity of energy infrastructure to homes and villages and questioned the consequences of a major incident.
- 5.2.15 Representations frequently distinguished between the likelihood of an incident and the effect of living with a perceived risk. Concerns were expressed that uncertainty regarding battery safety, fire response and longer-term operational risks may contribute to anxiety and affect residents' sense of safety. Several respondents argued that concern regarding a potential incident may itself influence wellbeing regardless of the assessed likelihood of occurrence.

- 5.2.16 Concerns were also raised regarding personal safety and the experience of using PRow, particularly by women and girls.

Consultation, Engagement and Trust

- 5.2.17 Representations raised concerns regarding the consultation and Examination process itself. Respondents referred to consultation fatigue, repeated engagement activities, the volume of project-related correspondence and concerns that community views had not been adequately reflected within the planning process.
- 5.2.18 Concerns were also raised regarding accessibility of information, transparency of decision-making and ongoing uncertainty regarding future project stages. Several respondents suggested that the burden associated with engagement, land acquisition discussions and participation in multiple energy infrastructure consultations contributed to stress and anxiety independently of any future environmental effects.

Cumulative Effects

- 5.2.19 Representations repeatedly argued that the overall effects of the Scheme could not be understood by considering individual environmental topics in isolation. Concerns focused on the interaction between landscape change, noise, traffic, access restrictions, construction disruption, perceived risks, uncertainty and wider environmental change.
- 5.2.20 Particular concern was expressed regarding the concentration of infrastructure around Great Moulton, Tivetshall St Margaret and Wacton, including the combined presence of substations, battery storage infrastructure, solar arrays, compounds and associated development. Respondents also referred to the potential interaction between the Scheme and other existing, approved or proposed energy developments in the wider area. Concerns therefore extended beyond individual environmental effects and focused on the overall burden experienced by communities exposed to multiple sources of change simultaneously.

Neurodivergence

- 5.2.21 Several representations raised concerns that neurodivergent people, particularly autistic people and those with sensory sensitivities, may be disproportionately affected by construction noise, vibration, traffic and environmental change, as well as potential long-term operational noise from substations and the BESS. Concerns were also expressed that conventional assessment methods may not fully reflect the experiences of neurodivergent individuals.

5.3 Response to Key and Outstanding Comments on Mental Health and Wellbeing Effects

- 5.3.1 The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in representations regarding the potential effects of the Scheme and the Examination process on mental health and wellbeing, including stress, anxiety, uncertainty, sleep disturbance and wider effects on quality of life.
- 5.3.2 This section responds to the principal themes raised in representations and explains the pathways through which the Scheme may influence human health, mental health and wellbeing. It also identifies and signposts the mitigation, management and monitoring measures incorporated into the Scheme to avoid, reduce or manage potential adverse effects. In response to matters raised during the Examination, it provides further detail on pathways including uncertainty, perceived environmental change, place attachment, access to nature, social participation and cumulative wellbeing effects.

Landscape character, Amenity Values and Homes

- 5.3.3 The effects of the Scheme on landscape character, tranquillity, access to nature, residential amenity and wellbeing have been assessed through **ES Volume 1: Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [APP-043]**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). These assessments recognise that landscape character, visual amenity, tranquillity, recreation and connection to nature can contribute positively to wellbeing, sense of place and quality of life (**see section 18.6.11 of the Human Health Statement and sections 7.3.17 and 7.45 of the EqIA**).
- 5.3.4 Representations raised concerns regarding the industrialisation of the landscape, loss of tranquillity, changes to village character and effects on residential amenity. These matters were assessed through the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, which considered the effects of the Scheme on landscape character, visual amenity and the surrounding environment. The assessment identifies significant landscape and visual effects during construction and, at a limited number of locations, during operation where substations, the BESS or solar infrastructure are located close to residential receptors or Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (**Sections 7.8.10 to 7.8.27 of ES Volume 1: Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [APP-043]**). However, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that these effects would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and matures and are not anticipated to result in significant adverse long-term effects on human health (**see sections 18.6.122 to 18.6.124**).
- 5.3.5 Concerns regarding property values, saleability and financial security have also been considered through the **EqIA** and in responses submitted during Examination. The Applicant recognises that some individuals may experience stress, anxiety or uncertainty relating to perceived effects on property values and homes (**see section 8.2. construction phase: Mental**

health related equality effects) .However, the **EqIA** notes that evidence regarding the effects of large-scale solar developments on property values is mixed and limited and concludes significant negative equality effects are unlikely at population level. The assessment nevertheless recognises that uncertainty or concern regarding homes, property values and future plans may contribute to stress or anxiety for some individuals. The Applicant therefore considers that the relevant pathways have been assessed. The assessment recognises the potential for localised adverse wellbeing effects among some residents but does not identify a likely significant effect at population or identified vulnerable-group level.

- 5.3.6 Taking account of the assessment findings and secured mitigation, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that landscape and visual effects are not anticipated to result in significant adverse long-term effects on human health. The **EqIA** similarly concludes that significant negative equality impacts are unlikely. The Applicant therefore remains satisfied that concerns relating to landscape character, amenity values, homes and wellbeing have been appropriately assessed.

Operational Noise and Vibration

- 5.3.7 The potential effects of operational noise and vibration on mental health and wellbeing have been considered through **ES Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**. Representations raised concerns that operational noise from the BESS, substations, transformers, inverters and tracker motors could contribute to stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance and reduced enjoyment of homes and gardens, particularly within the rural environment.
- 5.3.8 The Applicant recognises that concerns regarding operational noise may arise even where noise levels comply with relevant assessment criteria. The **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA** acknowledge that perceived disturbance, loss of tranquillity and concern regarding ongoing operational activity may influence wellbeing for some individuals. These matters have been considered through the noise assessment, which includes operational noise from substations, the BESS and tracker motors, together with embedded mitigation and operational noise controls secured through the Outline OEMP. Taking account of the assessment findings and secured mitigation, the Applicant remains satisfied that operational noise and vibration effects relevant to mental health and wellbeing have been appropriately assessed and are not anticipated to result in significant adverse long-term effects.

Access to Nature, Recreation and Public Rights of Way

- 5.3.9 The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the importance of access to nature, green space, recreational routes and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) for physical activity, mental wellbeing, social interaction and

access to the countryside. These matters have been considered through the **Transport and Access Assessment within ES Volume 1: Chapter 11 – Transport and Access [APP-047]**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA** which recognise that access to recreational routes, opportunities for physical activity, social participation, community connectivity and connection to nature are important determinants of health and wellbeing.

