CLEAN AIR
SOLAR FARM

# Clean Air Solar Farm

# Scoping Report
# June 2026

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## Glossary

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Ambient Sound Level, $L_a = L_{Aeq,T}$ | The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level over a given time period. It is the sound level of a steady sound that has the same energy as a fluctuating sound over the same time period. Daytime is typically 07:00 – 23:00 and night-time is typically 23:00 – 07:00. |
| Amenity | Features of the natural environment, built heritage, visual landscape that provide 'quality' e.g. comfort, convenience, and enjoyment. Amenity assessments include the impact of the works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities or noise during operation. |
| Amenity value | Gives worth to the value of something based on the pleasant feeling(s) it generates for those that use or experience it. |
| Ancient Woodland | Ancient Woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1600. |
| Annex I Habitat | Annex I Habitats refer to the specific types of natural habitats listed under the Habitats Directive of the European Union. These habitats are designated for their conservation value and are part of the Natura 2000 network, which aims to protect biodiversity across the EU. The directive aims to conserve natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, ensuring that these habitats and the species that inhabit them are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation status. |
| Archaeological Interest | The potential for a heritage asset to hold archaeological interest is defined in NPS EN-1: 'There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or may potentially hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point' (footnote 202). |
| Background Sound Level, $L_{A90,T}$ | The A-weighted sound level exceeded for 90% of the measurement period. Often referred to as the background sound level. |
| Battlefields | Registered Battlefields are battlefields recognised as having national value, owing to their historic impact, topographical integrity, and potential for archaeological evidence. The National Planning Policy Framework defines registered battlefields as designated heritage assets, which are material considerations in the planning process and are compiled on the Register of Historic Battlefields. |
| Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) | Offsetting unavoidable losses to biodiversity in a way that will contribute to the additional recovery of nature, while developing land. Leaving biodiversity in a better state than it was before development. Net gain is required to reach at least greater than, or equal to 10% restoration above any losses, under the Environment Act 2021 for developments consented under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Requirements for BNG for Development Consent Order projects are due to be published in November 2026. |
| Built Heritage Study Area | The area from which baseline datasets have been obtained and potential impacts assessed for the purposes of the EIA. |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Cable search area | This outlines the broad search area within which a Grid Connection Corridor will be identified. |
| Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) | CIEEM is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. |
| Compensation | Compensation addresses unavoidable residual impacts to features. Compensation in EIA terms primarily aims at keeping adverse impacts that do occur within acceptable levels. |
| Conservation Area | Conservation Areas are designated by the relevant Local Authority as areas judged to have 'special architectural or historic interest.' They are subject to statutory protection under s72(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (Regulation 3). Local authorities are required to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area in question. |
| Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) | A CEMP outlines measures, procedures and responsibilities for how to avoid, minimise or mitigate any adverse construction effects on the environment. |
| Designated Heritage Assets | Designation refers to the formal protection, either by statute or policy, afforded to significant heritage assets. Designation recognises heritage assets of particular significance and is intended to afford them a commensurate level of statutory/policy protection. Designated assets include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites and Protected Wreck Sites. |
| Development | Any proposal that results in a change to the current archaeological baseline. |
| Direct Effects | Direct effects are those resulting from development activities or works that directly cause damage to, or alter, the fabric of an archaeological asset. These physical impacts are only likely to occur as a result of construction within the footprint of a development, e.g. total or partial removal of a historic structure. |
| Economic activity rates | A measure of whether or not a person was an active participant in the labour market during a period. |
| Exceedance | A period of time when the concentration of a pollutant is greater than the appropriate air quality objective. This applies to specified locations with relevant exposure. |
| Fieldwork | Whereby Landscape Architects visit the Site boundary and publicly accessible locations in the surrounding area to determine the existing landscape character and views. |
| Findspot | The exact geographical location where an artifact, ecofact, or feature is discovered. |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Gross value added (GVA) | A measure of the economic value generated by a company/area/economic sector engaged in the production of goods and services. |
| Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) | A HMMP provides details relating to the establishment, management and enhancement of habitat as part of the Proposed Development, including for Biodiversity Net Gain. It also includes details of the approach to monitoring include the methods to be used, reporting agreement and frequency of review. |
| Health | State of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. |
| Health outcome | Change in health status of an individual, group or population attributable to a planned intervention or series of interventions, regardless of whether such an intervention was intended to change health status. |
| Health risk factor | A social, economic or biological status, or behaviours or environments which are associated with or that cause increased susceptibility to a specific disease, ill health or injury. |
| Hydrologically / Hydrogeologically C onnected | A receptor that is hydrologically or hydrogeologically connected to a source has potential surface water or groundwater pathways that directly link the two (e.g. the source is upgradient of the receptor in the same catchment). |
| Indirect Effects | An indirect effect upon a historic asset would involve an impact on the setting of a feature or area. Indirect effects include physical changes to a heritage asset as a result of the introduction of factors resulting from construction or (more rarely) operation, e.g. vibration, noise, dust, excess siltation, changes in soil geochemistry, and changes in groundwater levels. |
| Intervisibility | Where there is a direct line of sight between a source and a receptor. |
| Irreplaceable Habitat | Irreplaceable habitat is very difficult (or takes a very long time) to restore, create or replace once it has been destroyed. The habitats are defined in Part 2 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Each description of habitat has the same meaning as in the list published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. |
| Landmark | A prominent feature that is distinctive and unique. |
| Landscape | Defined by the European Landscape Convention as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”.[1] |
| Landscape Character Area | Defined by GLVIA3[2] as “a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.” |
| Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) | A LEMP sets out the short and long-term landscape and ecological management actions for the Proposed Development, outlining operational guidance for how to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| | (including Biodiversity Net Gain) measures embedded in the infrastructure design/layout. |
| Landscape receptor | GLVIA3 defines landscape receptors as "defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal". |
| Landscape susceptibility | GLVIA3 defines landscape susceptibility as "the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies." |
| Landscape value | GLVIA3 defines as "The relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society"[2]. |
| Likely health effect | This effect is one that, with reference to the scientific literature, shows a plausible theoretical link between source-pathway-receptor; and the occurrence of which is judged as probable, in a specific context. |
| Listed Buildings | These are buildings or structures which are identified as being of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Listed buildings are subject to statutory protection under various sections of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) Act 1990, including s66(1) and the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (Regulation 3). This requires special consideration to be had to preserve or enhance their value, special interest and setting. |
| Local Wildlife Site (LWS) | Designated as non-statutory protected sites at the country level. They are locally important sites for the conservation of wildlife and may support protected and notable species or habitats |
| Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) | The level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected, as defined in Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) and Planning Practice Guidance Noise (PPG-N). |
| LVIA Study Area | The geographic-specific area from which there are likely to be significant landscape and visual effects as a result of the Proposed Development. |
| MAFF (1988) | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land – the foundational methodology, now updated by the 2025 guidelines. |
| Mental health | State in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) | The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans can provide for housing and other |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| | development in a sustainable manner. Preparing and maintaining up-to-date plans should be seen as a priority in meeting this objective |
| Non-Designated Heritage Asset | These are heritage assets that do not meet the criteria for formal, national designation. However, they are deemed to retain value and merit consideration in planning decisions (as per National Policy Statement EN-1). 'Heritage Asset' includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). |
| Non-host landscapes | Geographic areas of land which do not cover the Site boundary. |
| Northern land parcel | This outlines an area of land identified for Ground Mounted PV generation stations and associated infrastructure, as well as areas of potential landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. |
| Objectives | A nationally defined set of health-based concentrations for nine pollutants, seven of which are incorporated in Regulations, setting out the extent to which the standards should be achieved by a defined date. There are also vegetation-based objectives for sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. |
| Photomontage | An image which overlays the Proposed Development onto an existing photograph so as to aid in understanding how the Proposed Development may be perceived. The process is undertaken in a verifiable way, so as to ensure the accuracy of the Proposed Development within the photograph. |
| Population | Groups of individuals who share common characteristics. A population is typically defined in relation to two or more characteristics. For example, the community with a strong stake in a particular economic market (e.g. housing or tourism) has both a geographical characteristic and a market dependence characteristic. |
| Population health | The health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group. |
| Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) | Where there is a low risk of affecting species such as reptiles, common toads, badgers, hedgehogs and nesting birds, precautionary measures are suitable in case these are found. These will be held in a summary document (method statement) for site workers to follow and is often appended to the Construction Environment Management Plan. |
| Priority Habitat | UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority habitats cover a wide range of semi-natural habitat types and were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK BAP. They form the basis for the habitats which are identified under the UK Biodiversity Framework |
| Proposed Development | The solar photovoltaic (PV) development comprising solar PV arrays, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), substations, access tracks, cabling, security infrastructure, ancillary development and embedded environmental mitigation and enhancement measures. |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Rating Level, $L_{Ar,Tr}$ | The specific sound level plus any adjustment for the characteristic features of the sound. |
| Receptor | For Social Impact Assessment, receptors are the defined communities. Within these communities there will be workforces, residents, visitors, businesses, services, events, neighbourhoods, facilities, assets, sites, routes, habitats and spaces. The community will also be set within a wider context of markets, identity and other societal influences. |
| Registered Parks and Gardens | Parks and Gardens which are considered to retain special architectural or historic interest. In many cases, RPGs will have been designed to take advantage of the topography, and views or vistas may extend beyond its immediate boundaries. The Register of Parks and Gardens includes specially designed landscapes of all ages in urban and rural locations. The National Planning Policy Framework defines RPGs as designated heritage assets, giving weight to the conservation of the site's special character. |
| Residual Sound Level, $L_{Aeq,T}$ | The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level produced in the absence of the specific sound source at the reference location over a reference time interval, T. |
| Scheduled Monuments | These are archaeological features or structures (standing or buried, or earthworks) which are identified as being of national interest. They are protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The settings of Scheduled Monuments are afforded statutory protection through the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (Regulation 3). |
| Sensitivity | GLVIA3 defines Sensitivity as "a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor." This applies to both landscape and visual receptors. |
| Setting | The setting is defined as the surroundings in which a heritage asset (building, monument, site or landscape) is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. The elements of a setting may make a positive or negative (or neutral) contribution to the value of an asset, as well as our ability to appreciate that value. |
| Severity | Health severity relates to the type of health outcome affected, such as changes predominantly related to mortality, disease, nuisance or wellbeing. It may also relate to the type of change relative to the baseline conditions (for example, onset of new conditions, a change affecting existing conditions or change to day-to-day functioning). |
| Significance | The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. It represents the sum of a building, object, site, or place's value. The significance is derived not only from a heritage asset's physical fabric but is also informed by its setting. |
| Significance (also referred to as 'value') | The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. It represents the sum of a building, |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| | object, site, or place's value. The significance is derived not only from a heritage asset's physical fabric but is also informed by its setting. |
| Significant health effect | An effect triggered by the Proposed Development that is judged in EIA methodology terms to be important for public health (a positive or negative effect), highly desirable for public health (a positive effect) or unacceptable for public health (a negative effect). |
| Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL) | The level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur, as defined in Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) and Planning Practice Guidance Noise (PPG-N). |
| Site | The entirety of the land within the Site boundary, including the Northern land parcel, Southern land parcel and Cable search area. |
| Site Boundary | Defined perimeter of the Site. This encompasses all land required to deliver the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | Those areas of land and water that are considered to best represent England's natural heritage in terms of their flora, fauna, geology and/or geomorphology |
| Social determinants | Describes the categories of factors set out in guidance that affect social outcomes. Social determinants are scoped into or out of the assessment depending on their potential for likely significant effects on communities. |
| Social outcomes | Outcomes on the viability or vitality of the community, acting on its fundamental defining characteristics. This includes considering not only the strength of societal components (e.g. levels of employment), but also the strength of societal connections (e.g. community cohesion). |
| Societal components | Elements that define a community include the accessibility, quantity and quality of: employment and income; housing and accommodation; infrastructure, services and facilities; and natural spaces. These tie closely to the economic and environmental sustainability pillars. |
| Societal connections | Connections within a community are influenced by: migration or demographic change; people's capacities linked to levels of health, education, skills and care responsibilities; people's outlook (aspirations/anxieties); community interactions, support or social networks; and cultural traditions, identity or place attachments. These tie closely to the social sustainability pillar. |
| Southern land parcel | This outlines an area of land identified for Ground Mounted PV generation stations and associated infrastructure, as well as areas of potential landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. An area of BESS is also proposed to be contained within this area. |
| Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) | A site that is designated for the protection of one or more special habitats and/or species – terrestrial or marine – listed in the Habitats Directive. |
| Special Protection Areas (SPA) | A site that is selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, or certain regularly occurring migratory species. |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Specific Sound Level, $L_{Aeq,Tr}$ | The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level produced by the specific sound source at the reference location over a reference time interval, T. |
| Standards | A nationally defined set of concentrations for nine pollutants below which health effects do not occur or are minimal. |
| Study Area | The area from which baseline datasets have been obtained and potential impacts assessed for the purposes of the EIA. |
| Summer Views | Viewpoint photography taken when deciduous vegetation is in leaf, such that the extent of visibility may be reduced due to trees on leaves and bushes. |
| Tranquillity | A state of calm and quietude associated with peace. |
| Veteran Tree | A veteran tree is a tree of particular interest due to its age, size, condition, and ecological significance, often displaying features like large cavities and decay. |
| Viewpoint | Representative and typical views experienced by visual receptors obtained from publicly accessible locations. |
| Visual Receptor | GLVIA3 as "individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal". |
| Visual Susceptibility | The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations. |
| Visual Value | Value attached by society to a view, e.g. via planning designations, mapping, guidebooks or references in art. |
| Vulnerable groups or subpopulations | Sensitive to changes in health a determinant in a given context. Can include groups such as children and young people, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, people with existing poor health, people who are homeless, people living in poverty, those who experience social disadvantage, those struggling with addiction and substance abuse, and isolated older people. |
| Wider determinants of health | Bio-physical, behavioural, social, economic, or institutional environmental factors which contribute to the health status of individuals or populations. |
| Winter Views | Viewpoint photography taken when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, such that the extent of visibility is at its most within the year. |
| World Heritage Site | A site designated by UNESCO as being of special historical, cultural, or natural importance. UNESCO adds sites to the list under the World Heritage Convention adopted in 1972. These sites are often of international importance, bringing together the natural and man-made world, which is worthy of conservation at an international level. |
| Zone of Influence | The area over which receptors may be affected by impacts or changes because of the Proposed Development and associated activities. |

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Zone of Theoretical Visibility | Computer generated mapping which illustrates the theoretical visibility of an object in relation to a person standing anywhere within the LVIA Study Area (i.e. both publicly accessible and non-publicly accessible locations). The modelling is used to inform the scope of the assessment. 'Bare-earth' ZTV refers to when the computer model is based only upon an object and landform, thereby omitting existing vegetation and buildings. |

## Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Description |
|---|---|
| AADT | Annual Average Daily Traffic |
| AIL | Abnormal Indivisible Load |
| ALC | Agricultural Land Classification – the system that grades land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. |
| AMCT | Annual Mean Concentration Target |
| AOD | Above Ordnance Datum |
| AQC | Air Quality Consultants Ltd |
| AQMA | Air Quality Management Area |
| AURN | Automatic Urban and Rural Network |
| BESS | Battery Energy Storage System |
| BGS | British Geological Survey |
| BMV | Best and Most Versatile agricultural land – land in ALC Grades 1, 2 and Subgrade 3a, as defined in national planning policy. |
| BSMP | Battery Safety Management Plan |
| CCC | Climate Change Committee |
| CCGT | Combined Cycle Gas Turbine |
| CCRA | Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation |
| CCS | Carbon Capture and Storage |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| CIRIA | Construction Industry Research and Information Association |
| CITB | Construction Industry Training Board |
| CO2 | Carbon dioxide |

| Abbreviation | Description |
|---|---|
| CO2e | Carbon dioxide equivalent |
| CSM | Conceptual Site Model |
| CTMP | Construction Traffic Management Plan |
| DCO | Development Consent Order |
| Defra | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| DEMP | Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan |
| DESNZ | Department for Energy Security and Net Zero |
| DfT | Department for Transport |
| DLUHC | Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities |
| DMRB | Design Manual for Roads and Bridges |
| DTMP | Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan |
| DWPA | Drinking Water Protected Area |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMP | Environmental Management Plan |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Act |
| EPUK | Environmental Protection UK |
| ERoY | East Riding of Yorkshire Council |
| ES | Environmental Statement |
| EU | European Union |
| FRA | Flood Risk Assessment |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GWDTE | Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems |
| GWh | Gigawatt hour |
| GWP | Global Warming Potential |
| Ha | Hectare |

| Abbreviation | Description |
|---|---|
| HDV | Heavy Duty Vehicles (> 3.5 tonnes) |
| HMSO | His Majesty's Stationery Office |
| HV | High Voltage |
| HVAC | Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning |
| IAQM | Institute of Air Quality Management |
| IBC | Intermediate Bulk Containers |
| ICCI | In-Combination Climate Change Impact |
| IDB | Internal Drainage Board |
| IEMA | Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment |
| IES | Institution of Environmental Sciences |
| ISEP | Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals |
| JSNA | Joint Strategic Needs Assessment |
| km | Kilometre |
| kWh | Kilowatt hour |
| LAQM | Local Air Quality Management |
| LDV | Light Duty Vehicles (<3.5 tonnes) |
| LEMP | Landscape and Ecological Management Plan |
| LFRMS | Local Flood Risk Management Strategy |
| LLFA | Lead Local Flood Authority |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority |
| LSOA | Lower Level Super Output Area |
| LVEP | Local Visitor Economy Partnership |
| LVIA | Landscape and visual impact assessment. |
| m | metre |
| MAGIC | Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside |
| MWh | Megawatt hour |
| $NH_3$ | Ammonia |
| $NO_2$ | Nitrogen dioxide |

| Abbreviation | Description |
|---|---|
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NPS | National Policy Statement |
| OA | Output Area |
| oCEMP | Outline Construction Environment Management Plan |
| oDEMP | Outline Decommissioning Environment Management Plan |
| OEMP | Operational Environmental Management Plan |
| ONS | Office for National Statistics |
| oOEMP | Outline Operational Environment Management Plan |
| OS | Ordnance Survey |
| OSWDS | Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy |
| PEIR | Preliminary Environmental Information Report |
| PFRA | Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment |
| $PM_{10}$ | Small airborne particles, more specifically particulate matter less than 10 micrometres in aerodynamic diameter. |
| $PM_{2.5}$ | Small airborne particles less than 2.5 micrometres in aerodynamic diameter. |
| PPG | Planning Practice Guidance |
| PRA | Preliminary Risk Assessment |
| PRoW | Public Rights of Way |
| PV | Photovoltaic |
| RCP | Representative Concentration Pathway |
| RICS | Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors |
| RQF | Registered Qualifications Framework |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SFRA | Strategic Flood Risk Assessment |
| SMP | Soil Management Plan |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SPZ | Source Protection Zone |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| STP | Staff Travel Plan |

| Abbreviation | Description |
|---|---|
| SuDS | Sustainable Drainage Systems |
| SWMP | Site Waste Management Plan |
| TCO2e | Tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UKCP18 | UK Climate Projections 2018 |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| µg/m$^3$ | Microgrammes per cubic metre |

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

1.1.1 Logika Group has been commissioned to prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') Scoping Report to accompany a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate (prepared on behalf of the Secretary of State) for the proposed Clean Air Solar Farm by Clean Air Renewables Ltd (the 'Applicant').

1.1.2 The Clean Air Solar Farm comprises the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility across two separate parcels of land (the 'northern land parcel' and the 'southern land parcel') on approximately 1,154 hectares (ha) of land (the 'Site'), falling entirely within the administrative area of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The project includes solar PV arrays, two onsite substations, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) units, Power Conversion Stations (PCS), environmental mitigation and enhancement areas, and associated grid connection infrastructure including a buried cable to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension at Wanlass Beck (hereafter 'the Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development will provide up to 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity. It may also import surplus energy from the electricity grid when energy available to the grid exceeds demand. There are four boundaries presented in this EIA Scoping, as shown on **Figure 1-3** in **Appendix A**. Each of these components is described further in **Chapter 2: Description of the Site and Surrounding area** and **Chapter 5: Description of Development**.

- **Site Boundary**: This outlines the overall land requirements for the Proposed Development;
- **Northern land parcel:** This outlines an area of land identified for Ground Mounted PV generation stations and associated infrastructure, as well as areas of potential landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement;
- **Southern land parcel**: This outlines an area of land identified for Ground Mounted PV generation stations and associated infrastructure, as well as areas of potential landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. An area of BESS is also proposed to be contained within this area; and
- **Cable search area:** This outlines the broad search area within which a Grid Connection Corridor will be identified and presented in the ES.

1.1.3 This Chapter is supported by the following figures that can be found in **Appendix A**:

- Figure 1-1: Site Boundary;
- Figure 1-2: Northern and Southern Land Parcels; and
- Figure 1-3: Components of the Proposed Development.

## 1.2 The Applicant

1.2.1 Clean Air Solar Farm is being promoted by Clean Air Renewables Ltd. This is a joint venture between Padero Solaer Ltd (trading as PS Renewables) and Perigus Energy.

1.2.2 Established in 2012, PS Renewables is one of the UK's largest privately held companies that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects including solar and BESS. PS Renewables have installed and/or financed more than 40 UK solar PV projects

with a renewable energy portfolio totalling more than 1.35GW. The Proposed Development forms part of the company's ambitious pipeline of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), which collectively exceed a generating capacity of 7GW.

1.2.3 Perigus Energy is a renewable energy company which develops, constructs and operates onshore wind farms, solar farms and energy storage facilities, in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Spain. Perigus Energy has 578MW of installed renewable capacity and a further 248MW in construction across Europe.