- 5.3.10 In response to concerns raised regarding temporary route closures, diversions, severance and construction traffic, the Transport and Access Assessment and **Human Health Summary Statement** specifically considered effects on 84 PRow within the Order Limits, including the Boudicca Way (section 18.6.128 of human health summary). The assessments acknowledge that temporary restrictions, diversions and changes to the walking environment may affect users' experience of recreational routes and access to green space, particularly for older people, disabled people, children and other groups who may be more reliant on accessible local routes. However, no permanent PRow closures are proposed, and the effects are anticipated to be temporary and localised (detailed in Section 18.6.129 and 18.6.131 of Human Health Statement).
- 5.3.11 Concerns regarding the loss of tranquillity, changes to landscape character and the potential reduction in enjoyment of recreational routes have been considered through the **ES Volume 1: Chapter 7 – Landscape & Visual [APP-043]**, **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA**. These assessments recognise that landscape character, visual amenity and connection to nature can influence wellbeing and recreational experience (see section 18.6.11 of the Human Health Statement and sections 7.3.17 and 7.45 of the **EqIA**). The Applicant has responded separately to concerns relating to landscape character, tranquillity and visual amenity elsewhere in this document.
- 5.3.12 Measures to maintain access and minimise disruption are secured through the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203]**. These include advance notification of closures, signage, alternative routes where necessary, reduced vehicle speeds, traffic marshal support, managed crossings and route reinstatement following construction. The Plan seeks to maintain safe access to PRow, promoted routes and permissive paths throughout the Scheme lifecycle wherever practicable (see section 4.3).
- 5.3.13 The Scheme also includes three new permissive paths to improve connectivity with the wider PRow network and provide additional opportunities for recreation, active travel and access to green space during operation. The **EqIA** identifies these enhancements as measures that could support health and wellbeing through improved access to nature, recreation and social participation (see section 8.2 , *Operational phase, Changes and connectivity to Public Rights of Way and recreational access*).

- 5.3.14 Having regard to the assessment findings, secured mitigation and proposed access enhancements, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that transport and access effects are not anticipated to give rise to significant adverse effects on human health. Similarly, the **EqIA** concludes that significant negative equality impacts are unlikely. The assessment recognises that retaining the legal availability of a route does not necessarily preserve its existing character, tranquillity or recreational experience. Nevertheless, taking account of maintained or reinstated access, route-management measures, landscape mitigation and the proposed permissive paths, no likely significant adverse effect on mental health and wellbeing is identified at population or identified vulnerable-group level.

Community Life and Social Connections

- 5.3.15 Potential effects on community life, social participation, community cohesion and social connections have been considered through the **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA**.
- 5.3.16 The assessments considered concerns relating to disruption to community activities, local facilities, recreational routes and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) arising from construction traffic, temporary diversions and access restrictions. The **EqIA** identifies that temporary disruption to community infrastructure and open space could contribute to community severance, reduced social participation and an increased risk of loneliness or isolation, particularly for older people, disabled people and those without access to a private vehicle (see section 7.3.13 of **EqIA**). However, these effects are anticipated to be temporary and localised, with no permanent PRoW closures proposed (**Human Health Summary Statement** section 18.6.132; **EqIA** section 8.2, Construction Phase; Severance to PRoW or changes to journey length or time, or access to community infrastructure and open spaces).
- 5.3.17 Measures to maintain access, connectivity and opportunities for social participation are secured through the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203], Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-201] and Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196]. These measures include temporary traffic management, alternative routes where necessary, advance notification of closures, signage, banksmen, reduced vehicle speeds and route reinstatement following completion of works. The Scheme also includes three new permissive paths intended to improve connectivity with the wider PRoW network and provide additional opportunities for recreation, active travel and social interaction during operation.
- 5.3.18 Concerns regarding participation in decision-making and feelings of exclusion are addressed separately below under Consultation, Engagement and Trust.
- 5.3.19 Taking account of the embedded mitigation, access enhancements and ongoing engagement commitments, the **Human Health Summary**

Statement concludes that transport and access effects are not anticipated to give rise to significant adverse effects on human health, while the **EqIA** concludes that significant negative equality impacts are unlikely. The Applicant therefore remains satisfied that concerns relating to community life and social connections have been appropriately assessed.

Construction Impacts

- 5.3.20 Potential effects on health and wellbeing arising from construction activity, construction traffic, noise, vibration, air quality, access and community connectivity have been assessed through **ES Volume 1: Chapter 11 – Transport and Access [APP-047]**, **ES Volume 1: Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [APP-048]**, **ES Volume 1: Chapter 13 – Air Quality [APP-049]**, **the Human Health Summary Statement and EqIA**. These assessments recognise that temporary disruption, environmental disturbance and changes to access can influence health and wellbeing through pathways including stress, anxiety, perceived safety, physical activity, recreation and community connectivity.
- 5.3.21 The **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA** considered concerns relating to construction traffic, HGV movements, road closures, diversions, managed crossings, noise, vibration, dust and air quality. These assessments recognise that temporary disruption to travel patterns, recreational routes and access to services may affect physical activity, perceptions of safety and wellbeing. Potential effects on access to schools, healthcare facilities, community facilities, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and recreational routes were also considered (section 18.6.132; **Human Health Summary Statement** and section 8.2, Construction Phase; Severance to PRoW or changes to journey length or time, or access to community infrastructure and open spaces).
- 5.3.22 Measures to minimise disruption and maintain accessibility are secured through the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-201], Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196] and Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203]. These include defined construction routes, delivery scheduling, traffic management measures, reduced vehicle speeds, banksmen, signage, advance notification of closures, alternative routes where necessary and route reinstatement following works. No permanent PRoW closures are proposed.
- 5.3.23 With regard to concerns regarding noise, vibration, sleep disturbance and reduced enjoyment of home. The **EqIA** identify that temporary construction noise and vibration may occur, particularly during higher-impact activities, but conclude that effects would be temporary and managed through embedded mitigation measures, including silenced plant, acoustic enclosures, screening, working hour restrictions and other controls secured through the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan**

[APP-196] (see section 8.2, construction phase, elevated noise and vibration levels) .

- 5.3.24 Potential effects arising from construction dust and traffic-related emissions have also been assessed. The **Human Health Summary Statement** identifies that older people, children, disabled people, pregnant people and those with existing respiratory or health conditions may be more sensitive to air quality effects. However, with mitigation secured through the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196]**, including dust suppression, wheel washing, housekeeping measures and sustainable travel measures for construction workers, the assessment concludes that effects on human health would not be significant (see sections 18.6.152 to 18.6.155).
- 5.3.25 Taking account of the assessed effects and secured mitigation measures, the **Human Health Summary Statement** concludes that construction effects are temporary, localised and not anticipated to give rise to significant adverse effects on population health. The **EqIA** similarly concludes that significant negative equality impacts are unlikely. The Applicant therefore remains satisfied that concerns relating to construction activity, traffic, access, noise, air quality and associated effects on health and wellbeing have been appropriately assessed.