1.2.4 It is noted that several areas of land within the Northern land parcel formed part of the Kingfisher Solar Farm project which was also promoted by the Applicant. This project has since evolved, and now comprises the proposals put forward for the Proposed Development. As a result, there is a level of existing baseline data and consultation responses obtained for the majority of the land within the Northern land parcel. Where appropriate, this information has been used to supplement the baseline data for the Proposed Development.

## 1.3 Consenting Regime and Requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment

### Purpose of EIA

1.3.1 The term EIA describes a procedure that must be followed by certain types of projects before it can be given 'consent'. Underpinned by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 , as amended (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Regulations')[1], EIA is a formal process required for certain types of development that brings together information to identify the likely significant environmental effects of a project and measures for avoiding, preventing, reducing or, if practicable, offsetting likely significant effects. It provides decision-makers with the environmental information needed to make sustainable decisions when determining applications for certain developments and provides information on the likely significant effects of certain developments to the public as part of participating in the planning process.

### The Need for EIA

1.3.2 The aim of EIA is to protect the environment by ensuring that a determining body, such as the Secretary of State, when deciding whether to grant consent for a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of these likely significant effects, and thus takes them into account in the decision-making process. The EIA Regulations set out a procedure for identifying those projects which should be subject to an EIA, and for assessing, consulting, and coming to a decision on those projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects.

1.3.3 The EIA Regulations set out the types of development which must be subject to an EIA (referred to as Schedule 1 development) and other developments, which may be subject to an EIA depending on certain development parameters and / or their potential to give rise to significant environmental effects (referred to as Schedule 2 development).

1.3.4 The Proposed Development does not fall under any of the types of development set out in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. However, the Proposed Development is of a type and scale described in Schedule 2 (a) of the EIA Regulations:

[1] His Majesty's Office (HMSO) (2017) Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

*"Energy industry*

*industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Schedule 1 to these Regulations)"*

## Requirement for a DCO

1.3.5 As the Proposed Development is an onshore generating station exceeding 100MW of electricity it is automatically classified as a NSIP and therefore requires a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008[2]. In this instance, the Applicant has concluded that the Proposed Development does require an EIA as it could lead to likely significant environmental effects. The Applicant has therefore chosen to proceed with production of the documentation to inform an EIA and so this Scoping Report represents under Regulation 8(1)(b) a notification that the Applicant will prepare and submit an Environmental Statement ('ES') in support of the DCO without prior request for a Screening Opinion.

## Purpose and Structure of the Scoping Report

1.3.6 The scoping phase of the EIA process provides a framework for identifying the potential environmental impacts arising from the Proposed Development, establishing the likely significant environmental effects and distinguishing the priority issues to be addressed within the ES. Although scoping is not mandatory under the EIA Regulations, it allows stakeholders an early opportunity to comment on the proposed structure, methodology and content of the ES, and is recognised as a useful preliminary procedure which helps to identify the main effects that a proposed development is likely to have on the environment.

1.3.7 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to request an opinion from the Secretary of State on the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the ES under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations. This will help ensure that the EIA is focused on the key impacts likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and is also used to obtain agreement on the approach and methodologies for assessments which will be reported in the ES, which will accompany the application for the DCO. This Scoping Report also provides the justification and rationale for scoping out environmental aspects or receptors where it is considered that significant environmental effects are unlikely to arise as a result of the Proposed Development.

1.3.8 In line with the requirements of Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations, this request contains the following information, as presented in **Table 1-1**, to assist the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), on behalf of the Secretary of State, in adopting a Scoping Opinion.

Table 1-1: EIA Regulation and Scoping Information

| Regulation 10(3) | Evidence in Scoping Report |
|---|---|
| A plan sufficient to identify the land where development could occur | Figure 1-1: Site Boundary within Appendix A<br>Figure 1-2: The Northern and Southern Land Parcel within Appendix A<br>Figure 1-3: Components of the Proposed Development within Appendix A |
| A description of the Proposed Development, including its location and technical capacity | Chapter 2: Description of the Site and Surrounding Area |

[2] *Planning Act 2008*, c. 29. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents (Accessed: 12 May 2026).

| Regulation 10(3) | Evidence in Scoping Report |
|---|---|
| | Chapter 5: Description of Development |
| An explanation of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |
| Such other information or representation as the person making the request may wish to provide or make | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |

1.3.9 In addition, this Scoping Request has been prepared in accordance with PINS Advice Note Seven, which recommends that a request for a Scoping Opinion should also include the details in **Table 1-2**.

Table 1-2: PINS Request for Scoping Information

| PINS Advice Note Seven | Evidence in Scoping Report |
|---|---|
| The Proposed Development | |
| An explanation of the approach to addressing uncertainty where such remains in relation to elements of the Proposed Development e.g. design parameters | Chapter 5: Description of Development<br><br>Chapter 4: Approach to EIA<br><br>Appendix B: Scoping Commitments Register |
| Referenced plans presented at an appropriate scale to convey clearly the information and all known features associated with the Proposed Development | Figure 1-1: Site Boundary within Appendix A<br>Figure 1-2: The Northern and Southern Land Parcel within Appendix A<br>Figure 1-3: Components of the Proposed Development within Appendix A |
| EIA Approach and Topic Areas | |
| An outline of the reasonable alternatives considered and the reasons for selecting the preferred option | Chapter 5: Description of Development |
| A summary table depicting each of the aspects and matters that are requested to be scoped out allowing for quick identification of issues | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |
| A detailed description of the aspects and matters proposed to be scoped out of further assessment with justification provided | Appendix B: Scoping Commitments Register<br><br>Technical Aspect Chapters 6 to 19 |
| Results of desktop and baseline studies where available and where relevant to the decision to scope in or out aspects or matters | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |
| Aspects and matters to be scoped in, the report should include details of the methods to be used to assess impacts and | Chapter 4: Approach to EIA<br><br>Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |

| | |
|---|---|
| to determine significance of effects e.g. criteria for determining sensitivity and magnitude | |
| Any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed, how they may be secured and the anticipated residual effects | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |
| Information Sources and Guidance | |
| References to any guidance and best practice to be relied upon | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |
| Evidence of agreements reached with consultation bodies (for example the statutory nature conservation bodies or local authorities) | Technical Aspect **Chapters 6 to 19** |
| An outline of the structure of the proposed ES | Chapter 4: Approach to EIA |

## Project Team

1.3.10 Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations require that in order to ensure the completeness and quality of the ES, '(a) the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and (b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.'

1.3.11 In accordance with this requirement **Table 1-3** sets out the technical specialists and their relevant expertise who have contributed to the preparation of this Scoping Report. **Table 1-3** shows the EIA team is competent to undertake the EIA.

Table 1-3: Project Team

| Company | Aspect Covered | Qualifications | Description of Competence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Logika Group | EIA | BSc, MSc, PISEP | Environmental consultant with more than 8 years' experience overseeing the production of EIA reports and ES' for a range of renewable energy projects across the UK. Experienced in the management of ES' including liaising with clients, external organisations and project team members. Working as part of the team in providing technical advice on a wide range of environmental issues. |
| Logika Group | EIA | BSc, MSc, PISEP | Over 7 years experience working as an EIA co-ordinator. Her expertise spans infrastructure and renewable energy projects |

| Company | Aspect Covered | Qualifications | Description of Competence |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | delivered under the Town and Country Planning Act, Development Consent Orders (DCOs), and Section 36 Consents. |
| Logika Group | Biodiversity | BSc (Hons) Geological Science MSc Biodiversity Conservation | Director with over 17 years' experience in ecology specialising in ornithology and terrestrial ecology. He has a broad understanding of assessment methods including the delivery of EcIA and HRA. He has experience of large-scale renewable projects including solar, onshore and offshore wind for both DCO and Town and Country Planning applications. |
| Logika Group | Hydrology | Meng (Hons) | Director with approximately 12 years' experience within the field of hydrology. In recent times, he has been the lead hydrological consultant for a number of solar Development Consent Orders.<br>He has extensive experience in production and review of Hydrology Environmental Statement Chapters along with the associated technical assessments (such as Flood Risk Assessments, Drainage Strategies and Water Framework Directives). |
| Agrivation Ltd | Agricultural Soils | HND Agriculture (Arable Production); Nuffield Farming Scholar (Precision Farming); BASIS (including advanced module on soils); FACTS qualified; Member of the British Society of Soil Science | Over 30 years' experience as a precision agriculture specialist, with specialism in Agricultural Land Classification alongside digital soil mapping and management. |
| Iceni Projects | Archaeology | BA (hons), MA (hons), MCIfA | Senior Project Manager at Iceni Projects. He has over 15 years of experience in archaeology, six of which as |

| Company | Aspect Covered | Qualifications | Description of Competence |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | project manager and consultant. |
| Iceni Projects | Built Heritage | BA (hons) MA MAUD IHBC | Director in the Built Heritage and Townscape team at Iceni Projects. She has nearly 10 years industry experience and has worked in both private and public sector. She leads the DCO workstream within the Built Heritage team and specialises in assessing the impact of renewables, infrastructure and large-scale development schemes on the historic environment. |
| Iceni Projects | Landscape and Visual | BA (Hons), PgDip, CMLI | Associate Director of Landscape Architecture working on complex projects as part of multi-disciplinary teams, including preparation of landscape planning and design deliverables for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Currently overseeing the LVIA elements for a number of other solar projects at DCO Examination. |
| Iceni Projects | Transport and Access | BSc Geography | Principal with over 10 years experience working in the industry as a transport planner. He has contributed to and completed numerous ES chapters on a wide range of developments. |
| Logika Group | Carbon and Climate Change | Meng, MBus (economics) | Associate Director with more than 15 years' experience in carbon emissions and supply chain. She has prepared climate change assessments for EIA for multiple development sectors including renewables, industrial and mixed-use developments. |
| Logika Group | Noise and Vibration | BEng(hons), BSc(hons), MIOA | Director with over 20 years' experience in acoustic consultancy, this includes many large infrastructure projects including onshore |

| Company | Aspect Covered | Qualifications | Description of Competence |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | and offshore wind farms, energy transmission systems, rail, road and large industrial projects. He provided consultancy advice on noise to HS2 Ltd for several years, particularly in relation to the construction and operation of Phase 1 of HS2, the DCO application for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Electrical System, including giving evidence on noise at the planning hearing and environmental permitting for several power stations. |
| Logika Group | Human Health | MA & BA Hon in Biological Sciences, Postgraduate Diploma (distinction) in Public Health, Graduate Diploma in Law, Postgraduate Diploma (distinction) in Legal Practice. | Director – Health and Social Impacts. International public health expert specialising in Health Impact Assessment. 20 years of consultancy experience, including leading the health assessments for nationally significant solar projects. First author of WHO publications on health in Environmental Impact Assessment and key national guidance documents, including on technical methods and competency standards. |
| Logika Group | Socio-economics | MA & BA Hon in Biological Sciences, Postgraduate Diploma (distinction) in Public Health, Graduate Diploma in Law, Postgraduate Diploma (distinction) in Legal Practice. | Director – Health and Social Impacts. International public health expert specialising in health and social outcome assessments. 20 years of consultancy experience, including leading and reviewing social impact assessments for nationally significant solar projects, including solar DCOs. Senior reviewer of the ISEP Social Impact Assessment in EIA in the UK 2025. |
| Logika Group | Air Quality | PhD, MSc, BSc, CSci | Member of the IAQM and IES. Over 18 years' experience in air quality consultancy, with numerous Solar Farm and DCO projects completed. |

| Company | Aspect Covered | Qualifications | Description of Competence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Turnkey Regeneration Ltd | Land and Groundwater | Environmental Geoscience BSc FGS | Over 16 years' experience in environmental risk assessment, waste and contaminated land management. She has wide-ranging expertise in land quality assessment and has contributed to an array of residential, commercial, industrial and infrastructure projects. |

# 2 Description of the Site and Surrounding area

## 2.1 Site Location and Boundary

2.1.1 The extent of the land where development could occur is presented in **Figure 1-1: The Proposed Development** within **Appendix A**.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises two principal land parcels referred to as the northern land parcel and the southern land parcel and a cable search area, as shown on **Figure 1-3: Components of the Proposed Development** within **Appendix A**. The Proposed Development is wholly located within the administrative area of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, which is a unitary authority and therefore functions as both a County and a District Council.

2.1.3 The northern land parcel and the southern land parcel are geographically separate, with the nearest part of each boundary located approximately 9.5km apart. Notwithstanding this spatial separation, both land parcels form integral and complementary parts of the Proposed Development and are not standalone or alternative sites.

2.1.4 The land parcels will be physically and operationally connected via underground cabling infrastructure linking to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension at Wanlass Beck, forming a single coordinated grid connection. At this stage, the cable search area (see details below) is defined as a broad search area rather than a fixed alignment, reflecting the adoption of a design envelope approach. As this information evolves, the level of design flexibility will progressively narrow. Any refinement of the Grid Connection solution will be undertaken (where possible) prior to, and reported within, the Environmental Statement (ES).

2.1.5 For the purposes of this Scoping Report and to provide clarity in describing baseline conditions, the Site is described with reference to its northern and southern land parcels and cable search area where appropriate. This approach assists in identifying local environmental characteristics across the Site, whilst recognising that both land parcels together comprise the Site and Proposed Development.

## 2.2 Northern Land Parcel

2.2.1 The northern land parcel consists of five separate clusters of land. The approximate centre of the northern land parcel is located at OS grid reference TA 05573 48916. The northern land parcel is shown in **Figure 1-2: Northern and Southern Land Parcels** within **Appendix A**.

2.2.2 The northern land parcel consists of approximately 574 ha of land, comprised of arable fields. Hedgerows, trees, woodland and ditches form the boundaries to many of the fields within the northern land parcel. At its maximum, the northern land parcel extends approximately 4.5km in an east-west direction and approximately 6km in a north-south direction.

2.2.3 The northern land parcel is not dissected by any main rivers; the River Hull is located 1.5km to the east of the closest part of the northern land parcel. There are a number of ditches and watercourses associated with field boundaries which are located across the Site, including Scurf Dyke located at TA 06561 50592.

2.2.4 The nearest villages in proximity to the northern land parcel include:

- Aike, located within 500m to the south of the nearest boundary of the northern land parcel;

- Hutton Cranswick, located within 500m to the north of the nearest boundary of the northern land parcel;
- Watton, located within 1km to the west of the nearest boundary of the northern land parcel; and
- Beswick, located approximately 1.2km to the west of the nearest boundary of the northern land parcel.

2.2.5 In addition, there are a number of isolated properties and hamlets, which are dispersed throughout the landscape.

## 2.3 Southern Land Parcel

2.3.1 The southern land parcel consists of two separate clusters of land. The approximate centre of the southern land parcel is located at OS grid reference TA 00754 36028. The southern land parcel is shown in **Figure 1-2** within **Appendix A**.

2.3.2 The southern land parcel consists of approximately 580 ha of land, comprised of arable fields. Hedgerows, trees, woodland and ditches form the boundaries of many of the fields within the southern land parcel. At its maximum, the southern land parcel extends approximately 5.4km in an east-west direction and approximately 3.5km in a north-south direction.

2.3.3 The southern land parcel is not dissected by any main rivers. There are a number of ditches and watercourses associated with the field boundaries which are located across the southern land parcel, including Autherd Drain, which is located in the north-east of the southern land parcel and Risby Hall Fishing Ponds, which is located within Risby Hall Historic Park and Gardens.

2.3.4 The nearest villages in proximity to the southern land parcel include:

- Risby, located adjacent to the nearest boundary of the southern land parcel;
- Walkington, located approximately 35m west to the nearest boundary of the southern land parcel;
- Little Weighton, located approximately 190m to the southwest of the nearest boundary of the southern land parcel;
- Skidby, located approximately 800m south of the nearest boundary of the southern land parcel; and
- Cottingham, located approximately 420m south to the nearest boundary of the southern land parcel.

## 2.4 Cable Search Area

2.4.1 As described in **Chapter 5: Description of Development**, the Applicant has secured an agreed 500 MW grid connection at the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension at Wanlass Beck. At this stage, a cable search area has been identified. This represents a broad search area rather than a fixed alignment and defines the maximum extent of land within which the cable route may be located. The eventual Grid Connection Corridor will link the northern and southern land parcels, and onward to the substation.

2.4.2 This reflects the adoption of a design envelope approach, and adopts a worst-case scenario, recognising that further work is required to define the final route. Ongoing activities include environmental baseline surveys, technical and engineering feasibility assessments, stakeholder engagement, and coordination with other planned utility infrastructure (including the cumulative future infrastructure as detailed in the Cumulative Assessment section in **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**) in the area. These processes will inform the identification of a preferred route and installation methodology, taking into account environmental, technical and safety considerations.

2.4.3 At this stage, the grid connection is anticipated to comprise underground cabling. The extent of the cable search area is shown on **Figure 1-1: The Proposed Development** and **Figure 1-3: Components of the Proposed Development** within **Appendix A**. As the alignment has not yet been defined, this chapter does not provide a detailed description of environmental characteristics specific to the cable search area. However, technical chapters (**Chapters 6 to 19**) identify key environmental receptors within and in proximity to the cable search area and set out how these have informed the proposed scope and assessment approach.

2.4.4 Embedded mitigation principles have, however, been applied at the outset of the routeing process, including the avoidance of designated sites and areas of highest environmental sensitivity, where practicable (see **Chapter 5: Description of Development)**. The final alignment of the Grid Connection Corridor will be developed in consultation with relevant statutory consultees and will be presented as part of the DCO application.

## 2.5 Environmental characteristics

2.5.1 The paragraphs below describe the Site's main environmental characteristics. Where necessary, separate details are provided for the northern and southern land parcels. A detailed summary of the environmental baseline is included in each individual environmental aspect chapter (see **Chapter 6 to 19**).

### Land Use

2.5.2 The Site is predominantly shaped by agriculture and areas of high-quality agricultural land. As detailed in **Chapter 8: Agricultural Soils**, approximately 20% of East Riding of Yorkshire Council comprises agricultural land classed as 'excellent' or 'very good'[3]. This landscape includes networks of hedgerows, drains and ditches, as well as sporadic blocks of woodland. A breakdown of the coverage of each classification is further detailed in **Chapter 8: Agricultural Soils**.

2.5.3 A predictive ALC plan for the Site Boundary is provided in **Figure 8-1** within **Appendix A**. Further information on the approach to the assessment of agricultural soils and ALC surveys is presented in **Chapter 8: Agricultural Land and Soils.**

### Biodiversity

2.5.4 The northern and southern land parcels are not covered by any statutory ecological designations; however, several statutory designated sites are located within the surrounding area. The closest statutory designations to the northern and southern land parcels are presented in **Table 2-1.** The cable search area comprises a nationally designated site (Bryan Mills SSSI), however it is not considered that this site will be impacted as the design of the cable route evolves.

[3] East Riding Yorkshire Council (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039 LPU -Document Update Adopted 2025.pdf

Table 2-1: Closest Ecological Designations to the northern and southern land parcels

| Designation | Distance to the northern and southern land parcels | Description of Site |
|---|---|---|
| Tophill Low SSSI | 1.15km east from the nearest part of the northern land parcel boundary | Designated for its bird species including wildfowl, which are attracted to the 'D' and 'O' reservoirs, marshes, ponds, woodlands and grasslands. |
| River Hull headwaters SSSI | 1.2km northeast from the part of the northern land parcel boundary | Designated for its riverside grassland, woodland and fen with the river being the most northerly chalk stream system in Britain. |
| Bryan Mills Field SSSI | 1.35km west from the nearest part of the northern land parcel boundary | Designated for its marshes and meres, its refuge for wetland plants and emergent fen species. |
| Leven Canal SSSI | 1.8km southeast from the nearest part of the northern land parcel boundary | Designated for its marshes and meres, its refuge for wetland plants and emergent fen species. |
| Puffin Bog SSSI | 1.9km south from the nearest part of the northern land parcel boundary | Designated for its fenland reedswamp, botanical interest, and for reedbed habitat it provides for breeding birds. |
| Burton Bushes SSSI | 1.5km northwest from the nearest part of the southern land parcel boundary | Designated for its bird species including wildfowl, which are attracted to the 'D' and 'O' reservoirs, marshes, ponds, woodlands and grasslands. |
| Beverly Parks LNR | 1.8km northwest from the nearest part of the southern boundary | Designated for its traditional parkland featuring mixed broadleaved woodland, an orchards. |

2.5.5 Further information on ecological designations is presented in **Chapter 6: Biodiversity**.

## Buried Heritage

2.5.6 There are no Registered Battlefields or World Heritage Sites within 2km of the Site Boundary.

2.5.7 There are four scheduled monuments located within 2km of the northern land parcel:

- Iron Age Barrow 400m southeast of Station Farm;
- Rosea Medieval Settlement and Field System, 600m southeast of Rotsea Manor;
- Barf Hill Moated Site; and
- Gilbertine Priory, two believed to be medieval archery butts and Civil War Earthworks.

2.5.8 There are seven scheduled monuments located within 2km of the southern land parcel:

- Cellar Heads' Moated Site and Related Ridge & Furrow Earthworks at Risby Park;

- Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bentley Cross;
- Sanctuary Limit Stone, Walkington Cross;
- Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall, and Medieval Settlement;
- Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gunsite, 350m W of Butt Farm;
- Bowl Barrow 400m N of Highfield House; and
- Baynard Castle.

2.5.9 A geophysical survey across the accessible land within the Site boundary commenced in 2025 and is anticipated to be completed in 2026. Preliminary information from the survey has been and will be continued to be discussed with East Riding Yorkshire Council's Archaeologist in terms of further investigation.

2.5.10 Further details are presented in **Chapter 9: Archaeology.**

### Built Heritage

2.5.11 There are no listed buildings, Conservation Areas, or Registered Parks and Gardens located within the Site Boundary. However, a number of designated heritage assets are present within 1km of each land parcel.

2.5.12 Within the northern land parcel, there are no Grade I or Grade II* listed buildings, and no Conservation Areas within 1km. There are four Scheduled Monuments and four Grade II listed buildings, which include Former Lockington Railway Station, which lies immediately adjacent to the northern land boundary, together with Decoy Farmhouse, Rose Cottage, and Sunnyside.

2.5.13 Within the southern land parcel, there are no Grade I listed buildings within 1km. However, there are five Scheduled Monuments, eight Grade II* listed buildings, and ten Grade II listed buildings. In addition, two Conservation Areas are present: Walkington Conservation Area and Skidby Conservation Area.

2.5.14 Further details are presented in **Chapter 10: Built Heritage.**

### Transport and Access

2.5.15 The Site is primarily accessed via a number of existing field access points, which are suitable for accommodating large agricultural vehicles and machinery.

2.5.16 With regard to the Strategic Road Network (SRN), the Site benefits from connectivity to several key A-roads, including the A63, A164, A1079, A1033 and A165, which provide strategic access across the wider area. The Site is accessible from the motorway network via the M62, which connects to the A63 leading into Kingston upon Hull, including access to the port facilities within Hull. The principal route linking the northern and southern land parcels is the A164, which connects to local roads such as Station Road, Beswick Road, Wilfholme Road and Carr Lane, providing access to the Site Boundary. The southern land parcel is also located approximately 250m north-east of the A1079, a key route connecting Hull and York.

2.5.17 There are no National Cycle Network (NCN) routes located within the Site Boundary. However, the southern land parcel adjoins a short section of an NCN route along the B1230, which runs between Walkington and Beverley.

2.5.18 The northern land parcel is intersected by a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including both footpaths and bridleways, which extend across the wider landscape. These routes are typically aligned along field boundaries and minor roads adjacent to, or in close proximity to, the Site Boundary.

2.5.19 The southern land parcel is also intersected by an established network of PRoW, comprising both footpaths and bridleways. Numerous routes cross adjoining land, run adjacent to the Site boundary, or follow existing field edges. A notable concentration of PRoW is present within the Walkington and Risby Park area, near the centre of the land parcel.

2.5.20 Further details are presented in **Chapter 12: Transport and Access**

## Existing Infrastructure

2.5.21 The 400 kV National Grid Creyke Beck Substation is located in Cottingham, to the south of the A1079 and east of the A164. Creyke Beck is a major high-voltage substation within the UK transmission network and facilitates connections to nationally significant offshore wind developments in the North Sea, including Dogger Bank A and Dogger Bank B.

2.5.22 The Pillswood BESS, located adjacent to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation, became operational in November 2022. The facility has a storage capacity of approximately 200 MWh and is designed to store electricity generated by the Dogger Bank offshore wind farms.

2.5.23 The Scurf Dyke Solar Farm and BESS, which became fully operational in February 2024, is located approximately 275 m north of the northern land parcel boundary. This is a smaller solar farm (below 50MW) and planning permission was granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The development extends to approximately 99 ha and forms part of the immediate landscape context to the north of the Site Boundary.

2.5.24 Utilities searches for the Site are ongoing and will inform the detailed design of the Proposed Development.

# 3 Planning Policy and Context

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 An overview of national, regional and local planning policy relevant to informing the scope of the EIA is provided within this Chapter. Further information on planning policy where it is specific to a particular technical aspect, is provided within the aspect chapters themselves.

3.1.2 A review of relevant policy will be included within the ES. Although planning policy has informed the assessment of effects reported within the ES, including, where relevant, informing the judgement of significance, the detailed assessment of the Proposed Development's compliance with relevant planning policy will be reported within the Planning Statement accompanying the DCO application.

## 3.2 Planning Act 2008

3.2.1 The Proposed Development constitutes a NSIP, in accordance with the Planning Act 2008[4], as it comprises:

- The construction or extension of a generating station (Part 3, Section 14(1)(a)); and
- Its capacity is more than 100MW (Part 3, Section 15(2)I).[5]

3.2.2 Therefore, a DCO application under the Planning Act 2008 is required to be made to PINS as the Examining Authority, for determination by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

3.2.3 Under Section 104(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State is required to consider any relevant National Policy Statement (NPS) when deciding whether to grant a DCO and must decide the application in accordance with any relevant national policy statement, except to the extent that one or more of the exceptions in subsections (4) to (8) applies. Under the Planning Act 2008 regime, NPSs provide the policy framework from which the Secretary of State examines and makes its decision in relation to NSIP applications. National policy is set out in relation to key types of NSIPs identified in Section 14 of the Planning Act 2008.

3.2.4 For the purpose of Section 104(2)(a), the following NPSs have effect in relation to the Proposed Development:

- Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1)[6];
- NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[7]; and

[4] UK Government (2008). Planning Act 2008. [Online]. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents
[5] This threshold, at which potential solar developments are classified as an NSIP, has risen from 50MW to 100MW from the 31st December 2025, as part of the Infrastructure Planning (Onshore Wind and Solar Generation) Order 2025
[6] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy 2025 (NPS EN-1) Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1), 2025 (accessible webpage) - GOV.UK
[7] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3

- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)[8].

3.2.5 An overview of the current NPSs that will be considered from a planning policy perspective as part of undertaking the EIA are set out below.

## 3.3 National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

3.3.1 The Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1)[7], sets out the national policy for delivering major energy infrastructure in England and Wales. The NPS has effect in combination with the relevant technology specific NPS, National Policy for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[8], and together they provide the primary basis for decisions made by the Examining Authority.

3.3.2 Section 2.2 of revised EN-1 confirms the Government's legally binding target of achieving net zero in terms of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

3.3.3 Section 2.3 'Meeting Clean Power 2030 and net zero' underlines how the provision of new energy infrastructure will be critical to the UK achieving net zero by 2050, while maintaining secure, reliable, affordable, and low carbon supplies and supporting economic growth. Paragraph 2.3.4 goes onto state:

"*Meeting the Clean Power 2030 Mission objectives necessitates a significant investment in new energy infrastructure, both large nationally significant developments and smaller-scale developments determined at a local level. This requirement for new energy infrastructure will present opportunities for the UK and contributes towards the creation of secure, well paid jobs in the UK's clean energy industry and building domestic supply chains*."

3.3.4 Paragraph 2.3.6 of EN-1 underlines the need to transform the energy system by:

*"Securing affordable, homegrown and abundant renewable resources means we will be able to run our power system for increasing periods on clean, low carbon generation, with renewables providing the vast majority of generation, and nuclear continuing to deliver a backbone of vital low carbon power. A clean power system will enable further electrification of demand sectors and therefore increased emissions reduction."*

3.3.5 Section 2.5 'Sustainable development' confirms (paragraph 2.5.1) that the Government's wider objectives for energy infrastructure include contributing to sustainable development and ensuring that our energy infrastructure is safe. Paragraph 2.5.2 is clear that sustainable development is relevant not just in terms of addressing climate change, but because the way energy infrastructure is deployed affects the well-being of the environment, society and the economy, for both current and future generations. For example, the availability of appropriate infrastructure supports the efficient working of the market so as to ensure competitive prices for consumers. The regulatory framework also encourages the energy industry to protect the more vulnerable.

3.3.6 Part 3 of EN-1 covers *'The need for new nationally significant energy infrastructure projects'*. It sets out why the Government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives and why it considers that the need for such infrastructure will often be urgent (paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2). However, it notes at paragraph 3.1.2 that it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts. It goes onto state that these impacts will be minimised by

[8] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure 2025 (NPS EN-5) National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5), 2025 (accessible webpage) - GOV.UK

the application of policy set out in Parts 4 '*Assessment Principles*' and 5 '*Generic Impacts*' of the NPS.

3.3.7 Section 3.2 provides guidance on Secretary of State decision-making. Paragraph 3.2.1 confirms that the Government's objectives for the energy system are to ensure that supplies of energy always remain secure, reliable, affordable and consistent with net zero emissions by 2050. Paragraph 3.2.2 continues by stating that the UK needs a range of different types of energy infrastructure, while paragraph 3.2.4 states that it is for industry to propose new infrastructure within the strategic framework set by the Government. It also states that it is not appropriate for planning policy to set limits on different technologies. Furthermore, paragraphs 3.2.8 to 3.2.10 state that the SoS should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by EN-1 on the basis that the Government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent; that substantial weight should be given to that need; and that the SoS is not required to consider separately the specific contribution of any individual project to satisfying that need.

3.3.8 In considering '*The need for new electricity generating* capacity', EN-1 confirms that there is an urgent need for new electricity (and particularly low carbon) generating capacity (paragraph 3.3.58).

3.3.9 Paragraph 3.3.11 notes that renewable energy sources, such as solar, are intermittent and, as a result, back-up sources are required at times when the availability of intermittent renewable sources is low. Paragraph 3.3.27 goes on to identify how electrical storage technologies can be used to compensate for intermittence.

3.3.10 Part 4 of revised EN-1 deals with the '*Assessment principles*' that must be taken into account by applicants and the SoS in preparing and determining applications for nationally significant energy infrastructure. Paragraph 4.1.3 states that the SoS will start with a presumption in favour of granting development consent for applications for energy NSIPs given the level and urgency of need for such infrastructure, as well as weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits. The assessment principles to be taken into account, as which are set out in Part 4, include matters such as:

- "Its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for the Clean Power 2030 Mission and net zero, energy infrastructure, job creation, reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits;
- Its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy."

3.3.11 Section 4.3 of NPS EN-1 is related to the requirement for assessment of likely significant environmental effects and reporting within an Environmental Statement for projects that are subject to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

## 3.4 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)

3.4.1 The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[8] sets out the national policy for renewable energy development in England and Wales. EN-3 has effect alongside the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)[7], and together these documents provide the primary basis for decision-making by the Examining Authority in respect of applications for development consent.

3.4.2 Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 provides detailed guidance on what solar photovoltaic generation proposals may consist of and how they should be assessed. Paragraph 2.10.7 to 2.10.9 states:

*"Solar farm proposals are currently likely to consist of solar panel arrays, mounting structures, piles, inverters, transformers and cables.*

*Associated infrastructure may also be proposed and may be treated, on a case-by-case basis, as associated development, such as energy storage, electrolysers associated with the production of low carbon hydrogen, or security arrangements (which may encompass flood defences, fencing, lighting and surveillance).*

3.4.3 Along with associated infrastructure, a solar farm currently requires between 1.6 and 2.25 hectares (4-5.6 acres) for each MW of output. However, this will vary significantly depending on the site, with some being larger and some being smaller. This is also expected to change over time as the technology continues to evolve to become more efficient. Nevertheless, this scale of development will inevitably have impacts, particularly if sited in rural areas."

3.4.4 With regards to environmental considerations, NPS EN-3 provides solar PV generation specific policy on: Biodiversity, ecological, geological conservation and water management; landscape, visual and residential amenity; glint and glare; historic environment; and construction including traffic and transport noise and vibration.

## 3.5 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)

3.5.1 The NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)[9] was updated in December 2025, and forms part of the suite of energy NPSs and is to be read in conjunction with the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1).

3.5.2 NPS EN-5 is relevant to the Proposed Development as the Proposed Development falls within the two main elements of the policy captured at paragraph 1.6.1 set out below:

*"transmission systems (the long-distance transfer of electricity through 400kV and 275kV lines), and distribution systems (lower voltage lines from 132kV to 230V from transmission substations to the end-user) which can either be carried on towers/monopoles, or undergrounded; and associated infrastructure, e.g. substations (the essential link between generation, transmission, and the distribution systems that also allows circuits to be switched or voltage transformed to a useable level for the consumer) and converter stations to convert DC power to AC power and vice versa."*

3.5.3 The policy statement recognises that new electricity networks required for electricity generation and storage infrastructure are vital to achieving the nation's transition to net zero.

3.5.4 NPS EN-5 sets out further technology-specific considerations, in addition to those impacts covered in NPS EN-1, for: biodiversity and geological conservation; landscape and visual; noise and vibration; and electric and magnetic fields (EMFs).

3.5.5 With regards to cable routing NPS EN-5 states "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/minimisation of environmental impacts both onshore and offshore at an early stage in the development process."

## 3.6 National Planning Policy

3.6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2024) (NPPF)[9] sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIPs as these are determined in accordance with the decision-making framework in the Planning Act 2008 and any relevant NPSs, but it still can be an important and relevant matter for the purposes of the Secretary of State's decision making when determining the DCO application.

3.6.2 The NPPF also provides relevant context for individual assessment topics.

3.6.3 The paragraphs of particular relevance to the application are as follows:

- Paragraph 8: "achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

  a) an economic objective - to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

  b) a social objective - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

  c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy."

- Paragraph 165(a): "to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts)".

- Paragraph 168: "When determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon energy developments and their associated infrastructure, local planning authorities should:

  d) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and give significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal's contribution to a net zero future;

[9] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework. [Online]. [Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf 49

e) recognise that small-scale and community-led projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions".

## 3.7 Local Planning Policy

3.7.1 The relevant Local Development Plans for the area do not carry the same weight under the Planning Act 2008 in respect of decision making on NSIPs, as they do with determining planning applications under the Town Country Planning Act 1990. The NPSs are the primary consideration for NSIP applications. Nevertheless, the Development Plan is still a matter which can be considered important and relevant in deciding an application for a DCO, although in the event of any conflict, the NPS prevails.

3.7.2 The Proposed Development is located entirely within the administrative area of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The relevant local planning policies of the adopted development plans for the 'host' planning authority will be considered as part of the assessment.

### East Riding Local Plan Update (2020-2039)[10]

3.7.3 In April 2025, East Riding of Yorkshire Council adopted the East Riding Local Plan Update (2020–2039). The local plan aims to provide contributions toward sustainable development, setting out policies that address the need to deliver homes in the local area, as well as supporting other development and infrastructure. Core policies are included which address localised issues in relation to community development, the economy, the environment, and transport.

3.7.4 Relevant to the Proposed Development, Policy EC5: supporting the renewable and low carbon energy sector, states:

Proposals for the development of the energy sector, including solar, "will be supported where any significant adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, and the residual harm is outweighed by the wider benefits of the proposal. Developments and their associated infrastructure should be acceptable in terms of:

3.7.5 The cumulative impact of the proposal with other existing and proposed energy sector developments;

2) The character and sensitivity of landscapes to accommodate energy development, with particular consideration to the identified Important Landscape Areas, and for onshore wind energy developments, the Wind Energy Landscape Sensitivity Strategy.

3) The effects of development on:

i) local amenity, including noise, air and water quality, traffic, vibration, dust, light (including reflection, glint, glare and shadow flicker), and visual impact;

ii) biodiversity, geodiversity and nature, particularly in relation to designations, displacement, disturbance and collision and the impact of emissions / contamination;

iii) the historic environment, including individual and groups of heritage assets above and below ground;

[10] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039 [Online] [Accessed: 12 May 2026] Available at: LPU - Strategy Document Update Adopted 2025.pdf

iv) telecommunications and other networks; including the need for additional cabling to connect to the National Grid, electromagnetic production and interference, and aeronautical impacts such as on radar systems;

v) transport, including the opportunity to use waterways and rail for transportation of materials and fuel, and the capacity of the road network to accommodate development;

vi) increasing the risk of flooding; and

vii) the land, including land stability, contamination, best and most versatile agricultural land and soil resources.

4) Where appropriate, proposals should include provision for decommissioning at the end of their operational life. Where decommissioning is necessary, the site should be restored, with minimal adverse impact on amenity, landscape and biodiversity, and opportunities taken for enhancement of these features."

# 4 Approach to EIA

## 4.1 Overview

### Introduction

4.1.1 This Chapter sets out the overall approach that will be taken to the EIA for the Proposed Development. The ES will contain the information specified in Schedule 4[11] of the EIA Regulations. The approach to the assessment has been informed by current best practice guidance.

4.1.2 An overview of the guidance and methodology adopted for each environmental aspect is provided within the respective environmental chapters of this EIA Scoping Report.

### The EIA Process

4.1.3 In accordance with Regulation 14(3) of and Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations[12], the EIA process will be set out in an ES, which will describe:

- the Proposed Development;
- the EIA methodology as well as technical methodologies and data used in support of the assessment;
- mitigation and enhancement measures including monitoring arrangements;
- the assessment of likely significant environmental effects; and
- the residual effects and an assessment of cumulative effects.

4.1.4 The ES will be prepared in accordance with relevant planning policy and guidance; Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advice Note Seven[13]; and current best-practice EIA guidelines, including the latest relevant technical advice notes from PINS. The EIA process will follow guidance included in technical advice notes referred to as part of the EIA Scoping Report, and includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- PINS Advice Note Three[14];
- PINS Advice Note Ten[15]; and

[11] His Majesty's Government 2017 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Schedule 4) [Online] available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/schedule/4
[12] His Majesty's Office (HMSO) (2017) Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
[13] The Planning Inspectorate (2020). Annex to Advice Note 7 – Presentation of the Environmental Statement. [Online]. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6579a3e4095987001295dfcc/Annex1_advice_note_7.pdf
[14] The Planning Inspectorate (2025). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation. [Online]. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation#who-should-be-consulted
[15] The Planning Inspectorate (2025). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments. [Online]. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-habitats-regulations-assessments

- PINS Advice Note Eleven[16].

4.1.5 Each technical assessment of the ES will be assessed in line with specific technical methodologies and best-practice guidelines.

4.1.6 The EIA process has also been informed by consultation with statutory consultees, interested parties and members of the public. The overarching purpose of the EIA process is to ensure that decision makers can make an informed judgement upon the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Development.

## Rochdale Envelope

4.1.7 The Rochdale Envelope is a recognised way of dealing with an application comprising EIA development, as it recognises that during the early stages of scheme design, certain aspects may remain subject to change. A DCO application should therefore ensure that it contains a level of detail that enables a proper assessment of the environmental effects to be made. The extent of flexibility needed depends on the design progress when the detailed application is made. To accommodate this, technical assessments define an 'envelope' within which the project will unfold, featuring maximum and minimum parameters, so that an assessment of the reasonable worst-case scenario can be undertaken. The parameters should be as realistic as possible to determine likely significant effects as accurately as is possible. PINS Advice Note Nine on the 'Rochdale Envelope' (July 2018)[17] provides guidance for handling applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.

4.1.8 To comply with the EIA Regulations, and to provide certainty to stakeholders such as the local community, it is crucial to define these parameters as narrowly as possible to accurately identify likely significant effects rather than exaggerating effects that are improbable.

4.1.9 The ES will clearly explain which elements of the Proposed Development are yet to be finalised and provide reasons for this. Where flexibility is sought for any elements, the ES will set out the construction and design parameters and the works that will be involved for each of the parcels comprising the Proposed Development. With this in mind, the EIA will ensure a clear understanding of assumptions and cumulative construction impacts to represent a 'worst case', ensuring a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects. In addition to the Rochdale Envelope, following PINS Guidance to ensure clarity as to how environmental mitigation measures included within the design of the Proposed Development are secured, a Commitments Register will be included within the DCO application, and a current version is submitted in **Appendix B** of the Scoping Report. As discussed in **Chapter 1: Introduction**, this will identify how commitments will be secured and implemented, to ensure potential environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development are mitigated as far as possible, in accordance with the EIA mitigation hierarchy. As per the reasoning above, it is the Applicant's intention to seek flexibility in the design and layout of the Proposed Development, by considering reasonable 'worst case' scenarios to determine likely significant effects.

[16] The Planning Inspectorate (2025). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process. [Online]. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-working-with-public-bodies-in-the-infrastructure-planning-process#summary-of-how-public-bodies-may-be-involved-at-each-stage-of-the-nsip-process

[17] Planning Inspectorate (2018) *Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope*. Version 3. Bristol: Planning Inspectorate. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope (Accessed: 12 May 2026).

### Constraints Analysis and Design Process

4.1.10 As part of the EIA and design process, all technical aspects will use the relevant environmental baseline conditions of the Site and its surrounds in order to identify any environmental constraints and opportunities relevant to each of the technical aspect assessments. Where relevant, this includes the future baseline, which is where a change is anticipated to the baseline over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, assuming the Proposed Development did not proceed. This enables design principles to be created to support the evolution of the Proposed Development, to help ensure that important environmental considerations are taken into account during the design development process. The outputs from this process will be included within the ES.

## 4.2 Scoping and Consultation

4.2.1 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 received Royal Assent on 18 December 2025. This Act includes provisions which, once commenced, remove certain statutory pre-application consultation requirements under the Planning Act 2008, including the duty to consult under section 42 and other related requirements. The Applicant will continue to monitor the commencement of those provisions, plus any transitional arrangements and associated guidance, and will ensure that the approach to consultation and engagement complies with the legislative and policy framework applicable at the time.

4.2.2 Subject to the timing of the above, the Applicant may therefore not be required to undertake a formal statutory consultation phase. However, the Applicant will continue to undertake proportionate and meaningful engagement with local communities, relevant local authorities, statutory environmental bodies and other key stakeholders. This will include engagement necessary to inform the design of the Proposed Development, the scope and methodology of the EIA, and the identification of appropriate mitigation.

4.2.3 Feedback received through consultation and stakeholder engagement will be reviewed by the Applicant and the technical assessment team. Where such feedback results in changes to the design, construction methodology, control measures or other mitigation, those matters will be incorporated into the Proposed Development and/or secured through the draft DCO, requirements and relevant management plans as appropriate. Such measures will be identified and assessed within the ES, including where they form part of the mitigation assumed in the assessment of likely significant effects.

### Engagement to date

4.2.4 Prior to the evolution of the Proposed Development, the project was previously brought forward as the Kingfisher Solar Farm. As part of this earlier iteration, stakeholder engagement was undertaken in relation to the northern land parcel (to which that project related). This included discussions with statutory consultees, including the Environment Agency, Natural England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Non-statutory consultation was also carried out, including public exhibition events held in February and March 2025, to introduce the proposals and seek feedback from the local community.