Vulnerable Population Groups

- 5.3.26 The potential effects of the Scheme on vulnerable population groups have been considered through the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**, which recognise that some people may be more sensitive to environmental change, disruption, uncertainty and changes to familiar places and routines. This includes older people, children and young people, disabled and neurodivergent people, people with existing physical or mental health conditions, carers and those with limited access to transport.
- 5.3.27 Representations raised concerns that these groups may experience disproportionate mental health and wellbeing effects, including increased stress, anxiety or reduced wellbeing arising from construction activity, environmental change and uncertainty. The **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA** consider these vulnerabilities throughout the assessment and identify measures to reduce disturbance and maintain access, including controls on noise, traffic and lighting, management of PRowS and ongoing community engagement. Taking account of the assessment findings and secured mitigation, the Applicant remains satisfied that the mental health and wellbeing needs of vulnerable population groups have been appropriately considered and that significant adverse long-term effects are unlikely.

Safety and Perceived Risk

- 5.3.28 Concerns regarding the safety of the BESS, substations and associated electrical infrastructure, and the potential implications for mental health and wellbeing, have been considered through **ES Chapter 17: Electromagnetic Fields**, the relevant engineering and safety assessments, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**. Representations raised concerns regarding thermal runaway, fire, explosion, toxic smoke, firewater contamination and emergency response arrangements, as well as the proximity of energy infrastructure to homes and villages.
- 5.3.29 The Applicant recognises that perceived risk and uncertainty may influence mental wellbeing independently of the assessed likelihood of an incident occurring. The **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA** acknowledge that concerns regarding safety, future operational risks and loss of perceived control can contribute to feelings of stress or anxiety for some individuals. These matters have been considered alongside the technical assessments and through the implementation of embedded design and safety measures, including compliance with relevant standards, the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) and emergency response procedures. Taking account of the assessment findings and secured mitigation, the Applicant remains satisfied that concerns relating to safety, perceived risk and associated mental health and wellbeing effects have been appropriately considered and are not anticipated to result in significant adverse long-term effects.
- 5.3.30 The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding personal safety, particularly by women and girls using PRow and permissive routes. The **EqIA** recognises that perceptions of safety can influence willingness to use walking routes and access green space, with some groups potentially more sensitive to changes in route character, enclosure, visibility or activity levels. To address these concerns, the Scheme has been designed to retain and enhance access where practicable, including the provision of permissive paths, management of PRow corridors, clear wayfinding, and maintenance measures intended to support safe and accessible use. The Applicant considers that these measures, together with continued access to the PRow network and ongoing management of routes, would help maintain opportunities for recreation, active travel and access to nature during operation (see sections 7.4.2 to 7.4.4).

Consultation, Engagement and Trust

- 5.3.31 Concerns regarding consultation, engagement and trust have been considered through the **Consultation Report [APP-024]**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**. Respondents raised concerns regarding consultation fatigue, the volume of engagement activities, accessibility of information, transparency of decision-making and ongoing uncertainty relating to the Scheme. The Applicant recognises that these

factors can contribute to stress, anxiety and reduced wellbeing independently of environmental effects.

- 5.3.32 The Applicant has sought to address these concerns through an extensive programme of consultation and engagement undertaken throughout the development of the Scheme, including statutory consultation, targeted consultation and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and local communities. The **Human Health Summary Statement** and **EqIA** acknowledge that uncertainty, perceived lack of control and concern regarding future change can influence mental wellbeing for some individuals. However, they also recognise that consultation and engagement provide opportunities for information-sharing, participation and consideration of community concerns throughout the planning process. Taking account of the information provided through the consultation process and the wider assessment findings, the Applicant remains satisfied that concerns relating to consultation, engagement, trust and associated mental health and wellbeing effects have been appropriately considered.

Cumulative Effects

- 5.3.33 The potential cumulative effects of the Scheme on mental health and wellbeing have been considered through the topic-specific ES assessments, **ES Chapter 19: In-Combination Effects Assessment**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**. These assessments recognise that mental wellbeing may be influenced by the interaction of multiple factors, including environmental change, noise, traffic, access restrictions, disruption to daily routines, uncertainty and perceptions of risk.
- 5.3.34 Representations raised concerns that communities, particularly around Great Moulton, Tivetshall St Margaret and Wacton, may experience the combined effects of landscape change, noise, traffic, construction activity and other sources of environmental change. These matters have been considered through the in-combination assessment and the **Human Health Summary Statement**, which draws together findings from across the **ES** to consider how multiple pathways may interact to influence wellbeing. Relevant mitigation includes controls on construction traffic, noise and lighting, landscape screening and planting, management of PROWs and permissive routes, and ongoing environmental management secured through the Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP and Outline LEMP. The cumulative assessments also consider the interaction of the Scheme with other existing, approved and proposed developments. Taking account of the assessment findings and secured mitigation, the Applicant remains satisfied that cumulative effects on mental health and wellbeing have been appropriately assessed and are not anticipated to result in significant adverse long-term effects.
- 5.3.35 The **EqIA** recognises that some individuals may experience heightened feelings of stress, anxiety, uncertainty or concern as a result of cumulative environmental change, particularly where multiple changes occur within a

familiar local environment over an extended period. However, the **EqIA** and **Human Health Summary Statement** conclude that, taking account of the secured mitigation and management measures, significant adverse long-term effects on mental health and wellbeing are unlikely. The Applicant also acknowledges that population-level conclusions do not imply that no individual may experience concern, anxiety or distress in response to the Scheme.

- 5.3.36 Taking account of the topic-specific assessments, the in-combination assessment, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**, the Applicant remains satisfied that concerns regarding cumulative effects on mental health and wellbeing have been appropriately assessed. Whilst some temporary adverse effects on wellbeing may occur during construction as a result of multiple concurrent sources of change, the assessments conclude that these effects would reduce over time, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse long-term effects on mental health and wellbeing, and are appropriately managed through the mitigation secured as part of the Scheme.