4.2.5 Feedback and information obtained through this earlier phase of engagement have informed the ongoing design and assessment of the northern land parcel. The Proposed Development has subsequently evolved to reflect changes to the Site, Applicant, and grid connection strategy. As such, further engagement is now being undertaken on the revised scheme, including amendments to the northern land parcel, the introduction of the southern land parcel, and the cable search area.

4.2.6 Updated discussions and re-engagement are now being progressed to reflect the evolution of the scheme. The Applicant has engaged with the following parties:

- PINS;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- Natural England;
- Environment Agency; and
- Historic England

4.2.7 Re-engagement has also been undertaken with local Parish Councils and local communities. An Indicative Masterplan (see **Figure 5-1a and 5-1b: Indicative Masterplan Appendix A**) was presented at the Introduction and Consultation events (an early phase of information events and consultation on the early proposals) which took place in June 2026. Feedback received during these events will be taken into account in the ongoing development and refinement of the Proposed Development.

## Defining the Study Area

4.2.8 Study areas have been defined individually for each environmental aspect, taking into account the geographic scope of the potential impacts relevant to that aspect and the information required to assess those impacts. The proposed study areas are described within **Chapters 6 to 19** of this EIA Scoping Report.

## Baseline and Future Baselines

4.2.9 Appropriate and accurate baseline conditions (i.e. existing conditions on the Site and within its surrounds to an appropriately considered distance in the absence of the Proposed Development) need to be established in order to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development and to identify the most appropriate environmental measures to be employed to minimise any likely significant adverse effects.

4.2.10 Baseline information has been and will be collected and described by each technical aspect of the ES. This will include existing and available information within the public domain, baseline surveys undertaken as part of the EIA process and additional information provided as part of the consultation process and from engagement. For the majority of the environmental aspects relevant baseline conditions will relate to the existing environmental conditions at the Site and in the local area.

4.2.11 As per the requirements of Schedule 4(3) of the EIA Regulations, consideration will also be given to future baseline conditions in particular how it will likely evolve in the future (i.e. in the opening year) but without the Proposed Development in place. The likely evolution of the baseline conditions will be described within each technical aspect chapter of the ES, with justification given as to why any change is assumed, and have also been described, where currently known, in the aspect specific Chapters (**Chapters 6 to 19**) of this Scoping Report.

## EIA Assessment of Development Phases

4.2.12 The ES will present the assessment of effects of the following phases of the Proposed Development:

- Construction Phase;

- Operation Phase (including maintenance); and
- Decommissioning Phase.

4.2.13 An indicative construction programme for the Proposed Development building on the programme in **Chapter 5: Description of Development**, will be presented in the ES. This will include all stages of the construction phase including site preparation and ground works, construction and landscaping.

4.2.14 For the Construction Phase, the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development will be assessed for the reasonable worst-case scenario for each technical aspect. For example, for transport, this includes the peak in traffic when there are the maximum movements of vehicles on the local road network; and for landscape and visual impacts and built heritage, this includes construction works at the closest proximity to a sensitive receptor. The reasonable assumptions made during the assessment will be detailed in the ES.

4.2.15 As noted above the EIA will assess the maximum development parameters (or the parameters that represent the reasonable worst case for likely significant environmental effects should that be different). The effects of the completed Proposed Development will be assessed and documented within the ES for the first full year of operation and the year considered to be when maximum environmental effects occur. Each environmental aspect chapter will describe the worst-case year as appropriate.

4.2.16 Within the ES there will also be an assessment made of the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development. As above, for the purposes of the EIA the decommissioning assessment will be based on an assumption that the Proposed Development will be operational for 60 years. Further information on the decommissioning phase, is presented in each of the technical aspects detailed in **Chapters 6 to 19**.

4.2.17 It is noted that at the time decommissioning will take place, the regulatory framework, good industry practices and the future baseline could have altered. Consequently, as detailed in **Chapter 5: Description of Development**, the Applicant will prepare an Outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP), which will be secured via a DCO requirement. That requirement will provide for a detailed Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) to be submitted and approved prior to decommissioning, in accordance with the secured oDEMP. That will set out the measures in place to ensure, based on current understanding, there will be no likely significant effects.

## Prediction of likely significant effects and determining significance

4.2.18 Determining the potential for significant effects needs, generally, an aspect specific approach and these methodologies are detailed within the aspect specific chapters (**Chapters 6 to 19**) themselves. However, there are certain common elements that occur in defining the appropriate scope for the detailed assessment.

4.2.19 Understanding the policy and legal position with regard to a specific environmental aspect is fundamental to determining the likelihood of significant effects occurring. As such the assessment of effects for every aspect will be informed by a detailed review of existing policy including that at national and local level. In addition, relevant legal requirements will be identified.

4.2.20 Knowledge of the baseline environment, specific to the technical aspect being considered is also required. At this scoping stage the level of baseline collection is appropriate to allow the gaining of an understanding of whether the Proposed Development has the potential to cause

significant effects. In many cases this means that there has been a reliance on desk study data and as such, in the future, and to inform the detailed assessment as will be documented within the ES, further baseline data will be collected. Arising from an analysis of the baseline data will come the identification of sensitive receptors that could be affected by the Proposed Development.

4.2.21 At this Scoping stage sensitive receptors have been identified and are noted within the aspect specific Chapter (**Chapters 6 to 19**) albeit with the collection of more detailed baseline information these may be subject to some change.

4.2.22 Establishing the potential for a significant effect to occur, and therefore which effects should be subject to detailed assessment, has been informed by aspect specific guidance often validated by a relevant professional body. The same will be used to inform the detailed assessment as will be documented within the ES. Generally, guidance, in reaching a conclusion on whether an effect could be significant, requires consideration of the sensitivity of a receptor to change, and importantly consideration of the predicted magnitude of change.

4.2.23 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.

4.2.24 Summary of effect tables that summarise the likely significant effects associated with each of the environmental aspects will be provided in the ES at the end of each aspect assessment chapter. These tables will detail sensitive receptors, additional mitigation measures and residual effects. A distinction will be made between:

- direct;
- indirect;
- secondary;
- short-term, medium-term and long-term;
- permanent and temporary; and;
- positive and negative effects.

4.2.25 Cumulative effects will be considered as a single coordinated assessment and will be presented as a separate ES Chapter.

## Cumulative Effects

4.2.26 Schedule 4(5)(e) of the EIA Regulations states that the ES should include "a description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from... the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources".

4.2.27 Following the above screening criteria, the potential cumulative effects will follow the PINS Advice Note Seventeen[18] on cumulative effects assessment relevant to NSIPs. The staged approach detailed in the Advice Note considers the level of certainty of surrounding projects, and the need to assess development plans and future development consents; acknowledging

[18] The Planning Inspectorate (2025). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment

that there will be limited information available on the relevant proposals to base such assessment on.

4.2.28 As outlined within the PINS Advice Note[19res], the approach to cumulative effects assessment is split into four distinct phases:

- The establishment of a long list of development (Stage 1);
- The establishment of a short list (Stage 2);
- Information gathering (Stage 3); and
- Cumulative assessment (Stage 4).

4.2.29 Stage 1 of the cumulative effects assessment will establish whether there are other existing and/or approved developments to be included within the assessment, as well as a quantification of the Zone of Influence (ZOI) for each environmental aspect scoped in for assessment. The current criteria for inclusion in the study, and to establish the long list of other existing and/or approved developments, are as follows:

4.2.30 Other existing and/or approved projects within the local vicinity (at this stage assumed to be within 10km of the Proposed Development):

- that have planning permission (or development consent) but are not yet built;
- schemes where a planning application (or DCO application) has been submitted but a decision not yet made; or
- major projects likely to occur due to existing policy.

4.2.31 This information above will be identified based on information available on the local authorities planning registers, on the PINS website and discussed during the consultation stages. It should be recognised that many of the projects that will fall within the categories under the first two bullets above may be so small that cumulative effects will be highly unlikely. An example of this would be a house extension, or similar. Using professional judgement, projects will therefore be screened for their potential to act in a cumulative way with the Proposed Development with only those where such potential exists considered further. This screening exercise will be detailed within the ES and will also be consulted upon as part of pre-application discussions with the relevant host authorities.

4.2.32 Stage 2 of the cumulative effects assessment includes the development of threshold criteria to the longlist as identified at Stage 1, to then establish a short list which will be included within the assessment within the ES. The criteria will address temporal scope as well as the scale and nature of the identified cumulative development.

4.2.33 To supplement the shortlist of cumulative developments identified at Stage 2, Stage 3 will gather all available information on each of the shortlisted developments to inform the Stage 4 assessment. This information will include, but not be limited to, design and locational information, any construction, operation and decommissioning information, as well as any environmental data which could help inform the cumulative assessment, which may include baseline data and any potential environmental effects.

4.2.34 Stage 4, as outlined within the PINS Advice Note, is the assessment of cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with other developments identified within Stages 1 to 3 above and will be presented as a separate chapter of the ES. Each technical aspect of the ES will consider the

potential for cumulative effects associated with the schemes identified (for example cumulative assessment of traffic effects from nearby projects that are of a significant scale (and where traffic flows are publicly available)).

4.2.35 Regulation 5(2) states that the EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the Proposed Development on population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, built heritage and the landscape. Regulation 5(2)(e) refers to the need to assess '*the interaction between those factors*'. The following types of cumulative effects will be considered in accordance with the EIA Regulations and best practice guidance:

- Combined effects: which occur when a similar type of effect, for example noise, occurs albeit from differing sources e.g. from both road traffic and aircraft noise. Within the ES, combined effects will be dealt with in the relevant technical aspect chapter.
- Interactive effects: which occur when a number of separate effects, for example noise and air quality, together interact to cause an effect on a particular receptor, for example a protected species. Interactive effects will be dealt with either in the relevant technical aspect Chapter of the ES (the example for protected species will be included in the Biodiversity Chapter), or where they have the potential to affect human health, then within the Human Health Chapter.

### *Relevant Infrastructure Projects (Cumulative Assessment)*

4.2.36 A number of other large-scale infrastructure projects are located in proximity to the Site, including the Dogger Bank D, Dogger Bank South and Hornsea Four offshore wind farm projects. In addition, other developments and infrastructure changes are being progressed within the surrounding area, including proposed highway works to the A1079, National Grid's North Humber to High Marnham reinforcement of the high-voltage transmission network, and the consented Creyke Beck Solar Farm located adjacent to the southern land parcel**. Figure 4-1: Cumulative Developments and Infrastructure** in **Appendix A**, presents the current spatial details of these potentially interacting schemes.

4.2.37 These projects, together with other relevant plans and schemes identified to date, will be assessed within the cumulative effects assessment (as described above) and which will be presented in the ES. These schemes will be treated as cumulative schemes for the purposes of the EIA.

### *Cumulative Engagement*

4.2.38 As discussed in **Chapter 2: Description of the Site and Surrounding Area**, the Applicant is aware of other projects which are also proposed in the vicinity of the Site Boundary. Where practicable, the Applicant will explore opportunities to collaborate with other developers to reduce environmental effects. If required, a Joint Report on Interrelationships will be submitted as part of the DCO application, to provide further information on any agreed collaboration between developers.

## Transboundary effects

4.2.39 Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations requires the consideration of any likely significant effects in the environment of another European Economic Area (EEA) member state. Guidance of the consideration of transboundary effects is provided in the PINS' *Nationally Significant*

*Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process*[19], published in September 2024.

4.2.40 Due to the nature and location of the Proposed Development, it is considered that the Proposed Development does not have the potential to result in any likely significant effects on the environment of another EEA State. Therefore, a transboundary screening matrix has not been included within this EIA Scoping Report and transboundary effects are proposed to be scoped out of any future assessment.

## Structure of the Environmental Statement

4.2.41 In accordance with Schedule 4 (Regulation 18(3)) of the EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note Seven[20], the EIA process will be documented in an ES which will describe the Proposed Development, give full details of the EIA methodology and any technical methodologies and data used in support of the assessment; detail any mitigation and enhancement measures that have been employed; present the assessment of likely significant environmental effects; and provide a schedule of proposed mitigation and monitoring arrangements.

4.2.42 The ES will address the direct effects of the Proposed Development in addition to the likely indirect, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent, temporary, beneficial and adverse effects. The measures required to prevent, reduce or, where possible, offset significant adverse effects will also be described. The concluding chapters will provide a summary of the cumulative effects and impact interactions as described in each of the topic sections in **Chapters 6 to 19**.

4.2.43 This Volume will comprise the main ES text and will include the following:

- Introduction to the ES, including the structure of the ES, details on the aspect chapters, requirements of the EIA Regulations and the Technical Team Competency;
- The overall methodology for this EIA, in terms of determining the significance of likely environmental effects;
- Description of the proposed Order Limits (the geographical boundary which will be legally defined within the DCO) and surrounding area, including the main environmental features;
- An outline of the main alternatives studied and an indication of the main reasons for the design of the Proposed Development as submitted, taking into account the environmental effects; and
- Description of the Proposed Development including the physical conditions and management during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

4.2.44 ES Volume 2: Aspect Chapters This Volume will comprise the technical aspect chapters of the ES and will include the following:

- A detailed assessment methodology for each environmental aspect scoped into the EIA;

[19] Planning Inspectorate (2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process. London: GOV.UK [Accessed 11 May 2026].
[20] Planning Inspectorate (2025) Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements. 7th edn. Bristol: Planning Inspectorate. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an (Accessed: 11 May 2026).

- A description of the current baseline environment and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Proposed Development for each environmental aspect;
- A description of the embedded environmental measures proposed;
- An assessment of predicted environmental effects during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases;
- A description of the expected significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment;
- An assessment of cumulative effects; and
- A summary of effects.

4.2.45 Volume 3: Figures and Technical Appendices Supporting ES Volumes 1 and 2 will include all the figures, and all technical data required to support the assessment conclusions set out in Volume 2.

### *Non-Technical Summary*

4.2.46 A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will be prepared which will convey the key findings of the EIA in a clear and concise format (in non-technical language) to allow the public to understand the description of the Proposed Development, the significant effects likely to arise from the Proposed Development and the embedded environmental measures.

### *Environmental Aspects*

4.2.47 Following a review of environmental surveys and preliminary appraisal work to date, it is proposed that the EIA need only to focus on the following environmental aspects where significant effects are likely to occur. This includes the following technical aspects, which are discussed in **Chapters 6 to 19**. Scoped out aspects are also dealt with in **Chapters 6 to 19** (which includes **Chapter 17: Air Quality** and **Chapter 18: Land and Groundwater**, which are proposed to be Scoped Out):

- Biodiversity;
- Hydrology;
- Agricultural Soils;
- Archaeology;
- Built Heritage;
- Landscape and Visual;
- Transport and Access;
- Carbon and Climate Change;
- Noise and Vibration
- Human Health; and
- Socio-Economics.

# 5 Description of Development

## 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter provides a description of the Proposed Development to enable the identification of potential environmental impacts and likely significant effects for the purposes of this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report. As the project remains at an early design stage, the chapter also identifies areas where design flexibility is required within the evolving layout and technical parameters of the Proposed Development.

5.1.2 The description of development in this EIA Scoping Report represents the Applicant's current understanding of design parameters for the Proposed Development, which will be refined further as the project progresses toward submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, at that stage, the design will have reached a state of maturity appropriate to allow the EIA to be undertaken. Parameters will be informed by operational needs, responses from consultation and engagement, environmental monitoring and modelling, engineering and technical design, and land engagement.

5.1.3 **Figure 1-1** within Appendix A provides a plan sufficient to identify the land where development could occur. An Indicative Masterplan is also included as **Figure 5-1a** and **5-1b** within **Appendix A**, which was presented at the Introduction and Consultation events (an early phase of information events and consultation on the early proposals) which took place in June 2026.

5.1.4 As the Proposed Development progresses, the guiding principles for the detailed design of the Proposed Development will be developed in response to local context, consultation feedback, environmental monitoring and modelling, engineering and technical design considerations. Project specific design principles have been developed to guide the design process. These principles align with guidance published by the National Infrastructure Commission titled Design Principles for National Infrastructure, spanning matters of climate, people, place and value. The project specific design principles will evolve over time, informed by engagement with stakeholders. The final list of principles and the Applicants proposed approach, will be set out in the Design Approach Document which will be included as part of the DCO application. The project specific design principles have informed early design parameters, which are listed in the Scoping Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**).

### Approach to Assessing Uncertainty

5.1.5 Information provided on layout and design within the DCO application will be based on the principles of the 'Rochdale Envelope' in accordance with PINS Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope[21]. The Rochdale Envelope is a recognised way of dealing with an application comprising EIA development where details of a project have not been fully resolved by the time the application is submitted. This means that maximum and minimum design envelopes will be adopted to provide sufficient flexibility for the later detailed design of the Proposed Development (detailed design will take place post granting of the DCO and will be subject to a requirement in the DCO, for details to be approved by the relevant planning authority), whilst also allowing for a robust assessment of environmental effects (this assessment being based on maximum 'worst case' parameters) to be made.

[21] Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (2018) Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope.

5.1.6 To comply with the EIA Regulations[22],[23], and to provide certainty to stakeholders such as the local community, it is crucial to define these parameters as narrowly as possible to accurately identify likely significant effects, rather than exaggerating effects that are improbable. The Applicant has undertaken this exercise, and the parameters have been defined as tightly as possible at this stage of the project, as set out within this Scoping Report.

5.1.7 At this stage, the cable corridor remains a broad cable search area rather than a fixed alignment. Further technical work is ongoing, including environmental surveys, modelling, engineering design and feasibility, engagement with stakeholders and discussions with other developers who are progressing with their own applications for cable infrastructure within the local area. As this information evolves, the level of design flexibility will progressively narrow. Any refinement of the cable corridor will be undertaken (where possible) prior to, and reported within, the Environmental Statement (ES), in line with the Rochdale Envelope principles set out above.

5.1.8 The ES will clearly explain which elements of the Proposed Development are yet to be finalised and provide reasons for this. Where flexibility is sought for any elements, the ES will set out the construction and design parameters and the works that will be involved for each of the parcels comprising the Proposed Development. With this in mind, the EIA will ensure a clear understanding of assumptions and cumulative construction impacts to represent a 'worst case' scenario, ensuring a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects. In addition to the Rochdale Envelope, following PINS Guidance[24] to ensure clarity as to how environmental mitigation measures included within the design of the Proposed Development are secured, a Commitments Register will be included within the DCO application. As discussed in **Chapter 1: Introduction**, this will identify how commitments will be secured and implemented, to ensure potential environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development are mitigated as far as possible, in accordance with the EIA mitigation hierarchy (as set out **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**).

5.1.9 In accordance with PINS Guidance[4], a Scoping Commitments Register is included in **Appendix B**, which provides details on the design of the Proposed Development, best practice measures to be included within the management plans, design parameters and any aspect specific commitments made by the Applicant at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that the Commitments Register is a 'live' document which will be updated throughout the DCO process.

## 5.2 Proposed Development

5.2.1 A description of the Site is presented in **Chapter 2: Description of Site and Surrounding Area**. The Site boundary extends across two separate parcels of land (the northern land parcel and southern land parcel): see **Figure 1-2** within Appendix A which shows these land parcels. **Figure 1-1** within **Appendix A** presents the expected area of land potentially required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It is important to note that this area is subject to change as the design and EIA progress. Together with the description of the Proposed Development set out below, this allows for consideration of the potential environmental effects, to ensure that the likely significant environmental effects of each of the component options has been scoped into the assessment.

[22] Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process by which the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development are identified, assessed, and taken into account by the competent authority in determining whether development consent should be granted.
[23] His Majesty's Office (HMSO) (2017) Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
[24] Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Commitments Register. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-commitments-register

## Description of the Proposed Development

5.2.2 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) technologies are rapidly evolving. As a result of this, as stated above, the Rochdale Envelope will be used to allow and maintain flexibility for the optimal technology to be utilised for the Proposed Development at the time of construction. The design of the Proposed Development will consider and be sensitive to the surrounding environment, with the aim of avoiding and minimising adverse effects upon the identified environmental receptors. This will be secured by the design principles as referenced as above. The Proposed Development will comprise the following components, to which further details are set out below:

- Ground Mounted PV generating stations which comprise modules and mounting structures.
- Power Conversion Stations (PCS) which comprise inverters, transformers and switchgear.
- On-site substations comprising transformers, switching and control equipment, office/control/welfare buildings, storage areas, and provisions for vehicular parking and material laydown areas.
- BESS units which will be situated in a compound which will include office/control/welfare buildings and associated inverters, transformers, switchgear and ancillary equipment and their containers, enclosures, monitoring systems, air conditioning, electrical cables and fire safety infrastructure.
- Ancillary infrastructure including a network of cable circuits for the provision of security and monitoring.
- Highways works to facilitate vehicular access to the Proposed Development.
- Security and boundary installation including fencing, gates and access facilitation works including tracks to connect to the public highway.
- Office, warehouse and plant storage buildings.
- Landscaping, habitat management and biodiversity enhancement.

## Solar PV Modules and Mounting Structures

5.2.3 Solar PV modules collect energy from sunlight and turn it into electricity in the form of low voltage, Direct Current (DC) electrical output. The solar PV modules will be strategically positioned to avoid sensitive environmental features, maintaining offsets as detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (**Appendix B**).

Plate 5-1: Example of Solar PV Module

5.2.4 All solar PV modules will be located within the area(s) set out within the Indicative Masterplan (**Figure 5-1a** and **Figure 5-1b** within **Appendix A**). Typically, a solar PV module will be up to 2.5m long and 1.2m wide. The solar PV modules will be arranged in portrait orientation at 180 degrees under the Rochdale Envelope approach (discussed above), allowing for flexibility in design. The solar PV modules are likely to be bifacial, with dark blue, grey, or black surfaces, with an anti-reflective coating. Supporting frame will be constructed from anodized aluminium alloy, and modules will be mounted on racks made from galvanized steel or similar material. The solar PV modules will be installed at a tilt angle of 10° to 25° and will be south-facing to optimize solar capture.

5.2.5 The solar PV modules are likely to be fixed. However, if required to mitigate certain environmental impacts, solar tracking systems may be proposed across areas of the northern and southern land parcels to reduce potential effects. The requirement of solar tracking systems is subject to further detailed assessment and modelling, and the results will be presented within the ES.

5.2.6 PV tables will accommodate up to four rows of solar PV modules, with a minimum row spacing of 2.5m to allow for maintenance access during operation and reduce shading effects. The arrangement of modules within a PV table shall be the same across the solar PV array, subject to similar topography and land characteristics such as flood zones (as described below). This shall be determined on an area-by-area basis.

5.2.7 The solar PV modules will be installed at varying heights to account for flood risk. In line with discussions held with the Environment Agency, the required freeboard beneath the PV tables during a flood event will be confirmed through further detailed work, including additional flood modelling on the northern land parcel. Module heights will also be shaped by other environmental considerations, such as landscape and visual impact, and potential effects on built heritage. These height parameters will be refined through ongoing engagement with the Environment Agency (in relation to flooding) and with other relevant statutory consultees as part of the iterative design process.

5.2.8 The PV tables will be installed with foundations suitable for site conditions consisting of either galvanized steel poles or screw piles driven into the ground. In areas where ground penetration foundations are not feasible, reinforced concrete ballast foundations will be used. The maximum pile depth for mounting structures will be 3m. Archaeological investigation surveys (in the form of geophysical surveys) and ground investigation surveys are being undertaken. Results of these surveys will inform the mounting structure foundation type, depth and construction methodology.

## Power Conversion Stations (PCS)

5.2.9 The PCS incorporate the inverters, transformers and switchgear and are required to manage the electricity generated by the solar PV modules. An explanation of each is provided below.

### *Inverters*

5.2.10 Inverters will convert the electricity from DC collected by the PV modules into alternating current (AC) for grid transmission, which allows the electricity generated to be distributed to the collector compounds and then onto the Proposed Development substations, where the voltage is increased allowing export onto the National Grid. The number of solar PV modules that can be connected to each inverter will be determined by the size of the inverters available in the market. Inverters may be either string (distributed across the PV module rows and mounted below the modules) or central (located with the transformers and switchgear as part of the PCS, typically houses in steel or fibreglass enclosures). Inverter technology is in continuous evolution, with a typical string inverter shown indicatively in **Plate 5-1**, and a typical centralised inverter within **Plate 5-2**.

Plate 5-1: Typical String Inverter

Plate 5-2: Typical Centralised Inverter

### *Transformers*

5.2.11 Transformers are required to step up the voltage of electricity generated across the Proposed Development before it reaches the substations or collector compound, in turn connecting to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck, for which the Application has a grid connection agreement. For central inverters the transformers are likely to be housed in a standard manufactured delivered solution on one base as shown in **Plate 5-3**. For string inverters, transformers are likely to be installed separately along with a container to house multiple string inverter inputs and protection devices. They are likely to be located across the Site at regular intervals.

Plate 5-3: Typical Outdoor Transformer

### *Switchgear*

5.2.12 Switchgear includes electrical disconnect switches, circuit breakers, and protection devices designed to control, protect and isolate electrical equipment to safely manage the flow of electricity between the BESS, inverters, transformers, and the onsite Grid Transformers (GTs). It is noted that the technology will not use sulphur hexafluoride (SF6)-reliant assets.

5.2.13 The above will either be housed ('integrated') together within an inverter and transformer station enclosure, or will be rated for outdoor use, where the infrastructure will be grouped separately within a compound. In both instances they will be a muted colour to be sympathetic with surroundings. The inverter and transformer station units will be pre-assembled and preconfigured with a maximum dimension of approximately 13m in length, 3m in width and 3m in height. Monitoring and control systems will consist of manual controls at the conversion units, and automatic and centralised monitoring and control features at the control rooms on the onsite substations (see below).

5.2.14 The PCS Units will be located within areas of solar infrastructure and will be designed (through appropriate setbacks and/or acoustic mitigation) and located to avoid likely significant effects to noise sensitive receptors. Where flood extents cannot be avoided, the PCS will be raised above the design flood water event either on a plinth or piles, which will also accommodate appropriate freeboard. As above, the heights are being discussed with the Environment Agency (with regards to flooding) and relevant statutory consultees as part of the design process.

5.2.15 Fencing around the PCS will comprise a palisade style fence up to 3m above ground level, painted in a muted colour sympathetic to the surrounding environment, and with high tensile wire mesh.

## On-site Substations

5.2.16 Two on-site substations will be included within the Proposed Development. One will be located on the northern land parcel and one on the southern land parcel. The substations will comprise electrical infrastructure such as (but not limited to) the transformers, switchgear, control buildings and metering equipment to the BESS, as required to facilitate the export of electricity to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck. The decision on the location of substations will be confirmed as the design evolves.

5.2.17 The substations will have an indicative maximum footprint size of 30,000m$^2$, with a maximum height of 14m above ground level and will be located within its own compound. Foundations are likely to consist of a reinforced concrete base up to 2m deep. A lightning rod up to 25m above ground level maybe required, which will be determined by a lightning protection study to be undertaken at the detailed design stage, following DCO consent.

5.2.18 The substation compounds will be continuously operated, but not be permanently lit. External lighting will be mounted on columns up to 10m high. Task specific lighting will be used in the case of emergency works. Passive Infra-Red controlled lighting will be used where access is required outside of daylight hours. Operational lighting will be directed to within the Site boundary and will include features designed to reduce light spill beyond the areas required to be lit.

5.2.19 Within the substation compound there will be control buildings, which will have a maximum footprint of 300m$^2$ and a height of 7m above ground level. Foundations will consist of either a reinforced concrete base or plinth up to 500mm deep. Internal lighting within the control buildings will be used but light spillage controlled. The control buildings will be modular units

finished in neutral colours, subject to manufacturer specifications and approval by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

5.2.20 Security fencing will be located around the substation compound, fencing will be a maximum height of 2.5m above ground level, depending upon the specific fencing type.

## BESS Units

5.2.21 BESS units are included within the Proposed Development. The BESS is designed to provide peak generation and grid balancing services to the electricity grid. It will do this primarily by allowing excess electricity generated from the solar PV generating station to be stored in batteries and dispatched when required. It may also import surplus energy from the electricity grid when energy available to the grid exceeds demand.

5.2.22 The BESS compound will have an indicative maximum footprint size of 45,000m$^2$. The compound will include the following components:

- BESS units, each comprising an enclosure for electrochemical components and associated equipment. These enclosures may be joined or close-coupled, mounted on reinforced concrete slabs, or concrete piles. The container dimensions will depend upon the manufacturer chosen, however the containers are expected to have a maximum height of 6m;
- Transformers with associated bunds for containment of cooling oil;
- Inverters, switchgear, transformers, and related ancillary equipment;
- A switchgear / control room operates, isolates and controls the exported power from the BESS units. This will be located adjacent to the BESS units within the same compound;
- Containers or enclosures housing any of the above equipment (along with monitoring and control systems), either integrated within the BESS containers/enclosures or housed separately;
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, (either integrated into the containers/enclosures mounted on top or sides, or located nearby as standalone units) to ensure the efficiency of the batteries;
- Electrical cables, including those connecting to the grid interface; and
- Fire safety infrastructure, such as water storage tanks, shut-off valves for fire water containment, and hard standing areas to allow access for emergency vehicles.

5.2.23 The precise location of the BESS infrastructure will be confirmed as the design of the Proposed Development progresses. Early optioneering has been undertaken as part of the Project's design-led approach. This includes the avoidance of proximity to residential properties, areas within Flood Zones 2 and 3, and the identification of locations that are technically feasible for safe operation, storage and connection to the electricity network.

5.2.24 On this basis, the consideration of BESS infrastructure is currently limited to the southern land parcel, which has been identified as the most appropriate area when balancing environmental constraints and technical requirements. As the design evolves, the BESS layout will continue to be refined through the incorporation of detailed environmental baseline information and survey data, including (but not limited to) archaeological surveys, to ensure that the final locations represent the most environmentally sensitive and appropriate solution. The BESS will be

designed in accordance with latest guidance and policy, to ensure they operate safely. A management plan for battery safety will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application.

## On-Site Cabling

5.2.25 Interconnecting cabling will facilitate the transfer of electricity from the solar PV modules to the on-site substation(s), and the Grid Connection Corridor will involve cabling connecting the Proposed Development to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck, which will export the electricity to the National Grid.

5.2.26 Low voltage on-site electrical cabling is required onsite between the solar PV modules and PCS, as well as BESS units to inverters and inverters to transformers. All DC cable circuits shall be secured to the solar PV module mounting structures or shall be underground, with a maximum cable trench dimension of up to 2m wide and up to 1.6m deep, depending on the number of circuits within a single trench. Cables may be deeper when crossing obstacles.

5.2.27 At this stage the precise method of cabling is unknown. The majority of cabling (low voltage cables) between the solar PV modules and the inverters are likely to be above ground level and fixed to the mounting structures. The higher voltage cabling is likely to be laid underground in trenches (which will subsequently be backfilled/ covered) according to British standards and regulations, with it being laid using an open-cut method or via horizontal directional drilling. The precise details of the cabling method, as well as its routing, will take account of technical and environmental aspects.

## Grid connection

5.2.28 The Applicant has an agreed 500MW connection at the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck. The Proposed Development is expected to connect using a Grid Connection Corridor running between the northern and southern land parcels before linking into Wanlass Beck. High-voltage AC electrical cabling will be used onsite between the PCS and the project substation(s), as well as within the Grid Connection Corridor linking the project substation(s) to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck. Up to two 400 kV circuits will be required.

5.2.29 As described in **Chapter 2: Description of the Site and Surrounding area**, at this stage, the Grid Connection Corridor is defined as a broad 'cable search area' rather than a fixed alignment, reflecting the adoption of design-envelope approach. Ongoing work includes environmental baseline surveys, modelling, engineering feasibility studies, stakeholder engagement and coordination with other developers proposing cable infrastructure within the area. This process will inform the identification of an optimum route and installation methodology, balancing environmental constraints with technical and safety requirements.

5.2.30 At this stage only underground cables are proposed, they will be installed in accordance with relevant British standards and regulations, using either open-cut trenching or trenchless methods such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Joint bays will typically be spaced at intervals of 500m to 1,000m, subject to detailed cable design.

5.2.31 Whilst a broad search area has been defined, the Grid Connection Corridor will be subject to inherent mitigation measures, applied at the optioneering and search-area stage to avoid the potential for likely significant environmental effects. These assumptions include the following, which will continue to guide route refinement as design progresses:

- Avoidance of residential gardens and private amenity;

- Exclusion of designated sites and irreplaceable habitats;
- Precautionary ecological avoidance (such as woodland blocks, priority habitats and areas of known or high potential for protected species);
- Avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas (floodplains, watercourses and groundwater source protection zones); and
- Avoidance of designated heritage assets.

5.2.32 Detailed information on installation methods and the final Grid Connection Corridor will be provided within the DCO application.

### Works to facilitate vehicular access to the Scoping Site boundary

5.2.33 Access route options for construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have not been detailed at this stage of the assessment and require additional survey work to inform their feasibility and alignment. The design of this associated infrastructure, including any required mitigation measures to avoid or reduce likely significant effects, will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. This iterative design process will be documented and presented in the ES, ensuring transparency and alignment with the mitigation hierarchy and applicable planning guidance.

### Fencing, Security and Ancillary Infrastructure

5.2.34 Fencing around the solar PV modules will compromise a deer fence (wooden posts and metal wire mesh) and will be up to 2.5m above ground level. Natural barrier methods such as hedge thickening will also be used where possible. Appropriate mammal gates will also be incorporated.

5.2.35 CCTV towers will be installed within the Proposed Development up to a maximum height of 4m above ground level. CCTV lighting will be infrared (not visible in the dark) and will not be permanently operated. CCTV lighting will be directed within the Proposed Development, incorporating measures to minimise light spill beyond the areas required to be lit.

5.2.36 Further details of the fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure, which will consider technical and environmental aspects, will be provided as part of the DCO application information.

### Office, Warehouse and Plant Storage Buildings

5.2.37 The Proposed Development will include a permanent office, warehouse and plant storage building in both the northern land parcel and southern land parcel. Each will have a maximum height of 8m and a footprint of up to 600m$^2$. Any external waste storage shall be located within a fenced compound adjoining the permanent office, warehouse and plant storage building and will occupy a maximum footprint 3000m$^2$. The appearance of the buildings will reflect the local vernacular with standard agricultural style cladding. The location of the buildings will be provided as part of the plication information.

### Landscaping, habitat management and biodiversity enhancement

5.2.38 Existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches, ponds and field margins and other areas deemed to have high landscape or biodiversity value will be retained as far as possible. Ensuring such will be a key priority in the detailed design stage, for example existing breaks in hedgerows or ditch crossing points will be used rather than creating new ones. Exceptions may occur when no other options exist and there is a need to create new access tracks, security fencing or cable routes.

5.2.39 The Proposed Development will incorporate a number of offsets from features such as drainage ditches, watercourses, water bodies, hedgerows and tree lines. Off-sets to residential properties will be bespoke taking account of the surrounding characteristics, setting and direct views. Details of the environmental offsets to features are detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (**Appendix B**).

5.2.40 Existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Bridle Paths within the Site will be retained and incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, although there may be the need for temporary closures and/or diversions during the course of construction and decommissioning, but these will be kept to a minimum. Opportunities will be sought to provide Permissive Paths to improve recreational connectivity.

5.2.41 As shown in **Figure 5-1a** and **5-2b**, areas for biodiversity and landscape enhancement have been identified; these areas are indicative at this stage and will be further developed through the results of ecology surveys and consultation and engagement with relevant consultees. The Proposed Development will achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain in excess of 10%, with details on how this is to be achieved being provided as part of the DCO application.

5.2.42 An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) will also be submitted as part of the DCO Application (see further details below); this document will set out the principles for the successful establishment and management of biodiversity and landscaping works.

## 5.3 Construction Phase of the Proposed Development

### Programme and Activities

5.3.1 At this stage it is anticipated that the construction phase will occur over approximately two to three years, with an anticipated connection date of 2033[25] (although this will be influenced by a range of aspects including in particular the timing of submission and determination of the DCO). Further construction details will be provided as part of the DCO application information. No phasing is proposed.

5.3.2 Construction activities will include but are not limited to:

- Site preparation and clearance, advanced planting works;
- Haul roads and temporary access establishment;
- Transportation of construction materials, plant and equipment;
- Set up of temporary construction site compounds, offices and welfare and storage facilities;
- Construction of fencing and security measures;
- Targeted site clearance, earthworks and excavations;
- Construction of crossing points across ditches within the Site boundary;
- Works for drainage systems, services and utilities;
- Laying down of access tracks, ramps, footpaths and roads;

[25] The precise connection date is subject to change upon receipt of the formal Gate 2 offer from NESO.

- Assembling Solar PV module mounting structures and modules;
- Installation of DC and AC electrical cables, substation, PCS, transformers;
- Testing and commissioning of electrical components;
- Installation of HV cabling from the solar farm to the National Grid substation;
- Connection and integration of the solar farm to the National Grid Network; and
- Landscaping and habitat enhancement.

5.3.3 No demolition works are proposed.

## Temporary Construction Site Compounds

5.3.4 There will be the requirement for main construction compounds and satellite construction compounds to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development. The precise dimensions and location of compounds will be determined at a later design stage; however, it is anticipated the maximum extent of the construction compounds are 450m by 250m. Stored equipment and material will be a maximum of 3.5m above ground level.

5.3.5 The location of the temporary construction site compounds, which will consider technical and environmental aspects, as well as feedback from consultation and engagement, will be provided as part of the DCO application information. Indicative locations will be provided as part of Statutory Consultation.

## Construction Traffic and Site Access

5.3.6 Based on the preliminary construction material and equipment requirements, it is anticipated that there could be up to a total of 80 Heavy Goods Vehicle movements and 130 Light Goods Vehicle movements per day during the peak construction period. This number is indicative, excludes construction staff transportation and ancillary construction traffic, and is subject to refinement. A reasonable worst-case scenario will be presented and assessed in the ES.

5.3.7 The construction and decommissioning access points will be up to 7m wide, depending on traffic requirements, with lane width adjustments at bends assessed case by case using vehicle swept path analysis. Permanent access roads for operation and maintenance will range from 3.5m to 6m wide, with similar assessments for bends. Entry splays for solar and substation access will follow local road authority requirements.

5.3.8 Access tracks will be constructed using trackpad covered ground, compacted earth, hardcore, gravel over a levelling layer of subbase, or existing metalled surfaces, depending on ground conditions and archaeological constraints. Ditch crossings for access tracks, fences, and cable routes will be upgraded or newly constructed as needed. Underground utilities affected by access works will be identified and protected during construction.

5.3.9 Consultation and engagement will be undertaken with National Highways and the East Riding of Yorkshire highways team to inform the precise access design and locations.

5.3.10 Where large scale High Voltage (HV) component loads are required for the electrical grid connection, these will be delivered as Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL). In accordance with policy

guidance[26] and National Policy[27], the delivery of AIL will consider alternative transport modes to road, such as via water.

5.3.11 The AIL assessment will include detailed swept path analyses for the main constraint points on the route from the nearest suitable trunk road junction through to the proposed on-site substation access junction to demonstrate that components can be delivered to the Proposed Development and to identify any temporary road works which may be necessary, as well as identifying any additional temporary oversailing rights that might be needed. A Route Survey Report describing the route and the proposed operational management of the deliveries will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

5.3.12 Details of construction traffic generation, routing, access arrangements and associated mitigation measures will be set out within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP). The oCTMP will establish the framework for managing construction logistics, including the control of delivery timings, vehicle movements, and workforce travel, to minimise impacts on the local highway network and surrounding communities.

## Environmental Management

5.3.13 As part of the submission of the DCO application, the following outline management plans will be submitted which will detail the environmental measures to be implemented during construction of the Proposed Development. The use of these management plans is detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (**Appendix B**). Where applicable, the Scoping Commitments Register also includes any environmental aspect specific measures which the Applicant will implement as part of the management plans, to ensure no likely significant effects will occur.

5.3.14 The construction management plans include:

- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), which will detail the legislation, guidance, best practice and mitigation measures to control and minimise environmental effects during construction. This includes reducing nuisance from noise and vibration, dust and particulate generation, runoff or contamination from contaminated soils (should there be any) on surface water or groundwater, soil removal and waste. ;
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP), which will include details on construction logistics and worker travel plans. Measures to control the delivery of materials, plant and equipment will also be included within the oCTMP, alongside further detail on the routing and vehicle movements during the construction stage;
- Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP) which will follow the principles of best practice to maintain the physical properties of any soil that will be disturbed, with the aim of restoring the land to its pre-construction condition at the end of the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The oSMP will manage any potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during and on completion of the Proposed Development. It will set out further information on the areas which may be more susceptible to damage, and will further set out measures for soil management;
- Outline Employment Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan (oESSCMP), which will set out measures to maximise opportunities to promote economic benefits in relation to skills,

[26] Highways England (2019) Water preferred policy. Guidelines for the movement of abnormal indivisible loads
[27] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

supply chains, and employment in the local region, which is required to deliver the entirety of the Proposed Development;

- Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP), which will set out the standard good practice measures that will be implemented by the Applicant to manage waste generated by the construction of the Proposed Development; and
- Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP), which will outline how PRoW will be managed for the Proposed Development to ensure they have been considered fully and are able to operate during construction, operation and decommissioning. The Promo will also detail any temporary diversions or closures which may be required during construction and decommissioning.

## 5.4 Operational Phase of the Proposed Development

### Programme and Activities

5.4.1 It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will become operational in 2033, in line with the current gid connection date, and will remain in operation for up to 60 years. During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, onsite activities will include routine servicing, maintenance and replacement of plant and equipment. An assessment of the replacement of equipment, such as solar PV modules, will be included in the environmental aspect chapters and detailed within the ES submitted as part of the DCO application – however, it is likely that minor maintenance works are likely to be required, which includes the ability to inspect, repair, adjust, alter, remove, refurbish, reconstruct, replace and improve any part of, but not remove, reconstruct or replace the whole of the solar infrastructure (including the BESS). Other maintenance works may include management of access tracks and vegetation. At this stage the use of animal grazing within the Proposed Development is still being considered.

5.4.2 Based on the operation activity of the Proposed Development, there are anticipated to be 4 daily two-way trips (2 arrivals + 2 departures) from the Site Boundary. Mainly made up of staff / maintenance trips.

### Environmental Management

5.4.3 During operation and maintenance, the Proposed Development will be subject to the following plans. The use of these management plans is detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (**Appendix B**). Where applicable the Scoping Commitments Register also includes any environmental aspect specific measures which the Applicant will implement as part of the management plans, to ensure no likely significant effects will occur.

5.4.4 The operational management plans include:

- Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), which will set out measures to manage environmental impacts during the operational phase of the development and ensuring compliance;
- Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), will set out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented to establish, monitor, and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design of the Proposed Development;

- Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP), which, as above, will manage potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during and on completion of the Proposed Development (considering the construction, decommissioning and operational phases);
- Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP), which will set out the standard good practice measures that will be implemented by the Applicant to manage waste generated by the operation of the Proposed Development;
- Outline Employment Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan (oESSCMP), which will set out measures to maximise opportunities to promote economic benefits in relation to skills, supply chains, and employment in the local region, which is required to deliver the entirety of the Proposed Development; and
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP), which will set out measures to account for potential safety risks, and the mitigation and management procedures to ensure that all safety concerns are addressed in so far as is reasonably practicable.