Neurodivergence

- 5.3.37 The potential for effects on neurodivergent people, including autistic people and people with sensory sensitivities, has been considered within the **Human Health Summary Statement** (see section 18.6.150) and the **EqIA** (see section 7 particularly sections 7.3.6, 7.3.15, 7.3.17, 7.3.22 and 7.4.10). The **Human Health Summary Statement** acknowledges that people with a long-term illness or disability may be more sensitive to environmental changes and disturbance, while the **EqIA** considers the potential for differential effects on disabled people and those with mental or cognitive impairments.
- 5.3.38 Representations raised concerns that construction noise, vibration, traffic movements and environmental change could disproportionately affect neurodivergent individuals. These matters have been addressed through **ES Volume 1: Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [APP-048]**, **ES Volume 1: Chapter 11 – Transport and Access [APP-047]**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**. The Noise and Vibration assessment identifies temporary noise effects during construction and assesses operational noise from substations, the BESS and associated infrastructure, with embedded mitigation including construction noise controls secured through the Outline CEMP and operational noise limits secured through the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OOEMP).
- 5.3.39 The Applicant recognises that neurodivergent people may experience noise, traffic disruption and changes to familiar environments differently from the general population, and that these experiences may not always be fully reflected through conventional population-level assessment methodologies. For this reason, the **EqIA** considers potential differential effects on disabled people and people with cognitive, sensory or mental health conditions,

alongside the findings of the ES. The assessment also acknowledges that uncertainty, perceived environmental change and construction activity can contribute to stress or anxiety for some individuals, even where significant environmental effects are not predicted.

- 5.3.40 Mitigation measures relevant to neurodivergent people include management of construction traffic through the Outline CTMP, controls on construction noise, vibration, lighting and site activities through the Outline CEMP, and the retention and management of PRowWs and permissive paths through the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan. These measures are intended to minimise disturbance, maintain safe access where practicable and reduce disruption to local communities during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 5.3.41 Mitigation measures of particular relevance to neurodivergent people include measures to reduce sensory disturbance and environmental disruption. These include the use of silenced plant, acoustic enclosures, temporary screening and working controls to reduce construction noise and vibration; clear signage, advance notification of route changes and management of PRowWs and permissive paths to maintain route accessibility and familiarity; and landscape planting, screening and lighting controls to reduce visual disturbance and support gradual integration of the Scheme into the surrounding environment.
- 5.3.42 Taking account of the findings of the **ES**, the **Human Health Summary Statement** and the **EqIA**, the Applicant is satisfied that the potential effects relevant to neurodivergent people have been appropriately considered. Whilst individual experiences may vary, the assessments conclude that, with embedded mitigation in place, significant adverse long-term effects on human health, wellbeing or equality outcomes for neurodivergent people are not anticipated. Population-level conclusions do not imply that no individual may experience concern or disturbance; however, the Applicant considers that the assessment and mitigation secured through the Scheme provide an appropriate and proportionate response to the issues raised.

5.4 Summary

- 5.4.1 Section 5 considers the matters raised during the Examination and their potential implications for mental health and wellbeing. Table 5.1 provides a consolidated summary of the key themes, the relevant effect pathways and population groups, the existing assessment and mitigation measures, and the conclusions reached for each matter.

Table 5-1: Summary of Mental Health and Wellbeing Themes Raised During Examination, Applicant Responses, and Implications for Existing Assessment Conclusions

Theme	Issue Raised During Examination	Supporting Assessments / Applicant Response	Does the Addendum Change the Existing Conclusions?
Landscape, amenity and homes	Concerns regarding industrialisation of the landscape, loss of tranquillity, visual intrusion, effects on homes, gardens, place attachment and wellbeing. Concerns regarding property values and uncertainty.	Assessed in ES Chapter 7 - Landscape & Visual [APP-043], the Human Health Summary Statement and EqIA. Existing assessments recognise landscape character, visual amenity, tranquillity and connection to nature as wellbeing pathways. Significant visual effects occur in some locations but reduce over time with mitigation planting. Property-value concerns acknowledged as a source of stress and anxiety but not assessed as a significant equality effect.	No. The Addendum provides additional consideration of place attachment, enjoyment of homes and gardens, tranquillity, sense of place, uncertainty relating to future change, and concerns regarding property values. Whilst recognising that some individuals may experience stress, anxiety or reduced enjoyment of their home environment, it concludes that significant adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing are not likely at population or identified vulnerable-group level.
Access to nature, recreation and PRoW	Concerns that PRoW closures, diversions, fencing, severance and loss of tranquillity would reduce access to nature and recreational value of routes.	Assessed in ES Chapter 11 – Transport and Access [APP-047], the Human Health Summary Statement [APP-054] and the EqIA [APP-214]. Temporary disruption acknowledged. Mitigation includes the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203], route management measures, reinstatement and three new permissive paths. The Addendum also considers concerns regarding route character, tranquillity, recreational experience and access to nature as wellbeing pathways.	No. The Addendum confirms that access to nature, recreation, physical activity and connection to the countryside are important wellbeing pathways. Whilst acknowledging that retaining access does not necessarily preserve route character or recreational experience, it concludes that maintained access, mitigation and new permissive routes mean no likely significant adverse effect on mental health and wellbeing.
Community life and social connections	Concerns regarding isolation, reduced social participation, impacts on local groups, community	Considered in Human Health Summary Statement and EqIA through community severance, access and participation pathways. Mitigation includes PRoW management, traffic management and community engagement.	No. The Addendum provides additional consideration of community cohesion, social participation, loneliness, social isolation and access to community facilities. Whilst recognising concerns regarding