## 5.5 Decommissioning Phase of the Proposed Development

### Programme and Activities

5.5.1 After up to 60 years of operation, decommissioning will commence. Equipment will be removed over an approximate two to three year period. The Site will be returned to its original use as far as possible and practical, with areas of established mitigation left in-situ where possible and in agreement with the landowners. Concrete, hardstanding areas, foundations for the infrastructure and any internal tracks will be removed to a depth of up to 1m, and will be dismantled and recycled or disposed of in accordance with best practice policy and requirements at that time. Typically, any underground cabling below 1m will be left in-situ, unless otherwise agreed with the landowner provided that in each case the tenant shall leave any such equipment in a safe condition. This will also be dependent upon the legislation and industry standards at the time of decommissioning. The use of decommissioned materials will follow the waste hierarchy, such that they will be reused where possible before recycling and disposal were considered.

5.5.2 As detailed in the Scoping Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**), the Applicant will aim to achieve 100% reuse and recycling of solar panels[28].

### Environmental Management

5.5.3 During decommissioning the Proposed Development will be subject to the following plans. The use of these management plans is detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (**Appendix B**). Where applicable the Scoping Commitments Register also includes any environmental aspect specific measures which the Applicant will implement as part of the management plans, to ensure no likely significant effects will occur.

5.5.4 The decommissioning management plans will include:

- Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP), will set out the principal decommissioning activities and the measures that will be implemented, so far as is practical, to ensure the works do not adversely impact amenity, traffic or the environment in the surrounding area;

[28] https://orsted.com/en/who-we-are/sustainability/nature/circular-resource-use

- Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP), which, as above, will manage any potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during and on completion of the Proposed Development (considering the construction, decommissioning and operational phases); and
- Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP), which will set out the standard good practice measures that will be implemented by the Applicant to manage waste generated by the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development.

## 5.6 Opportunities for Collaboration

5.6.1 The Applicant is aware of other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP')[29] which are also potentially being proposed in the approximate vicinity of the Proposed Development. Where practicable, the Applicant is exploring opportunities to collaborate with other developers to reduce the cumulative environmental effects that may result from the Proposed Development and these potential nearby projects. As above, this could include, for example, the use of shared cable corridors. If required, an Interrelationships Report will be submitted as part of the DCO application, to provide further information on any agreed collaboration between developers.

[29] Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: large-scale developments defined under the Planning Act 2008 that require development consent through a Development Consent Order (DCO), rather than through the local planning system, due to their size, nature, and potential national importance (e.g. energy, transport, water, and waste infrastructure).

# 6 Biodiversity

## 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for Biodiversity. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the baseline conditions within the Site and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that will be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

## 6.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

6.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Biodiversity, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations, 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 No 605)[30];
- The Hedgerow Regulations (Statutory Instrument 1997 No 1160), 1997[31]
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ("the Habitats Regulations") as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019[32];
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) ('the NERC Act')[33]
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('the CRoW Act')[34];
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 ("the Protection of Badgers Act")[35];
- The Environment Act 2021[36] - Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for NSIPS is introduced by Schedule 15 of the Environment Act 2021 which inserts Schedule 2A into the Planning Act 2008. In England, BNG will be mandatory for NSIPs from 2 November 2026[37]; and
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA)[8].

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[38]:

[30] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/made
[31] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/made/data.xht?view=snippet&wrap=true
[32] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made
33 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 c.16. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents
34 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 c.37. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents
35 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 c.51. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents
36 The Environment Act 2021. Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents?section-102-3 (Accessed: 8th January 2024)
[37] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects (Accessed 15th June 2026)
38 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf

- Section 4.6 – Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain; and
- Section 5.4 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[39]:
  - Section 3.10 – Solar photovoltaic generation (with specific reference to paragraphs 3.10.66 – 3.10.83).
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[40]:
  - Section 2.5 – Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain; and
  - Section 2.9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (with specific reference to paragraphs 2.9.3 – 2.9.6).
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[41] and Draft NPPF (December 2025)[42] (note that the NPPF is provided only as a material consideration during planning, with the NPS providing the primary policy framework).

### Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[43]

### National Guidance

- British Standard Institution (2013) Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development[44]
- Planning Practice Guidance (2023) – Guidance Natural Environment (2019)[45]
- CIEEM (2018, updated 2024) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management version 1.3[46].

### Local Guidance

- Humber Local Energy Strategy Report[47].

## 6.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

6.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for Biodiversity sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that further surveys and

39 DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
40 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
41 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
42 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)
43 East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
44 British Standard Institution (2013) Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development: Available at: https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/articles/standardizing-biodiversity-in-planning-and_development
45 MHCLG (2019). Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment, Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment (accessed June 2026)
46 https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/EcIA-Guidelines-v1.3-Sept-2024.pdf
47 Humber Local Energy Strategy Report

assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (ES)(see details and scope of the further baseline data below under Section 1.13).

## Study Area

6.3.2 The Site consists of the northern land parcel, the southern land parcel and the cable search area as presented within **Figure 1-1** in **Appendix A**. A full description is provided within Chapter 2 of this Scoping Report.

6.3.3 The extent of the Study Area varies dependent to the relative sensitivity of the ecological features and the Zone of Influence (ZoI) for where potential effects arising from the Scheme could occur. The desk study data, in combination with species and habitat specific survey guidelines and current best practice, enabled the identification of appropriate survey areas within which field surveys have and will be carried out. For the desk study, these are defined in Table 6-1 below.

6.3.4 For field surveys within the northern and southern land parcels, these were defined as:

- Habitats, badger *Meles Meles*, bats, dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, reptiles, invertebrates, fish, Invasive non-native species – the northern and southern land parcels plus 50m buffer;
- Breeding and wintering birds – the northern and southern land parcels plus 100m buffer; and
- Amphibians, otter *Lutra lutra* and water vole *Arvicola amphibius* – the northern and southern land parcels plus up to 250m buffer.

6.3.5 No survey data has been collected for the cable search area to date. However, a desk-based analysis has been undertaken to identify potentially sensitive habitats or habitats which may support protected or notable species. Targeted survey effort is proposed and will include an initial extended habitat survey, which will determine requirements for further survey. The desk-based analysis has included a review of freely available sources, aerial imagery and review of existing data from local record centres.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

### *Desk Study*

6.3.6 A data gathering exercise has been conducted using information from freely available sources such as Magic.gov.uk and local record centres including North & East Riding of Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre.

6.3.7 Ecological features and their respective study areas and sources are included within **Table 6-1**. These areas have been informed by the predicted ZoI for each effect and the potential for them to intercept with different ecological features. The study area for Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Sites for example is extended to 20km due to the potential for mobile features (i.e. wintering birds) to travel large distances to forage or roost in non-designated habitat. For other features, such as ponds and waterbodies (which may support great crested newts), the study area is reduced, as the distance that great crested newts may venture from breeding ponds is smaller, with a maximum distance of 500m applied.

6.3.8 The cable search area retains a larger footprint at this stage, which will be refined and reduced throughout the design process. This means that it may currently overlap with potential receptors which will be accounted for as the design is progressed.

Table 6-1: Summary of search distances and sources used to inform the desk study for each ecological feature.

| Ecological Feature | Search Distance (km) | Justification for search distance | Information Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| Statutory designated sites of international importance[48] | 20 (SPA/Ramsar)<br>10 (Special Area of Conservation (SAC)) | Extended search distance reflects the need to considered potential impacts on mobile features associated with SPA, Ramsar or SAC site such as birds[49], bats and migratory fish species. Distances are based on observed behaviours of these species groups and provide a precautionary approach to identifying international sites which may be impacted. | Magic.gov.uk[50]<br>Natural England's designated sites website[51] |
| Statutory designated sites of national importance | 5 | Standard practice to identify Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) with potential indirect impact pathways, consistent with CIEEM guidance[46]. | Magic.gov.uk<br>Natural England's designated sites website |
| Statutory designated sites of local importance | 2 | Reflects localised influence of development effects and is consistent with CIEEM guidance[46]. | Magic.gov.uk<br>Natural England's designated sites website |
| Non-statutory designated sites including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) | 2 | Reflects localised influence of development effects and is consistent with CIEEM guidance[46]. | North & East Yorkshire ecological records centre |
| Habitats of Principal Importance / Ancient Woodland | 1 | Reflects ecological survey guidance[52]. Captures habitats with high sensitivity to indirect effects, while remaining proportionate to their | Priority Habitat Inventory and Ancient Woodland Inventory - provided on Magic.gov.uk and Forestry Commission Map Browser |

[48] Following UK Government advice this includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), proposed SAC, potential SPA, Ramsar sites and proposed Ramsar sites. SAC and SPA are protected via legislation, whilst the other sites are treated comparatively through policy. See https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site#European-sites

[49] Bowland Ecology (2021). Identification of Functionally Linked Land supporting SPA waterbirds in the North West of England. NERC361. Natural England

[50] Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC). Available at: www.magic.gov.uk

[51] Available at https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/

[52] CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

| Ecological Feature | Search Distance (km) | Justification for search distance | Information Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | generally site-specific distribution | |
| Legally protected and notable flora and fauna | 2 | In line with CIEEM guidelines[52]. Typical consultation distance for ecological records and supports robust baseline data collection. | Yorkshire and the Humber Ecological Data Trust |
| Legally controlled invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) | 2 | In line with CIEEM guidelines[52]. Good practice to identify potential sources of colonisation or spread. | Yorkshire and the Humber Ecological Data Trust |
| Waterbodies (ponds, wet ditches, lakes) inside or within 500m of the Site | 0.5 | Standard guidance for aquatic habitats and species (particularly great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*)[53], where functional habitat links are typically within this range | Satellite imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping |
| Veteran trees | 0.5 | Reflects best practice guidance for tree and habitat assessment. | Ancient Tree Inventory[54] |

6.3.9 The baseline surveys completed (to date) for the northern land parcel and southern land parcel are described in **Table 6-2**. The proposed survey schedule for 2026 / 27 is provided in **Section 6.8.**

[53] Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P. (2001), Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook, Froglife, Halesworth.
[54] Available at https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search/

Table 6-2: Summary of surveys undertaken to date

| Survey type | Completed Surveys | Limitations |
|---|---|---|
| Northern land parcel | | |
| Extended habitat survey | November 2025 – 50% coverage | Survey coverage was limited due to no agreed land access with land owners or tenants to some land parcels which have persisted through the survey period. |
| Habitat condition assessment | Initial surveys undertaken in September 2024 providing 50% coverage. All habitat condition assessments will be updated in 2026 | |
| Breeding Birds Survey | March – June 2025 – 60% coverage | |
| Winter birds | October 2024 – March 2025 (60% coverage)<br>October 2025 – March 2026 | Survey coverage in October 2024 – March 2025 was limited due to no agreed land access with land owners or tenants to land parcels throughout the survey period. |
| Otter, water vole and badger surveys | November 2025 – 60% coverage | Survey coverage was limited due to no agreed land access with land owners or tenants to land parcels which have persisted through the survey period. |
| Southern land parcel | | |
| Extended habitat survey | September 2025 – 90% coverage | Survey coverage was limited due to no agreed land access to a parcel of land at the time the surveys were undertaken |
| Habitat condition assessment | September 2025 – 90% coverage | |
| Winter birds | November 2025-March 2026 | N/A |
| Otter, water vole and badger surveys | September 2025 –90% coverage | Survey coverage was limited due to no access to a parcel of land at the time the surveys were undertaken |

## Existing Baseline Conditions for Scoping

### *Designated Sites*

6.3.10 A summary of the internationally, nationally and locally designated sites identified within the relevant search distances from the Site, and the features for which they are designated is provided in **Table 6-3.**

6.3.11 **Figures 6-1 – 6-3** in **Appendix A** shows the locations of the internationally, nationally and locally designated sites in relation to Proposed Development.

6.3.12 There are five internationally designated sites within 20km of the Site Boundary. The closest internationally designated site to the cable search area and the southern parcel is the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC/Ramser which is located at 8.02km from the cable search area and 8.41km from

the southern land parcel. It is designated for a number of reasons, as outlined in Table 6-5 below; the most pertinent to the Proposed Development is the qualifying bird species. The closest internationally designated site to the northern parcel is Hornsea Mere SPA, designated for supporting gadwall *Mareca strepera*.

6.3.13 There are seven nationally designated sites within 5km of the Site Boundary. The closest is Bryan Mills Field SSSI, which lies within the cable search area; it is designated for supporting a tall fen community and range of marsh and fen species. As the cable search area is currently wider than the anticipated cable route, it is considered that no land take of this designated site would be required. The closest designated to the northern land parcel is Tophill Low SSSI, designated for supporting a range of species associated with the Humber catchment. The closest to the southern land parcel is Burton Bushes SSSI, located 1.85km and designated for supporting an oak woodland over 200 years old.

6.3.14 There are 28 locally designated sites within 2km of the Site Boundary. These are largely designated for containing wetland, fen, water or woodland habitats, or supporting particular species. Eight of these currently lie within the cable search area, and four lie adjacent to the southern land parcel. As the design of the cable route within the cable search area is refined, it is anticipated that any land take of these can be avoid or minimised through design. The closest designated to the northern land parcel is Barff Hill Causeway LWS, located 0.02km away.

Table 6-3: Summary of international, national and local designated sites

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| International Designated Sites within 20km (SPA and Ramsar only) | | |
| Humber Estuary SPA UK9006111 | 8.02km south | Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC)<br>During the breeding season:<br>Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* – 10.5% of the Great Britain breeding population 3 year mean 2000 - 2002<br>Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* - 6.3% of the Great Britain breeding population 5 year mean 1998 - 2002<br>Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* - 8.6% of the Great Britain breeding population 5 year mean 1998 - 2002<br>Little tern *Sterna albifrons* - 2.1% of the Great Britain breeding population 5 year mean 1998 - 2002<br>Over winter:<br>Bittern– 4% of the Great Britain population 5 year peak mean 1998/99 – 2002/03<br>Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* - 1.1% of the Great Britain population 5 year peak mean 1997/98 – 2001/02<br>Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* – 4.4% of the Great Britain population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* - 12.3% of the Great Britain population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Avocet - 1.7% of the Great Britain population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Passage Species:<br>Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* - 1.4% of the Great Britain population 5 year peak mean 1996 – 2000<br>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC)<br>Over Winter:<br>Dunlin Calidris *Alpina alpina* – 1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Knot *Calidris canutus* – 6.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Black-tailed godwit– 3.2% of the population<br>Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* -1.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Redshank *Tringa totanus* -3.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01<br>Passage Species: |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| | | Dunlin - 1.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996 – 2000<br>Knot -4.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996 – 2000<br>Black-tailed godwit - 2.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996 – 2000<br>Redshank - 5.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1996 – 2000<br>Article 4.2 Qualification: Internationally Important Assemblage of Birds<br>Over Winter:<br>Supports an internationally important assemblage of approximately 153,934 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01). |
| Humber Estuary Ramsar UK11031 | 8.02km south | The site qualifies under the following criteria:<br>Criterion 1<br>The estuary is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuarine system, representing one of the most important examples of this habitat type in the UK.<br>It includes a full sequence of coastal and estuarine habitats:<br>intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>saltmarsh<br>coastal lagoons<br>reedbeds<br>sand dunes<br>Criterion 2<br>Supports internationally important Annex II species of conservation concern, including:<br>River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis<br>Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus<br>Grey seal Halichoerus grypus<br>Contains rare and threatened habitats such as:<br>saltmarsh communities<br>estuarine reedbeds<br>coastal grazing marsh<br>Criterion 3<br>The site supports a rich assemblage of wetland species representative of the Atlantic biogeographic region. It is particularly important for: estuarine fish communities, invertebrate assemblages and plant communities associated with tidal saltmarsh and mudflat systems.<br>Criterion 5 |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| | | Regularly supports >20,000 waterfowl<br>Includes internationally important populations of species: dunlin, knot, redshank, shelduck, wigeon *Anas penelope*, teal *Anas crecca*, lapwing.<br>Criterion 6<br>The site supports internationally important proportions of several waterbird species, including: knot, dunlin, golden plover, redshank, bar-tailed godwit, black-tailed godwit, shelduck, wigeon, teal, lapwing.<br>Criterion 8<br>Acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey and sea lamprey between coastal waters and their spawning areas. |
| Hornsea Mere SPA<br>UK9006171 | 10.5km south east | Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC)<br>Over Winter:<br>Gadwall– 1.8% of population 5 year period 1987/88 – 1991/92assemblage |
| Greater Wash SPA<br>UK9020329 | 126km east | Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC)<br>During the breeding season:<br>Sandwich turn *Sterna sandvicensis* – 35% of the Great Britain population 5 year mean peak 2010 – 2014<br>Common tern *Sterna Hirundo* – 5.1% of the Great Britain population 5 year mean peak 2010 – 2014<br>Little tern – 42% of the Great Britain population 5 year mean peak 2009 – 2013<br>During the wintering season:<br>Red-throated diver Gavia stellata – 8.3% of Great Britain population 5 year mean peak 2002/03 – 2005/06<br>Little gull *Hydrocoloeus mintus* – population of national importance 5 year mean peak 2004/05 – 2005/06<br>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC)<br>Non-breeding season:<br>Common scoter *Melanitta nigra* – 0.6% of the biogeographic population mean peak 2002/03 – 2007/08 |
| Internationally designated sites within 10km (SAC) | | |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| Humber Estuary SAC UK0030170 | 8.02km south | Annex I Habitats (Primary Reasons for Selection):<br>Estuaries<br>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>Annex I Habitats (Qualifying Features, but not primary reasons for selection):<br>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time<br>Coastal lagoons (priority feature)<br>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand<br>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)<br>Embryonic shifting dunes<br>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (“white dunes”)<br>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (“grey dunes”) (priority feature)<br>Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides<br>Annex II Species (Qualifying Features)<br>Sea lamprey<br>River lamprey<br>Grey seal |
| Nationally designated sites within 5km | | |
| Tophill Low SSSI | 0.6km east | The site regularly supports nationally important populations (>1% of the Great Britain wintering populations) of gadwall, northern shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, and tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*. In addition, it supports regionally significant populations of goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, common pochard *Aythya ferina*, Eurasian teal, and Eurasian wigeon. These assemblages reflect the site's importance as a wintering and foraging habitat within the wider Humber catchment. |
| River Hull Headwaters SSSI | 1.1km northwest | The site incorporates the headwaters of the River Hull, representing the most northerly example of a chalk stream system in the Great Britain. These groundwater-fed systems are characterised by stable water temperatures, high water clarity, and elevated alkalinity. Associated habitats within the site include riparian grassland, wet woodland, and fen communities. Collectively, these represent semi-natural habitats that were formerly widespread across the Hull Valley but are now highly restricted due to intensified agricultural practices and urban expansion. |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| Bryan Mills Field SSSI | Within cable search area | The site supports a tall fen community, which is spring-fed and supports a range of marsh and fen species including lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*, greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*, reed *Phragmites australis*, reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, common valerian *Valeriana officinalis* and blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus*. The drier areas around the fen have been planted with trees. |
| Leven Canal SSSI | 1.8km southeast | The Leven Canal, a 5km artificial watercourse, crosses the former marshes and meres of the Hull Valley. Following drainage of the surrounding wetlands, the canal functions as a refuge for wetland plant communities. It is fed by calcareous spring water and supports a diverse assemblage of calcareous vegetation. |
| Pulfin Bog SSSI | 1.9km southwest | The site supports calcareous fen and mire communities associated with groundwater-fed conditions. These habitats are characterised by species-rich vegetation including sedges *Carex* spp., brown mosses and a range of calcareous species. Areas of reed swamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* occur within the site but form part of a wider fen community. This habitat represents a formerly more extensive lowland fenland, now restricted due to drainage and intensified agricultural practices. |
| Burton Bushes SSSI | 0.03km east | The SSSI is an oak woodland known to exceed 200 years in age, and evidence suggests that it is of natural origins (Boatman, 1971). It is considered a good example of the woodland characteristic of Holderness Till soils. The undisturbed nature of the soil profile is an important feature of this designated site. |
| Brantingham Dale SSSI | 4.43km south west | Supports a mosaic of species-rich chalk grassland amid extensive areas of scrub invasion and young woodland. The grasslands are typically short-turf due to grazing from rabbits. Species include sheep's *fescue Festuca ovina,* rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and wild thyme Thymus praecox. Dense hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* has developed over much of the site, and there is now young woodland of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and silver birch *Betula pendula* in places. |
| Locally designated sites within 2km | | |
| Barff Hill Causeway LWS | 0.02km east | Nutrient rich standing water in roadside ditch |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| Bryan Mills Beck LWS | Within cable search area | Nutrient-rich standing water |
| Watton Carr LWS | 0.72km southeast | Wetland site that regularly supports significant populations of at least 10 species of overwintering water-birds of conservation concern. |
| Corpslanding Road LWS | 0.95km northwest | Good quality established semi-natural verge |
| Tophill Low LWS | 1.02km east | Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland, fen and standing water. There are semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland, rich-fen and nutrient rich standing water habitats. |
| Scarborough Lane LWS | 0.05km southeast | Good quality 'vergescape' consisting of a hedgerow with 7 woody species per 30m sample, and verge habitats. |
| Mill Dam Beswick LWS | 1.06km northwest | Nutrient rich standing water |
| Watton Abbey Field LWS | 1.18km northwest | Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland and nutrient-rich standing water |
| Sheepman Lane LWS | 1.67km west | Good quality established semi-natural verge |
| Marbottom Plantation LWS | 1.76km northwest | Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including woodland and fen |
| Emmotland Soak Drain LWS | 2km northeast | Drain in the Holderness Natural Area that supports diverse aquatic plant communities. |
| Beverley Parls Local Nature Reserve (LNR) | 0.56km northeast | 600 year old parkland |
| Bentley Moor Wood LWS | Immediately adjacent to east of cable search area and southern land parcel | Ancient semi-natural woodland |
| Risby Park With Fishpond Wood LWS | Immediately adjacent to south of cable search area and southern land parcel | Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland, woodland and wetland that also supports field evidence of features of ancient or long-standing neutral grassland and neutral-calcareous woodland. |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| Woodhill Path, Cottingham LWS | Immediately adjacent to south east of the southern land parcel and within the cable search area. | Species-rich hedgerow. |
| Moor Lane LWS | Immediately adjacent to the north of the southern land parcel and within the cable search area. | Species-rich hedgerow. |
| Jillywood Lane LWS | Within the cable search area. | Hedgerow and ancient woodland boundary. |
| Drove Road LWS | Within the cable search area. | Ancient semi-natural woodland with evidence of features to support this. The woodland has been classified to NVC community W8 Fraxinus excelsior - *Acer campestre* - *Mercurialis perennis* woodland. The ground flora supports characteristic wildflowers including ramsoms *Allium ursinum* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, which covers at least 25% of the woodland. |
| Birkhill Wood LWS | Within the cable search area. | Ancient semi-natural woodland with evidence of features to support this. |
| Mill Beck and Fields LWS | Within the cable search area. | Old, established semi-natural neutral grassland |
| Beverley Westwood Waxcaps LWS | 0.94km northeast | Site supports an assemblage of eight or more species of waxcaps from multiple visits |
| Newbald Road LWS | Within the cable search area. | Good quality hedgerow with 7 woody species per 30m sample. |
| Newbald Road, Beverley Westwood LWS | 0.57km northeast | Good quality hedgerow. |
| Beverley Limekilns LWS | 0.99km northeast | Old, established semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland |

| Site name/Designation | Closest Distance and Direction (km) | Designated Features |
|---|---|---|
| Burton Bushes Veteran Trees LWS | 0.10km northeast | Site supports 14 veteran trees. |
| Eppleworth Wood LWS | 1.98km south | Ancient semi-natural woodland with evidence of features to support this. |

*Habitats*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.15 The northern land parcel is predominantly characterised by intensively managed arable farmland, principally comprising cereal crops, although areas of non-cereal cultivation and temporary grass/clover leys are also present. Field parcels are typically bounded by a network of drainage ditches, hedgerows and tree lines which provide linear habitat connectivity across the northern parcel. Localised areas of semi-natural habitat are also present, including ponds, small woodland copses, reedbed vegetation associated with drainage ditches, and modified grassland field margins.

6.3.16 Two Statutory Main Rivers occur within the northern land parcel, namely Scurf Dyke and Watton Beck, both of which are tributaries of the River Hull. These watercourses are heavily modified and subject to routine management and vegetation clearance, resulting in generally limited semi-natural channel features.

6.3.17 A review of the Priority Habitat Inventory indicates the potential presence of Priority Habitats within the northern land parcel, including Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and areas of Deciduous Woodland, the latter generally associated with farmsteads and farmyard shelterbelts. No Ancient Woodland was identified within the northern land parcel. These are shown in **Figure 6-4**.

6.3.18 Extended UK Habitat Classification surveys undertaken in November 2025 identified an extensive network of native hedgerows across the northern land parcel, many of which are likely to qualify as Priority Habitats. In addition, a number of ponds within the Site may also meet Priority Habitat criteria, subject to confirmation of their ecological interest and association with protected or notable species.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.19 The southern land parcel is predominantly characterised by intensively managed arable farmland, principally comprising cereal crops, although areas of non-cereal cultivation and temporary grass/clover leys are also present. Field parcels are typically bounded by a network of drainage ditches, hedgerows and tree lines which provide linear habitat connectivity across the southern land parcel. Localised areas of semi-natural habitat are also present, including ponds, small woodland copses, reedbed vegetation associated with drainage ditches, and modified grassland field margins.

6.3.20 A review of the Priority Habitat Inventory indicates the potential presence of Priority Habitats within the southern land parcel, including Traditional Orchards, areas of Deciduous Woodland, and good-quality semi-improved grassland, as well as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. All of these occur within the parcel boundary. Priority Habitats are shown on **Figure 6-4**.

6.3.21 Extended UK Habitat Classification surveys undertaken in September 2025 identified an extensive network of native hedgerows across the southern land parcel, many of which are likely to qualify as Priority Habitats. In addition, a number of ponds within the parcel may also meet Priority Habitat criteria, subject to confirmation of their ecological interest and association with protected or notable species.

### Cable search area

6.3.22 From aerial imagery, habitats identified are predominantly arable farmland including cereal and non-cereal crops, pasture, arable field margins, modified and other neutral grasslands, ditches and hedgerows.

6.3.23 A review of the Priority Habitat Inventory indicates the potential presence of reedbeds, lowland fen and deciduous within the cable search area. There is one ancient woodland within the cable search area. This includes areas of woodland habitat and wetland habitats which are features of three designated sites.

6.3.24 Watercourses which intersect the cable search area include Bryan Mills Beck and Scarborough Beck which are identified on the Statutory Main Rivers map. Within the cable search area and within 500m there are a number of ordinary waterbodies and numerous drainage ditches which have been identified using Ordnance Survey mapping.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.25 Further surveys are being carried out in 2026 on areas of the northern land parcel and southern land parcel which have not been surveyed. A targeted approach to the cable search area, where there is potential for greatest impacts, will see selected areas subject to survey. The targeted areas have been selected based of a desktop review of aerial and OS imagery, along with available online resources to assess which areas have higher potential to support sensitive and/or notable habitats. For example, this will include areas where habitats identified on the Priority Habitat Inventory are present. The results will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and published in support of the DCO application.

#### *B*irds

### Northern land parcel

6.3.26 Breeding bird surveys were undertaken from March – June 2025. Where access was permitted, surveys were conducted from field boundaries to maximise parcel coverage and minimise disturbance. Where access was not permitted, PRoW and roads adjacent to the respective fields were utilised to acquire coverage. This enabled sampling of the majority of the current northern land parcel.

6.3.27 During these surveys a breeding bird assemblage was identified that is typical of the arable habitats present, featuring species associated with farmland, hedgerow and grassland habitats. Notable species included curlew *Numenius arquata*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus,* grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, skylark *Alauda arvensis* yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* and tree sparrow *Passer montanus*. A number of raptor species were also observed throughout the survey period, including; marsh harrier, peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and little owl, *Athene noctua*. A number of WCA1 species were also observed using the parcel: barn owl *Tyto alba*, hen harrier, hobby *Falco subbuteo*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and red kite *Milvus milvus*. Territory mapping and additional surveys are being undertaken in 2026.

6.3.28 Wintering bird surveys were undertaken of accessible areas within the northern land parcel over two survey periods, September 2024 – March 2025 and October 2025 – March 2026. The focus of these surveys was to identify any large aggregations of overwintering wildfowl or waders, which could be associated with the designated sites in the wider area, namely; the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar Site and Hornsea Mere SPA.

6.3.29 Surveys identified a range of overwintering and resident species. Key species identified include; pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, golden plover and lapwing. Large numbers of pink-footed goose occurred during the early part of the 24-25 survey period. A peak count of 8,600 birds was recorded between the months of October and December 2024, the majority of these were recorded within the two northern most compartments. Flocks of golden plover and lapwing varied in size throughout both survey periods, with peak counts of 200 and 300 birds respectively. Key areas for these species were located in north of the parcel with the

pink-footed geese favouring fields adjacent to Scurf Dyke. A number of raptor species were also observed throughout the survey period, including; barn owl, merlin *Falco columbarius* and red kite.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.30 Breeding bird surveys commenced in April 2026 and are ongoing. Where access is permitted, surveys are being conducted from field boundaries to maximise parcel coverage and minimise disturbance. Where access is not permitted, PRoW and roads adjacent to the respective fields are being utilised to ensure sufficient coverage.

6.3.31 During the surveys so far, the breeding assemblage also appears to be typical of the arable habitats present, featuring species associated with farmland, hedgerow, grassland and woodland habitats. Notable species include; lapwing, grey partridge, skylark and yellowhammer. A number of raptor species were also observed throughout the survey period, including; marsh harrier, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. WCA1 species were also observed using this parcel, namely; barn owl and red kite.

6.3.32 Wintering bird surveys for the southern land parcel were undertaken between October 2025 and March 2026 of accessible areas within the southern land parcel. The focus of these surveys was to identify any large aggregations of overwintering wildfowl or waders which may be associated with the national and international designated sites in the wider area including the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site.

6.3.33 Surveys identified a range of overwintering and resident species, key species identified include; grey partridge, golden plover and lapwing. Maximum counts of 410 of golden plover and 15 lapwing were recorded. A variety of wading birds were recorded in low numbers with a maximum record of 25 with no more than 3 individuals at one time throughout the survey period. Raptor species observed throughout the survey period, including; barn owl, *l*ong-eared owl *Asio otus*, little owl and tawny owl *Strix aluco*.

### Cable Search Area

6.3.34 The cable search area features broadly similar habitats to those found within the northern and southern land parcel and have the potential to support a similar assemblage of breeding and non-breeding birds to that identified in both the southern and northern land parcels. During targeted habitat surveys, the potential to support notable or protected species of breeding or non-breeding birds will be considered and used to inform any requirements for further survey. However, it is not anticipated that the cable search area would result in permanent impacts on breeding or non-breeding birds with the cable due to be buried and habitats restored following installation.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.35 A description of the proposed 2026 / 27 bird surveys is provided in Table 6-9. The results from these will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and published in support of the DCO application.

## *Badger*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.36 Extended UK Habitat Classification and dedicated badger surveys have identified numerous signs of badger activity across the northern land parcel. A total of eight potential badger setts were identified within the northern land parcel, alongside conclusive evidence of their presence

such as a cadaver and latrines. Badger setts were primarily located along field boundaries, hedgerows and ditches.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.37 The data search returned two records of badger within 2km of the southern land parcel in the past 10 years. The closest badger record is at 0.52km southeast of the southern land parcel, with the most recent record being in 2021.

6.3.38 Extended UK Habitat Classification surveys and dedicated badger surveys have identified badger activity within the southern land parcel, although potential setts were limited to just two across the whole parcel. Secondary evidence of their presence such as a cadaver and latrines were recorded throughout. The identified badger setts were located along field boundaries.

### Cable search area

The cable search area has the potential to support badger, featuring broadly similar habitats to those identified if the northern and southern land parcel. The design of the final will take into consideration the potential for badger and will avoid areas of habitat where badger setts are more likely to occur (such as woodland).

### Further survey requirements

6.3.39 Further surveys are being carried out in 2026 on areas of the northern land parcel and southern land parcel which have not been surveyed. A badger walkover will be undertaken as part of the targeted extended UKHab survey for the cable search area. The results will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and be published within a baseline report to be provided as part of the DCO application.

#### *Otter and water vole*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.40 Desk study records identified the presence of otter within 2km of the northern land parcel, indicating the species is present within the wider landscape. No recent records of water vole were returned from the desk study within the last 10 years.

6.3.41 Otter and water vole surveys undertaken during spring 2025, primarily focused on the northern extent of the land parcel, did not identify any conclusive evidence of either species within the areas surveyed. Nevertheless, two watercourses within the northern land parcel, namely Scurf Dyke and Watton Beck, were assessed as providing suitable habitat for commuting and foraging otter. In addition, approximately thirty watercourses and drainage ditches were considered to provide potential habitat for water vole, primarily where marginal and emergent vegetation was present.

6.3.42 Evidence of American mink *Neovison vison*, including faeces, footprints and a ditch-side run, was recorded across the northern land parcel. The presence of this invasive predatory species is likely to reduce the suitability of habitats within the parcel for water vole and may partially explain the absence of field signs during the surveys undertaken to date.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.43 The data search returned no records of otter or water vole within 2km of the southern land parcel in the past 10 years.

6.3.44 The habitat survey recorded ditches, scrub, grassland and hedgerows which offer potential for both species. No field signs of either species were detected during the habitat survey; however, they are deemed to be likely present.

6.3.45 Otter and water vole surveys undertaken during spring 2025, did not identify any conclusive evidence of either species within the areas surveyed.

### Cable Search Area

6.3.46 The cable search area intersects with two watercourses and a network of interconnecting ditches which may have the potential to support otter and/or water vole. Targeted habitat surveys to be completed in 2026 will focus on any watercourse crossings that intersect the cable search area and consider the potential for the presence of both otter and water vole. Where practicable, direct impacts on watercourses would be avoided through the use of directional drilling to install cable connections. Full confirmation of the location of drilled sections would be confirmed as part of the ES.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.47 Additional otter and water vole surveys are scheduled for 2026 to complete the survey coverage and consolidate the ecological baseline. The findings of these will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and be published within a baseline report to be provided as part of the DCO application.

#### *Bats*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.48 Desk study data returned 19 records of bat species within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years. Recorded species included common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula* and unidentified Myotis species, with the most recent record dating from 2018. The records confirm the presence of a range of widespread bat species within the local landscape and indicate the potential for the northern land parcel to support commuting and foraging activity.

6.3.49 The northern land parcel is predominantly characterised by intensively managed arable farmland, which is considered to provide generally low intrinsic suitability for bats. However, mature hedgerows, tree lines, drainage ditches, woodland blocks and grassland field margins provide a connected network of linear and semi-natural habitats suitable for bat foraging and commuting. Hedgerows are likely to function as navigational corridors across the agricultural landscape and support invertebrate prey resources. The wider landscape also supports a strong network of hedgerows and woodland habitats, with Tophill Low SSSI located approximately 1.63km to the east providing extensive wetland, grassland and grazing marsh habitats likely to support a wider assemblage of bat species. Overall, the northern land parcel is considered to provide habitat of 'Moderate' suitability for bat foraging and commuting in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidance[55].

6.3.50 Roosting opportunities within the northern land parcel are comparatively limited and are primarily associated with mature trees located along field boundaries, hedgerows and woodland edges. The northern land parcel boundary has been designed to largely avoid buildings where possible, therefore roosting opportunities are limited to outbuildings and sheds associated with nearby farms. Extended habitat surveys identified 12 trees containing features with potential to

55 Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 4th edn. London: Bat Conservation Trust. Available at: Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines Page [Accessed: 9 May 2026].

support roosting bats, including knotholes, woodpecker holes, splits, cracks and dense ivy cover. These features were classified as requiring further assessment (FAR) to determine their suitability for roosting bats. On the basis of the habitats currently identified, the overall roosting suitability of the northern land parcel is considered to be 'Low' in accordance with BCT guidance[55].

### Southern land parcel

6.3.51 Desk study records identified seven records of at least two bat species within 2km of the southern land parcel over the last 10 years. Recorded species included common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, with the most recent record dating from 2023. These records confirm the presence of roosting and commuting bats within the wider landscape and indicate the potential for bats to utilise habitats associated with the parcel.

6.3.52 The southern land parcel is predominantly characterised by intensively managed arable farmland, principally cereal crops, which generally provide limited intrinsic suitability for bats. However, mature hedgerows, drainage ditches, field margins, grassland and woodland blocks provide a connected network of habitats suitable for commuting and foraging bats. In particular, the hedgerow network is likely to function as an important navigational corridor across the agricultural landscape and may support increased invertebrate abundance for foraging bats. The wider surrounding landscape also contains a well-connected network of hedgerows and woodland habitats. On this basis, the southern land parcel is considered to provide habitat of 'Moderate' suitability for bat foraging and commuting in accordance with BCT guidance[55].

6.3.53 Potential bat roosting habitat within the southern land parcel is limited primarily to mature trees located along field boundaries and within small woodland blocks. A total of 17 trees were identified during the Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) as FAR due to the presence of features with potential to support roosting bats. Further assessment of those trees likely to be affected by the Proposed Development will therefore be required to determine the presence and suitability of potential roost features. No buildings within the southern land parcel were identified as offering bat roost potential, although several buildings located adjacent to the southern land parcel boundary may provide opportunities for roosting bats. Overall, the roosting suitability of the southern land parcel is considered to be low to moderate, pending further assessment of identified trees with potential roost features.

### Cable search area

6.3.54 The cable search area supports a range of habitats including hedgerows, small woodland copses, ditches and watercourses which may provide "Moderate" suitability for foraging and commuting bats.

6.3.55 The cable route will be subject to refinement and through design will seek to avoid impacts on more sensitive habitats through positioning or through use of non-destructive methods such as horizontal directional drilling.

6.3.56 During targeted surveys, consideration will be given to the potential for habitats to support commuting and/or roosting bats and where necessary further surveys undertaken.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.57 Static Acoustic Monitoring and Night-time Bat Walkover surveys are scheduled for 2026 to further inform the ecological baseline in relation to bats. The findings of these surveys will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and be published within a baseline report to be provided as part of the DCO application.

*Reptiles*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.58 Desk study records returned six records of grass snake *Natrix helvetica* within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years, with the nearest record located approximately 0.74km east of the northern land parcel. The most recent record dates from 2021, confirming the continued presence of reptiles within the surrounding landscape and indicating the potential for the northern land parcel to support common reptile species.

6.3.59 The majority of the northern land parcel comprises intensively managed arable land of generally limited ecological value for reptiles. However, a network of semi-natural habitats, mainly within the boundaries including grassland margins, woodland, scrub, hedgerows and lines of trees provide suitable conditions for basking, sheltering and foraging reptiles. These habitats offer more structurally diverse vegetation, sun-exposed edges and refuge opportunities such as leaf litter, deadwood, root systems and dense ground cover. The connectivity of these linear habitats across the northern land parcel and into the wider landscape is also likely to facilitate reptile dispersal and movement.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.60 The data search returned no records of reptile species within 2km of the southern land parcel in the past 10 years.

6.3.61 The majority of the southern land parcel comprises intensively managed arable land of generally limited ecological value for reptiles. However, a network of semi-natural habitats, mainly within the boundaries including grassland margins, woodland, scrub, hedgerows and lines of trees provide suitable conditions for basking, sheltering and foraging reptiles. These habitats offer structurally diverse vegetation, sun-exposed edges and refuge opportunities such as leaf litter, deadwood, root systems and dense ground cover. The connectivity of these linear habitats across the southern land parcel and into the wider landscape is also likely to facilitate reptile dispersal and movement.

### Cable search area

6.3.62 The cable search area supports a range of habitats including hedgerows, small woodland copses, ditches and watercourses which may provide suitable habitat for reptiles. However, the majority of the habitats, being predominantly arable or pasture are unsuitable for reptiles.

6.3.63 The proposed cable route will be subject to refinement and through design will seek to avoid impacts on more sensitive habitats through positioning or through use of non-destructive methods such as horizontal directional drilling where possible. Habitat loss would also be temporary in nature with habitats restored following cable installation.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.64 No surveys for reptiles are proposed as it is considered any impacts to reptiles would be managed through design and/or embedded mitigation measures with field margins and more suitable habitat retained as part of the design.

*Amphibians*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.65 Desk study records returned 68 records of GCN within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years. The nearest record was located approximately 0.91km east of the northern land parcel , with the most recent record dating from 2021. These records confirm the presence of GCN within the wider landscape and indicate the potential for the species to occur within suitable habitats associated with the northern land parcel.

6.3.66 The majority of the northern land parcel comprises intensively managed arable farmland dominated by cereal crops, which is considered to provide generally low suitability for amphibians due to limited shelter, terrestrial refugia and habitat diversity. However, areas of field margin habitat, woodland, scrub, hedgerows and lines of trees provide more suitable terrestrial habitat features, offering opportunities for sheltering, dispersal and foraging. These semi-natural habitats also provide ecological connectivity across the northern land parcel and into the wider landscape.

6.3.67 A total of 16 ponds and approximately 37 ditches were identified within the northern land parcel and the surrounding 0.25km study area. These waterbodies are considered to offer potential breeding habitat for amphibians, including GCN, subject to water quality, hydroperiod and fish presence. The wider landscape is similarly characterised by predominantly agricultural land interspersed with hedgerows, field margins and small woodland blocks, which may facilitate movement of amphibians between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Waterbodies within 500m are shown on **Figure 6-5**.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.68 Desk study records identified 10 records of at least four amphibian species within 2km of the southern land parcel over the last 10 years, including GCN, common toad *Bufo bufo,* common frog *Rana temporaria* and smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*. The nearest amphibian records, including records of GCN, were located approximately 1.60km east of the southern land parcel boundary, with the most recent record dating from 2023. These records confirm the presence of amphibians within the wider landscape and indicate the potential for suitable habitats associated with the southern land parcel to support amphibian populations.

6.3.69 The majority of the southern land parcel comprises intensively managed arable farmland dominated by cereal crops, which generally provides low suitability for amphibians due to limited habitat structure, shelter and refuge opportunities. However, habitats including woodland, scrub, hedgerows, field margins and drainage ditches provide more suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians, offering opportunities for foraging, dispersal and shelter during the terrestrial phase of their lifecycle. A number of features with potential to function as amphibian refugia and hibernacula were also identified during the habitat survey.

6.3.70 A number of ponds, ditches and other waterbodies located within the southern land parcel and the surrounding 500m study area are considered to provide potential breeding habitat for amphibians, including GCN. The wider surrounding landscape is similarly characterised by agricultural land interspersed with hedgerows, field margins and small woodland blocks, which may facilitate connectivity between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. On this basis, amphibians, including GCN, are considered likely to be present within the southern parcel and surrounding habitats. Waterbodies within 500km of the southern land parcel are shown on **Figure 6-5**.

### Cable search area

6.3.71 The cable search area supports a network of waterbodies within 500m and a range of terrestrial habitats including hedgerows, small woodland copses and ditches which may provide suitable aquatic and terrestrial habitat for amphibians. However, the majority of the habitats, being predominantly arable or pasture are considered low suitability for amphibians.