	facilities and cohesion.		disruption to established social networks and community activities, it concludes that significant adverse effects on wellbeing are unlikely.
Construction impacts	Concerns regarding HGVs, road closures, noise, vibration, dust, access disruption, stress, anxiety and reduced enjoyment of homes.	Assessed in ES Chapter 11- Transport and Access [APP-047], ES Chapter 12 - Noise and Vibration [APP-048], ES Chapter 13 – Air Quality [APP-049], Human Health Summary Statement and the EqIA. Traffic, air quality and noise effects assessed as temporary and not significant following mitigation.	No. The Addendum recognises that temporary wellbeing effects may occur but confirms the Human Health Summary Statement conclusion that significant adverse population-level effects are not anticipated.
Vulnerable population groups	Concerns that older people, children, disabled and neurodivergent people, carers and those with existing conditions may be disproportionately affected.	Explicitly assessed within the EqIA and Human Health Summary Statement . Vulnerable groups identified as potentially more sensitive to environmental change, noise, disruption and access changes.	No. The Addendum confirms that these groups were assessed and that significant adverse equality or wellbeing effects are unlikely with mitigation.
Operational noise and vibration	Concerns regarding BESS hum, substations, transformers, vibration, sleep disturbance and anxiety.	Assessed in ES Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [APP-048], the Human Health Summary Statement [APP-054] and EqIA [APP-214]. Additional mitigation is secured through the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197] and Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213]. Residual effects are assessed as minor adverse or negligible and not significant.	No. The Addendum confirms the existing conclusion that operational noise is not anticipated to result in significant adverse mental health and wellbeing effects.
Safety and perceived risk	Concerns regarding BESS fires, thermal runaway, smoke, contamination and proximity of infrastructure to homes. Concerns were also raised regarding personal safety and the experience of using PRoW, particularly by women and girls	Assessed through the Human Health Summary Statement [APP-054] , EqIA [APP-214] and Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [APP-200] . Existing assessments recognise that perceived risk, uncertainty and loss of perceived control may affect wellbeing. The Addendum also considers perceptions of personal safety for women and girls using PRoW and permissive routes.	No. The Addendum confirms that perceived risk is a valid wellbeing pathway and acknowledges concerns relating to both infrastructure safety and personal safety. It concludes that secured mitigation, route management measures and safety controls mean significant adverse mental health and wellbeing effects are not anticipated.
Consultation, engagement and trust	Concerns regarding consultation fatigue, volume of correspondence, uncertainty and	Considered through the Consultation Report [APP-024] , Human Health Summary Statement and EqIA . Consultation and ongoing engagement are recognised as important for reducing uncertainty.	No. The Addendum provides additional consideration of consultation fatigue, accessibility of information,

	feelings of not being heard.		transparency, uncertainty, feelings of exclusion and trust in the planning process. It also introduces wellbeing management principles and a monitoring and review framework intended to reduce avoidable uncertainty and respond to recurring concerns.
Cumulative effects	Concerns that combined effects of landscape change, noise, traffic, infrastructure and other schemes have not been properly considered.	Cumulative and in-combination effects assessed through ES Chapter 19 – In-Combination Effects Assessment [APP-055] , Human Health Summary Statement and EqlA . Existing assessments recognise cumulative wellbeing pathways.	No. The Addendum tests the cumulative pathways in more detail but reaches the same conclusion that no likely significant adverse cumulative effect on mental health and wellbeing is anticipated.
Neurodivergence	Concerns regarding construction noise, sensory sensitivities, environmental change and operational noise.	Assessed through the Human Health Summary Statement [APP-054] and EqlA [APP-214] . Neurodivergent people are recognised as potentially more sensitive to environmental change, noise, vibration, disruption to familiar routes and sensory disturbance. The Addendum also identifies mitigation measures of particular relevance to neurodivergent people, including noise controls, route management measures, clear signage, advance notification of changes and landscape screening.	No. The Addendum provides additional consideration of neurodivergence and sensory sensitivities, acknowledging that conventional population-level assessments may not fully capture individual experiences. However, it concludes that, with embedded mitigation, significant adverse long-term effects on human health, wellbeing or equality outcomes for neurodivergent people are not anticipated.

6 Wellbeing Management Principles

6.1 Purpose

- 6.1.1 The assessment does not identify a likely significant adverse effect on mental health and wellbeing at population or identified vulnerable-group level. It nevertheless recognises that some individuals and local communities may experience anxiety, disturbance, uncertainty, reduced enjoyment of homes and outdoor environments, or changes to their sense of place.
- 6.1.2 The Applicant will apply the following principles through the detailed design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. These principles draw on the importance of active travel, accessible open space, environmental quality, perceived safety, community connections and access to economic opportunities as determinants of health and wellbeing.
- 6.1.3 The principles bring together the relevant commitments already secured through the DCO and associated management plans. They do not introduce new clinical health services, duplicate existing controls or replace the requirements of those documents. Instead, they provide a clear framework for applying the secured measures in a way that supports mental health and wellbeing

Principle 1: Reduce Avoidable Uncertainty

- 6.1.4 Uncertainty about construction activities, access arrangements, environmental controls and operational safety may contribute to anxiety and reduce people's sense of control. The Applicant will seek to reduce avoidable uncertainty by providing clear, timely and proportionate information.
- 6.1.5 The **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196]** and **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197]** establish arrangements for stakeholder communication, community liaison, complaints management and information provision throughout construction and operation. Together, these measures provide the framework for reducing avoidable uncertainty. Requirement 4 of the draft DCO also expressly captures a commitment in respect of community liaison.
- 6.1.6 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:
- Implementing stakeholder communication and community engagement measures before and during construction activities;
 - Providing information, notifications and signage regarding construction activities, route closures, diversions and temporary changes affecting local communities;

- Providing contact details for community liaison representatives and maintaining procedures for receiving and responding to enquiries, concerns and complaints
- Recording concerns and complaints and taking appropriate action where required; and
- Provide timely updates where previously communicated arrangements change.

Principle 2: Maintain Accessible Routes and Opportunities for Recreation

- 6.1.7 Access to walking, cycling and recreational routes can support physical activity, contact with nature and social interaction. Temporary disruption, physical barriers or concerns about safety may affect route use, particularly among people who rely on familiar and accessible local routes. The Suffolk guidance identifies active travel and inclusive access to quality open space as important contributors to physical and mental wellbeing.
- 6.1.8 The **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203]** provides a framework for maintaining safe and accessible PROW, promoted walking routes and permissive paths throughout construction, operation and decommissioning. It includes measures for route management, temporary closures and diversions, signage, public information, reinstatement and stakeholder engagement, supporting continued access to recreation, active travel and the wider rights of way network.
- 6.1.9 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203]** including:
- Maintain access to PROW wherever reasonably practicable;
 - Minimise the extent and duration of temporary closures, restrictions or diversions;
 - Provide appropriate advance notice, signage and safe alternative arrangements where changes are necessary;
 - Maintaining safe access, convenient diversion routes and reasonable pedestrian access.
 - Reinstatement temporarily affected routes following completion of the relevant works; and
 - Provide clear information on the location, connectivity and availability of the proposed permissive paths.

Principle 3: Support Community Connections and Participation

- 6.1.10 The Suffolk guidance identifies social and community networks as important for resilience, reduced loneliness and improved health and wellbeing. It also recognises the importance of accessible community spaces and neighbourhood connections, particularly for an ageing population.
- 6.1.11 The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196], Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197] and the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203] include measures for community liaison, stakeholder engagement, management of PRow and permissive paths, and communication with local communities and service providers. Together, these measures are intended to support continued community participation, access to local services, and opportunities for social interaction throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.
- 6.1.12 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:
- Use the Community Liaison Group to facilitate communication between the Applicant, local residents, parish councils, relevant authorities and other organisations;
 - Engage with care providers, service providers and other relevant organisations where works may affect access to facilities or services;
 - Provide accessible opportunities for communities to raise Scheme-related concerns and receive responses;
 - Maintain access to PRow, permissive paths and other recreational routes in accordance with the relevant management plans; and
 - Consider how construction arrangements may affect access to community facilities, local services, walking groups and other activities that support social interaction.

Principle 4: Recognise Different Needs and Experiences

- 6.1.13 The Addendum identifies population groups that may be more sensitive to disruption, uncertainty, changes to familiar environments or reduced accessibility. These include older people, children and young people, disabled and neurodivergent people, carers, people with sensory sensitivities, people with existing physical or mental health conditions and people without access to private transport. The Suffolk guidance similarly emphasises that environments, open spaces and travel routes should be inclusive and accessible and should not leave particular groups excluded or isolated.
- 6.1.14 The communication, liaison, complaints management and access arrangements described under Principle 1 provide the primary means through which concerns relating to accessibility, inclusion and differing needs can be identified and considered. Through these measures, the

Applicant will seek to understand whether Scheme activities are creating avoidable barriers to participation, access or community wellbeing for particular groups.

- 6.1.15 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:
- Consider accessibility and inclusion when preparing communications and temporary access arrangements;
 - Consider whether temporary access arrangements could create avoidable barriers for some users;
 - Provide opportunities for concerns regarding accessibility and inclusion to be raised through established liaison and complaints processes; and
 - Review concerns indicating that an existing arrangement may be creating an avoidable barrier to access or participation.
- 6.1.16 These actions will not require the Applicant to collect medical information or make assumptions about individual needs.

Principle 5: Minimise Overlapping and Prolonged Disturbance

- 6.1.17 The Addendum recognises that mental health and wellbeing may be affected through the interaction of noise, traffic, dust, visual change, access restrictions and uncertainty. Effects may be experienced more strongly where several sources of disruption affect the same community or location at the same time.
- 6.1.18 The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196], Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197], Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-201] and Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203] include measures to manage traffic, PRoW, noise, air quality, community liaison and stakeholder engagement. Together, these measures are intended to minimise disruption where reasonably practicable and provide clear mechanisms for concerns to be raised and addressed.
- 6.1.19 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:
- Implementing traffic management, PRoW management and environmental control measures throughout construction and operation;
 - Providing information on construction activities, route closures, diversions and temporary changes that may affect local communities
 - Implementing measures to reduce noise, vibration, dust and traffic effects in accordance with the approved management plans;

- Maintaining liaison with local communities, stakeholders and relevant authorities during construction;
- Investigating concerns and complaints relating to construction and operational activities and taking appropriate action where required; and
- Reviewing management measures and updating detailed plans where necessary to respond to issues identified during the construction or operational phases;

Principle 6: Protect the Experience and Function of Green Infrastructure

- 6.1.20 Access to green space can support physical activity, relaxation, social interaction and mental wellbeing. The Suffolk guidance identifies inclusive, accessible and safe open spaces as important for health, while recognising that the loss or perceived unsafety of green space may discourage use and contribute to isolation.
- 6.1.21 The Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203] together with the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-199], provide for the long-term management of green infrastructure, including PRow buffers, open corridors, permissive paths, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and public access, helping to maintain access to nature, recreation and connectivity throughout the lifetime of the Scheme.
- 6.1.22 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:
- Maintaining PRow within open corridors and retaining buffers around routes during operation;
 - Providing and maintaining permissive paths that create new links within the existing PRow network and support public access;
 - Implementing approved landscape, planting and biodiversity enhancement measures secured through the Scheme;
 - Providing signage and information to support awareness and use of permissive paths and green infrastructure features;
 - Maintaining safe public access to Public Rights of Way and permissive paths throughout construction, operation and decommissioning; and
 - Monitoring and managing relevant landscape, ecological and access measures throughout the lifetime of the Scheme.
- 6.1.23 These actions do not imply that landscape mitigation will preserve all existing views or the existing character of every route.

Principle 7: Communicate Safety and Environmental Controls Clearly

- 6.1.24 The Addendum recognises a distinction between assessed technical risk and the wellbeing effects that may arise from uncertainty or perceived risk. Compliance with technical standards does not necessarily prevent some residents from experiencing concern.
- 6.1.25 The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196], Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197] and the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [APP-203] include measures for environmental protection, PRow management, emergency response, community liaison, complaints management and safety. Together, these measures support the provision of clear information to local communities on relevant environmental controls, access arrangements and safety measures.
- 6.1.26 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:
- Provide clear and accessible information on relevant environmental and safety controls;
 - Provide points of contact through which communities can raise concerns and seek further information;
 - Provide information on route management measures, temporary closures and diversions where relevant;
 - Investigate concerns and complaints relating to environmental or safety matters and take appropriate action where required; and
 - Communications should distinguish between assessed risk, preventive controls, incident-management arrangements and the process for raising concerns.

Principle 8: Support Access to Employment and Skills Opportunities

- 6.1.27 Good-quality employment can support wellbeing through income, social interaction, identity and purpose. The Suffolk guidance also emphasises that the accessibility and local relevance of employment opportunities influence whether local communities benefit from development.
- 6.1.28 The **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy [APP-205]** includes commitments relating to local recruitment, apprenticeships, skills development, training, STEM engagement, work experience opportunities and inclusive access to employment. It also establishes arrangements for monitoring, reporting and raising concerns. Together, these measures are intended to support access to employment, training and skills opportunities associated with the Scheme.

6.1.29 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy [APP-205]**, including:

- Communicating employment, training and supply-chain opportunities through accessible local channels;
- Supporting local recruitment, apprenticeships and skills-development initiatives
- Engaging with local education providers, training organisations and business networks to maximise awareness of and access to opportunities; and
- Maximising benefits to local businesses through procurement and supply-chain opportunities across all phases of the Scheme;

Principle 9: Respond Transparently to Concerns

6.1.30 The Applicant will maintain a clear route for raising Scheme-related concerns. Concerns will be considered on their merits and used, where relevant, to identify matters requiring clarification, investigation or management action.

6.1.31 The communication, liaison and complaints procedures described under Principle 1 provide the primary mechanism through which Scheme-related concerns can be raised, recorded, investigated and responded to. The **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-196]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-197]** include commitments relating to Community Liaison Managers, complaints procedures, contact points and the recording and investigation of concerns and complaints. Together, these measures provide a framework for responding to concerns in a transparent and proportionate manner.

6.1.32 The Applicant will implement the commitments set out within the relevant management plans, including:

- Acknowledge and record Scheme-related concerns;
- Providing opportunities for communities to raise concerns, enquiries and complaints;
- Maintaining a record of concerns and complaints received;
- Investigating concerns and complaints and taking appropriate action where required;
- Providing a response through the established liaison and complaints procedures;
- Identifying and implementing any corrective actions required in response to issues identified; and

- Retaining records of actions taken in response to complaints, concerns or incidents.
- 6.1.33 The fact that environmental limits are being met will not prevent the Applicant from considering whether clearer information or a practicable management adjustment could reduce avoidable uncertainty or disturbance.

7 Proposed Monitoring and Review Framework

7.1 Purpose

- 7.1.1 The Applicant will use existing environmental management and community liaison arrangements to review the implementation of the wellbeing principles and actions set out above. Monitoring will focus on Scheme-related matters within the Applicant's control and will not seek to monitor clinical mental health outcomes or attribute individual health conditions to the Scheme.
- 7.1.2 Relevant information will be drawn from the Community Liaison Group, complaints and enquiries records, environmental monitoring and the management plans secured through the DCO. This will avoid duplication and provide a proportionate means of identifying recurring concerns, checking that agreed measures are being implemented and determining whether further action is required.

7.2 Proposed Monitoring Framework

- 7.2.1 Table 7.1 sets out proposed matters that the Applicant will review through the Scheme's existing environmental management and community liaison arrangements. The framework is intended to avoid duplicating technical monitoring already secured through the DCO. It provides a proportionate means of checking that relevant measures are being implemented, identifying recurring or location-specific concerns, and determining whether further communication, investigation or management action is required.

Table 7-1 Proposed Monitoring Framework

Monitoring theme	Information to be reviewed	Potential response
Communication and engagement	Whether appropriate advance information has been provided for potentially disruptive works, traffic changes and temporary access restrictions. Principal themes raised through the Community Liaison Group and other engagement.	Improve the timing, clarity, accessibility or targeting of communications where recurring information gaps are identified.
Enquiries and complaints	General nature, location and frequency of Scheme-related enquiries and complaints, including whether similar concerns recur in relation to a particular activity or community.	Investigate recurring concerns and determine whether further explanation, liaison, technical review or a practicable management adjustment is appropriate.
Access and community connectivity	Implementation of temporary PRoW closures, diversions, managed crossings and reinstatement measures. Recurring concerns relating to accessibility, safety or route usability.	Review signage, notification, diversion or access arrangements through the relevant management plan.

Construction disturbance	Recurring concerns relating to noise, vibration, dust, lighting, traffic or several activities affecting the same receptors concurrently. Relevant environmental incidents, exceedances or non-conformances.	Refer the matter to the relevant technical lead and review whether additional inspection, communication or adjustment to working practices is required.
Operational controls and perceived risk	Completion and implementation of relevant operational controls. Recurring concerns relating to operational noise, BESS safety, water protection or EMF.	Provide clearer information or undertake proportionate technical review where concerns indicate a potential issue with the implementation or understanding of approved controls.
Landscape and recreational measures	Delivery of relevant planting, PRoW buffers and permissive paths in accordance with the approved plans. Recurring concerns about fencing, perceived enclosure or route experience.	Address failures in delivery or maintenance through the relevant management plan and allows alternatives to be considered.

7.3 Review and Action

7.3.1 Monitoring information will be reviewed through the relevant project-management arrangements and, where appropriate, discussed through the Community Liaison Group. Review will focus on whether:

- Similar concerns are being raised repeatedly;
- Concerns are concentrated around a particular location or activity;
- Multiple sources of disruption are affecting the same community;
- Agreed mitigation or management measures have been implemented;
- Communications have been sufficiently clear and accessible; or
- Proportionate corrective or preventive action is required.

7.3.2 Further review will not be triggered by every individual enquiry. It will be appropriate where there is a recurring pattern, a failure to implement an agreed measure, an environmental incident or non-conformance, or evidence that an existing arrangement is creating an avoidable access or communication issue.

7.3.3 Potential actions may include:

- Clearer or more targeted information;
- Improved advance notification;
- Review of temporary access or traffic arrangements;
- Additional inspection or technical monitoring;

- Adjustment of working practices where reasonably practicable; or
- Referral to the relevant technical lead, contractor, local authority or statutory body.

7.3.4 The outcome of any review and the action taken will be recorded. Concerns will be distinguished from confirmed non-compliance, and personal or medical information will not be included in community-facing reporting.

7.4 Reporting and Review of the Framework

7.4.1 A proportionate summary of recurring themes and relevant actions will be reported through the Community Liaison Group during construction. Reporting will identify:

- The principal issues raised;
- Any investigation or review undertaken;
- Corrective actions completed or in progress; and
- Where relevant, why no further project action was considered necessary.

7.4.2 The framework will not establish clinical health surveillance or require residents to disclose medical information. Issues requiring clinical, safeguarding or emergency support will be directed to the appropriate statutory or emergency services.

7.4.3 The framework will be reviewed only where monitoring identifies a recurring issue not adequately addressed through existing measures, a relevant management plan is materially updated, or a material change to the Scheme or construction programme affects the wellbeing pathways considered in this Addendum.

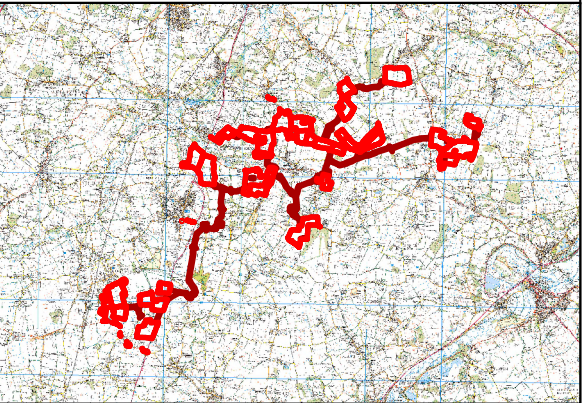
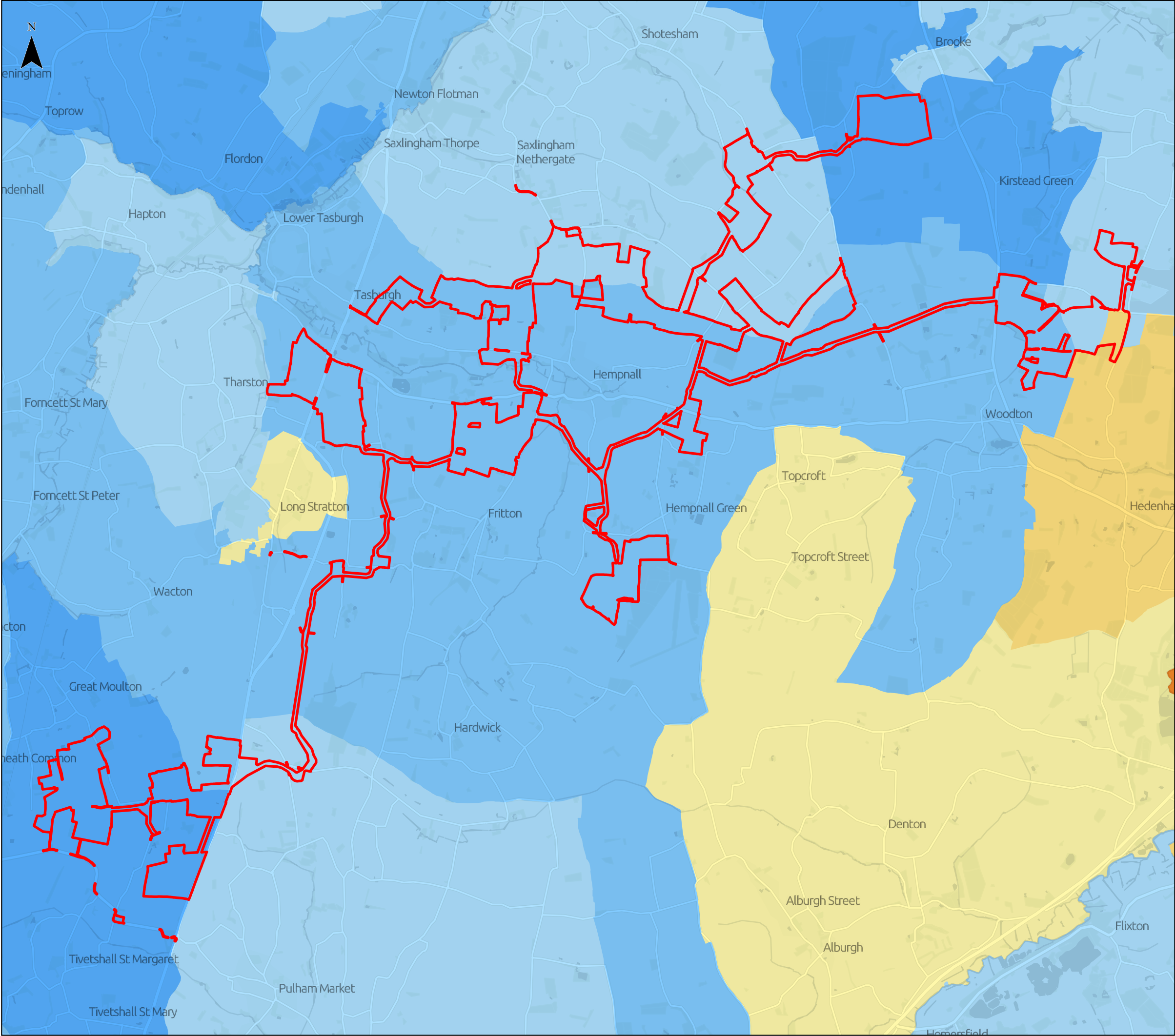
7.4.4 This approach provides a proportionate mechanism for checking implementation and responding to emerging issues without duplicating the environmental controls already secured through the Scheme.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1.1 This Addendum has been prepared to provide a supporting and consolidated summary of the assessment of mental health and wellbeing effects associated with the East Pye Solar Scheme. It draws together the relevant findings of the Environmental Statement, including the **Human Health Summary Statement within ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Other Environmental Matters [APP-054], the Equality Impact Assessment [APP-214]**, and the additional evidence and representations submitted during the Examination.
- 8.1.2 This Addendum demonstrates that the potential effects of the Scheme on mental health and wellbeing have been suitably considered and proportionately assessed. This includes effects associated with uncertainty and perceived loss of control; construction disturbance; changes to landscape, views, tranquillity and sense of place; access to nature, recreation and Public Rights of Way; community connectivity; perceived safety and environmental risks; and potential in-combination and cumulative effects. Particular consideration has also been given to people who may be more sensitive to these changes, including children and young people, older people, disabled and neurodivergent people, carers, and people with existing physical or mental health conditions.
- 8.1.3 The Addendum also considers the matters raised by Interested Parties and the Examining Authority during the Examination and the Applicant's response to these concerns. It recognises that some individuals may experience anxiety, distress, sleep disturbance, reduced enjoyment of their homes or outdoor spaces, or concern about changes to the local environment. However, taking account of the Scheme design and the mitigation, management and engagement measures secured through the Development Consent Order and associated control documents, these effects are not expected to result in significant adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing at population or identified vulnerable-group level.
- 8.1.4 The addendum establishes wellbeing management principles to guide the detailed design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. The principles bring together relevant commitments already secured through the DCO and associated management plans and provide a framework for how those measures will apply to address the mental health and wellbeing pathways and community concerns identified.
- 8.1.5 Overall, the assessment concludes that, with the embedded and secured mitigation, management, engagement and monitoring measures in place, the Scheme is not likely to result in significant adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing at population or identified vulnerable-group level. The wellbeing management principles and monitoring framework provide an additional, proportionate mechanism for responding to individual and community experiences, reducing avoidable uncertainty and disturbance,

and addressing emerging Scheme-related concerns throughout the Scheme's lifecycle.

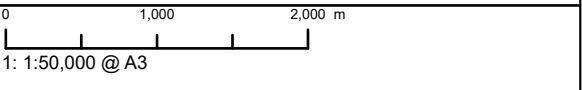
Appendix A Small Area Mental Health Index (SAMHI)



- Legend**
- Order Limits
- SAMHI**
- 1st decile: Best score
 - 2nd decile
 - 3rd decile
 - 4th decile
 - 5th decile
 - 6th decile
 - 7th decile
 - 8th decile
 - 9th decile
 - 10th decile: Worst score

The Small Area Mental Health Index (SAMHI) is presented by decile, with the 1st decile (dark blue) representing areas with the best mental health outcomes and the 10th decile (dark orange) representing areas with the poorest mental health outcomes relative to other areas in England.

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Ref: Appendix A	Date: 10/1/2026
Drawn: AD	Checked: KM

Figure 1 Small Area Mental Health Index (SAMHI) and East Pye Solar Site Boundary

Sheet 1 of 1
Revision A