6.3.72 The proposed cable route will be subject to refinement and through design will seek to avoid impacts on more sensitive habitats through positioning or through use of non-destructive methods such horizontal directional drilling. Habitat loss would also be temporary in nature with habitats restored following cable installation

### Further survey requirements

6.3.73 Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) and Environmental DNA (eDNA) are scheduled across both the northern and southern land parcels for 2026 to further inform the ecological baseline in relation to GCN. The findings of these surveys will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and be published within a baseline report to be provided as part of the DCO application.

## *Dormouse*

6.3.74 The data search returned no records of dormouse, within 2km of the northern land parcel or southern land parcel in the past 10 years. Dormice are now considered absent from the Yorkshire region[56]. Habitats within the northern land parcel, southern land parcel and cable search area offer negligible suitability for dormouse and they are therefore considered likely absent

### Further survey requirements

6.3.75 No further survey for dormouse is proposed.

## *Invertebrates*

6.3.76 No records of notable or protected invertebrate species were returned by the desk study within 2km of the northern land parcel or southern land parcel during the previous 10 years. Based on the predominantly agricultural character of the parcels and absence of records, the northern and southern land parcels and the cable search area are considered unlikely to support significant populations of notable or protected invertebrate species. However, common and widespread invertebrate assemblages are likely to be associated with habitats such as hedgerows, grassland margins and drainage features.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.77 No further survey for invertebrates is proposed.

## *Plants*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.78 Desk study records identified 11 records of notable and protected plant species within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years. Species recorded included cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*, greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. The nearest record comprised cornflower located approximately 0.17km east of the northern land

56 PTES (2023). Hazel Dormice Range and Distribution in the UK. Available at: https://ptes.org/campaigns/dormice/about-hazel-dormice/hazel-dormice-range-and-distribution-in-the-uk/#:~:text=Hazel%20dormice%20used%20to%20be,UK%20for%20over%2020%20years [accessed 09th May 2026].

parcel, with the most recent notable plant record dating from 2019. These records indicate the presence of locally notable botanical interest within the wider landscape.

6.3.79 No notable, rare or protected plant species were identified during the extended habitat survey of the parcel. The majority of the northern land parcel is characterised by intensively managed agricultural habitats, including arable land, disturbed field margins and improved or grazed grassland, which generally provide limited suitability for notable botanical assemblages. Although surveys were undertaken during a suboptimal season for botanical identification, the generally limited habitat quality and intensive land management regime reduce the likelihood that significant populations of rare or notable plant species are present within the parcel boundary.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.80 The desk study identified 18 records of four notable and/or protected plant species within 2km of the southern land parcel over the last ten years. Recorded species comprised English bluebell, rye brome *Bromus secalinus*, cornflower, and bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*. The closest record to the southern parcel was English bluebell located approximately 0.49km from the parcel boundary, with the most recent record dating from 2019 for cornflower located approximately 1.17km from the southern land parcel.

6.3.81 No notable, rare or protected plant species were identified during the extended habitat survey of the southern land parcel. The majority of the southern land parcel is characterised by intensively managed agricultural habitats, including arable land, disturbed field margins and improved or grazed grassland, which generally provide limited suitability for notable botanical assemblages. While habitats such as agricultural field margins, hedgerow bases, drainage ditches and woodland edges can support increased plant diversity, those present within the parcel were typically modified, species-poor and subject to ongoing agricultural or drainage management.

6.3.82 The habitat suitability for notable plant species within the southern land parcel is therefore considered to be low. Although surveys were undertaken during a suboptimal season for botanical identification, the generally limited habitat quality and intensive land management regime reduce the likelihood that significant populations of rare or notable plant species are present within the southern land parcel.

### Cable search area

6.3.83 The cable search area supports a range of habitats including hedgerows, small woodland copses, ditches and watercourses. The majority of habitats are predominantly arable or pasture which provide limited suitability for notable botanical assemblages and would likely be limited to field margins.

6.3.84 The proposed cable route will be subject to refinement and through design will seek to avoid impacts on more sensitive habitats through positioning or through use of non-destructive methods such horizontal directional drilling. Habitat loss would also be temporary in nature with habitats restored following cable installation.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.85 Further surveys are being carried out in 2026 on areas of the northern land parcel and southern land parcel which have not been surveyed and the results will be used to inform and support the ES, including the EcIA, and be published within a baseline report to be provided as part of the DCO application.

*Fish*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.86 Desk study records returned seven records of fish including brown trout *Salmo trutta,* eel *Anguilla Anguilla* and grayling *Thymallus thymallus* within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years, with the nearest record located approximately 0.40km east of the northern land parcel.

6.3.87 The northern land parcel is characterised by arable fields intersected by a small number of artificial drainage ditches typical of the lower River Hull catchment. These ditches are likely to be shallow, slow-flowing and heavily modified, functioning primarily for agricultural land drainage and water level management. Aquatic habitats within the northern parcel are therefore expected to be of generally limited diversity and subject to periodic maintenance, including vegetation clearance and dredging.

6.3.88 Fish habitat within the on-site drainage network is anticipated to be of low to moderate ecological value, with conditions suitable mainly for common and disturbance-tolerant coarse fish species associated with lowland agricultural drains. The parcel is unlikely to support significant fish populations or important spawning habitat. However, drainage ditches may provide occasional refuge, foraging and dispersal habitat for widespread fish species, including European eel which is a species of conservation importance known to utilise interconnected lowland drainage systems throughout eastern England.

6.3.89 The two Main Rivers within the northern land parcel, together with a network of associated drainage ditches and minor watercourses, ultimately discharge into the River Hull, which forms part of the wider Humber Estuary catchment. The River Hull is a tributary of the Humber Estuary SAC, which is designated in part for its populations of river lamprey. This migratory species may utilise tributaries and smaller headwater systems during parts of its life cycle, including for spawning and juvenile development.

### Southern Land parcel

6.3.90 No records of notable or protected fish species were returned by the desk study within 2km of the southern land parcel during the previous 10 years.

6.3.91 The southern land parcel is characterised by arable fields intersected by a small number of artificial drainage ditches typical of the lower River Hull catchment. These ditches are likely to be shallow, slow-flowing and heavily modified, functioning primarily for agricultural land drainage and water level management. Aquatic habitats within the southern land parcel are therefore expected to be of generally limited diversity and subject to periodic maintenance, including vegetation clearance and dredging.

6.3.92 Fish habitat within the on-site drainage network is anticipated to be of low to moderate ecological value, with conditions suitable mainly for common and disturbance-tolerant coarse fish species associated with lowland agricultural drains. The southern land parcel is unlikely to support significant fish populations or important spawning habitat. However, drainage ditches may provide occasional refuge, foraging and dispersal habitat for widespread fish species, including European eel which is a species of conservation importance known to utilise interconnected lowland drainage systems throughout eastern England.

### Cable search area

6.3.93 The cable search area intersects with two watercourses and a network of interconnecting ditches which may have the potential to support notable or protected fish species. Where

practicable, direct impacts on watercourses would be avoided through the use of directional drilling to install cable connections. Full confirmation of the location of drilled sections would be confirmed as part of the ES.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.94 As the design of the northern and southern land parcels evolves, should construction be required which may impact the identified watercourses, surveys will be undertaken to consider their potential to support migratory fish species. During targeted habitat surveys of the cable search area (to be completed in 2026), a selection of watercourses and ditches will be surveyed for their suitability to support fish and further surveys undertaken if necessary.

*Invasive Non-Native Species*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.95 Desk study records identified 381 records of seven invasive and non-native species (INNS) within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years. Recorded species included aquatic invasive plants such as Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis* and Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*, together with invasive aquatic invertebrates including Jenkin's spire snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, *Crangonyx pseudogracilis/floridanus* and bladder snail *Physella acuta*. Records of other INNS were also returned, including American mink *Neovison vison* and marsh frog *Pelophylax ridibundus*. The nearest records comprised Canadian waterweed and Nuttall's waterweed located approximately 0.03km east of the northern land parcel, while the most recent record related to marsh frog in 2023.

6.3.96 The predominance of aquatic and semi-aquatic INNS records reflects the extensive network of ditches, drains and watercourses present within the northern land parcel and surrounding landscape, which may facilitate the dispersal and establishment of invasive species. The hydrological connectivity of these habitats to the wider River Hull and Humber Estuary catchment further increases the potential for spread through watercourse corridors.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.97 The desk study identified 12 records of six INNS within 2km of the southern land parcel dating from the previous 10 years. Recorded species comprised variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum*, Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, Japanese rose *Rosa rugosa*, wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* and grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*. The nearest record was located approximately 1km southeast of the southern land parcel and related to grey squirrel, with the most recent record dated 2024.

6.3.98 Records of invasive plant species were generally located between approximately 1.5km and 2km from the southern land parcel and were associated with habitats outside the southern land parcel. No invasive or non-native plant species were identified during the extended habitat survey, indicating that INNS are currently absent from the southern land parcel.

### Cable search area

6.3.99 The cable search area supports a range of habitats including hedgerows, small woodland copses, ditches and watercourses. The majority of habitats are predominantly arable or pasture. Watercourses within the cable route have the ability to spread INNs should they be present within the surrounding landscape. A search for INNs will be undertaken as part of the targeted habitat surveys to be completed within 2026.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.100 Further surveys are being carried out in 2026 on areas of the northern land parcel and southern land parcel which have not been surveyed. A search for INNs will be undertaken as part of the targeted habitat surveys within the cable search area (to be completed within 2026) and the results will be published within a baseline report to be provided as part of the DCO application.

*Other protected and notable species*

### Northern land parcel

6.3.101 Desk study records identified 12 records of brown hare *Lepus europaeus* within 2km of the northern land parcel over the last 10 years. The nearest record was located approximately 0.02km south of the northern land parcel, with the most recent record dating from 2023. The northern land parcel supports a range of habitats suitable for brown hare, including open arable farmland, grassland field margins, hedgerows, woodland edges and lines of trees. The predominance of agricultural habitats within the wider landscape is also likely to provide suitable foraging and refuge opportunities for the species. Brown hare have been regularly recorded during other surveys and are widespread throughout the northern land parcel.

6.3.102 Desk study records also identified two records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* within 2km of the northern land parcel, with the nearest record located approximately 1.5km east of the northern land parcel and the most recent record dating from 2021. Habitat surveys identified a network of potentially suitable habitats for hedgehog, including grassland, scrub, woodland, hedgerows and tree lines, which may provide opportunities for foraging, nesting and dispersal.

### Southern land parcel

6.3.103 Desk study records identified 53 records of European hedgehog within 2km of the southern land parcel, with the nearest record located approximately 0.32km northeast and the most recent dating from 2022. The habitat survey identified woodland, scrub, hedgerows and grassland habitats suitable for foraging, commuting and sheltering hedgehogs. The species is therefore considered likely to be present within the southern land parcel and surrounding area.

6.3.104 Six records of brown hare were identified within 2km of the southern land parcel, including a record from within the boundary. The most recent record dated from 2020. Suitable habitat for brown hare was recorded across the southern parcel, including cropland, grassland, scrub, woodland edge and hedgerows. Seven individuals were observed during the field survey, confirming the species' presence within the southern land parcel and wider surrounding landscape. The agricultural and semi-natural habitats are considered to provide suitable habitat for both species, particularly in relation to foraging and dispersal opportunities.

### Cable search area

6.3.105 The cable search area supports a range of habitats including hedgerows, small woodland copses, ditches and watercourses. These have the potential to support species such as hedgehog and brown hare.

### Further survey requirements

6.3.106 No further survey is currently proposed. However, should ongoing habitat surveys identify potentially sensitive population requirement would be re-considered and adapted accordingly.

## 6.4 Predicted Future Baseline

6.4.1 The Site is predominantly comprised of arable land and pasture, enclosed by hedgerows, trees, woodland and ditches. In absence of the Proposed Development, the habitats will likely be managed within the same way and continue to provide habitat for those legally protected, notable or controlled species identified within the current baseline outlined above. Some of these species, such as badger, brown hare and ground nesting birds, have successfully adapted to live in such agricultural habitats.

6.4.2 In the short, medium and long term, species populations and distribution are likely to fluctuate in response to standard agricultural management practices, such as crop rotations and grazing. As a result of intensive farming practices, the majority of UK species populations are in decline[57]. Therefore, in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is likely that this trend will continue, with more common, widespread and adaptable species populations continuing to decrease.

6.4.3 In the longer term, changing climatic conditions resulting from 'climate change' may impact the resilience of certain habitats and species, for example water levels in the ditch systems may change over time with more extreme changes of rainfall conditions which may result in periods of drought and/or flooding. This may result in changes to the habitats and species present as a result of changes to habitat type, conditions and availability, as well as changes to species range or fragmentation. Generally, though, because of the intensive nature of management that already exists in the areas of agricultural land, climate change is unlikely to significantly impact the vast majority of land that occurs within the Study Area during the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

## 6.5 Important Receptors Identified

6.5.1 The ecological features identified for consideration are based on the desk study, field survey results to date and professional judgement. Dependent on the outcome of further survey and technical engagement this list may need to be amended prior to detailed assessment work commencing. Ecological features have been identified where potential effects (both negative and positive) may occur through either the construction, operational or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

6.5.2 The Study Area for the EcIA has been defined as the Site, plus the ZoI that are identified in **Table 6-1**. Once details on the approach to construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning are available these ZoI may be revised.

6.5.3 No site surveys have yet been completed within the cable search area. Therefore, no confirmed receptors have been identified. The cable search area has been designed to avoid as far as practical ecological sensitive areas such as designated sites, areas or priority habitat, and areas of woodlands. Furthermore, cable routes associated with solar projects typically have lower levels of impacts due to the reduced footprint, temporary nature of the works, and being within a corridor rather than large swathes of land. Requirements for any further survey and assessment will be confirmed as the design and route within the cable search area emerges, with focus on avoiding impacts by design where practical.

6.5.4 The important ecological features identified and scoped in for further assessment, are:

- Internationally designated sites;

57 State of Nature Partnership (2023) State of Nature. Available at: https://stateofnature.org.uk

- Nationally designated sites;
- Priority Habitats;
- Breeding bird assemblage;
- Non-breeding birds;
- Bats;
- Badgers;
- Amphibians;
- Otter and water vole;
- Fish;
- Hedgehog and brown hare; and
- INNS.

## 6.6 Environmental Measures

6.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Biodiversity will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

6.6.2 The mitigation hierarchy will be applied to biodiversity (CIEEM, 2018) to ensure design first seeks to avoid significant harm, to mitigate where it is unavoidable, and, as a last resort, to compensate for residual effects that remain after avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented. The avoidance of significant harm is being considered through the design process and potential mitigation measures associated with conservation notable and legally protected flora and fauna will also be actively considered and incorporated as appropriate. These measures include determining the extent and distribution of suitable habitats required within the development to account for the likely effects on legally protected (e.g. reptiles, bats etc.) and other conservation notable species, the types of habitats that they may require and how these can be incorporated within developing designs. As more information becomes available from the ongoing field survey programme and as the development design and construction phase plans develop, mitigation plans will evolve.

### Biodiversity Net Gain

6.6.3 Since the start of April 2024, obligations for BNG have been applied to most planning permissions applied for and consented under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). BNG requirements for all DCOs will become mandatory from November 2026.

6.6.4 The requirements for DCO projects will mirror that for Town and Country Planning Act applications and will be required to deliver a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain, with supporting evidence provided at DCO application stage through a draft BNG plan.

6.6.5 As the Proposed Development falls under the DCO regime and is scheduled for the submission of a full application in 2027, the approach to BNG will be applied and considered alongside the EIA and HRA. This will include the use of the statutory biodiversity metric to quantify the proposed gains and will be supported by a biodiversity net gain plan. Given the scale of the Proposed Development and the nature of the Site, a draft Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will also be submitted alongside the BNG plan.

6.6.6 Following publication of the recent guidance, the approach to BNG will evolve alongside the emerging design seeking to deliver BNG within the Proposed Development where practicable. This will need to consider other limitations such as designated sites (including impacts on possible functionally linked land) and requirements for protected species mitigation. Through consultation, the Applicant will seek to agree with relevant consultees the areas and habitats being included within the BNG calculation and any exclusion which may be permitted (for example habitats which are not impacted through the use of methods such as directional drilling).

6.6.7 All habitat creation and enhancement which is “on-site” and included towards the post-development biodiversity value is considered “significant” and will be maintained for at least 30 years or for the lifespan of the Proposed Development. from the completion of the habitat creation or enhancement works. The maintenance and monitoring of significant on-site gains will be secured through obligations or conservations covenants to be secured through the DCO.

6.6.8 Retained habitats or habitats which are temporarily impacts (for example through cable installation or construction areas) may be included within the metric calculations, contribution to the post-development biodiversity value but do not have to be secured. Habitat is considered reinstated if it is reverted to the same habitat type and condition when compared to its baseline.

6.6.9 Where necessary, offsite gains may be required to ensure overall delivery of a minimum 10% net gain for biodiversity; however, this would be subject to confirmation as part of the submitted Biodiversity Net Gain Plan.

### Construction

6.6.10 Construction will be undertaken using good practice approaches to avoid and minimise the potential impacts on ecological features including habitats and protected species. During the construction period it is anticipated that the following measures will be implemented; these commitments are detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**):

- Measures to avoid risks of pollution and damage to all retained habitats will be provided within an outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) to be submitted as part of the DCO application to include offset management of materials through dust suppression and use of appropriate minimum offset distances from sensitive habitats and features. This will be based upon standards set out within the BSI Standards Publication on Biodiversity – code of practice for planning and development (BS 42020:2013).

- Precautionary Working Method Statements (PWMS) will be submitted to the relevant stakeholders for approval prior to construction, which will include the recommended approaches and timing for the clearance of habitat to avoid impacts on protected species such as breeding birds, mammals and badgers.

- All works on site should follow an appropriate working methodology to avoid inadvertent damage to any habitats being retained on, or surrounding, the Site Boundary. This includes maintaining sufficient root protection areas during the development works of any retained or adjacent trees, in accordance with BS:5837 (2012)[58], through the use of protective barriers, and other means where necessary.
- Where applicable, trenchless installation of cable routes will be used to avoid damage to sensitive habitats. Where cables are required to cross underneath watercourses and ditches, suitable distances from bank tops and beneath riverbeds will be used to avoid risk of pollution and electromagnetic fields (EMF).
- The crossing of wet ditches and watercourse will be avoided wherever possible. Where unavoidable, they will be designed to ensure the maintenance of connectivity for aquatic fauna (fish) and semi-aquatic fauna (water vole and otter).
- Pre-construction surveys will be conducted to identify the presence of any new constraints such as badger setts, bat roosts, otter holts or water vole burrows. Surveys will be completed subject to the timing of delivery, allowing suitable timings to deliver mitigation or apply for Natural England licencing where applicable.
- Construction areas will be subject to good housekeeping measures and fencing to deter notable species from entering construction areas which could result in entrapment, accidental injury or killing.
- Best practise guidelines for pollution prevention guidance including managing the input of dust, cement, stilt, hydrocarbons, and other chemicals to watercourses and other habitats will be followed. Measures such as stilt traps, plant inspection, good practice re-fuelling of machinery, and drainage monitoring will be implemented as part of the oCEMP. An emergency plan for the construction phase to deal with accidental spillages will be contained within the oCEMP.

## Operation and Maintenance

6.6.11 Habitat design will include measures designed to enhance retained habitats for notable and protected species such that the operation of the Proposed Development delivers an overall benefit for biodiversity. All habitat enhancement and creation will be described in the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) to be included as part of the DCO application.

6.6.12 Maintenance of the operational site will be subject to an appropriate management and maintenance plan that includes measures designed to ensure that impacts on species or habitats do not occur, similar to those employed during the construction phase.

## Decommissioning

6.6.13 During decommissioning, potential effects will be expected to be broadly similar to those occurring during construction. The Site Boundary will be returned to its original use as far as possible and practical, with areas of established mitigation left in-situ where possible and in agreement with the landowners. During decommissioning, a similar range of measures will likely be implemented which would be outlined in an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP).

[58] The British Standard Institution (2012). BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations

## 6.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

6.7.1 An overview of other consultation undertaken to date for Biodiversity, and how this has informed the scope to the assessment is provided in **Table 6-4.**

6.7.2 To date, only the northern land parcel has been consulted on due to the inclusion of this within the Kingfisher project, as described in **Section 1.2**. However, Natural England have been approached via the Discretionary Advice Service for matters across the entire Proposed Development, and their opinion will be factored into future assessment and design once received.

Table 6-4: Consultation Undertaken To Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| 16 March 2025 | Environment Agency | Key concerns relating to potential impacts on waterways and connectivity with the SAC (and mobile features).<br>Recommendations included consideration of fish surveys to inform design, assessment and mitigation planning.<br>Highlighted potential impacts of dust/soil deposition during construction. |
| 8 April 2025 | Natural England | Key concerns relating to potential for functionally linked land associated with the Humber SPA/Ramsar and Hornsea Mere SPA.<br>Agreed with approach to surveys/scoping so far. Keen to agree approach to design/mitigation.<br>Identified potential for impacts of air quality on Bryan Mills Field Site of Special Scientific Interest. |
| 8 June 2026 | Natural England | Overview of Proposed Development provided to Natural England.<br>Discussion on approach to surveys and survey data already gathered.<br>Agreement to follow up post scoping to firm up wintering bird survey requirement and approach regarding functionally linked land. |

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

6.7.3 **Table 6-5** presents the Biodiversity matter that is unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which is proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 6-5: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| All effects on Dormouse | The desk study returned no records of dormouse from the past 10 years. Habitats within the Proposed Development and Study Area are largely of negligible value with limited woodland habitat present. Dormouse is also considered absent from the Yorkshire region, and it is therefore concluded that dormouse are likely absent and therefore could not be impacted by the Proposed Development. |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

6.7.4 The construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment, which are detailed in **Table 6-6** below.

Table 6-6: Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment

| Activity | Phase | Likely Significant Effects | Ecological Receptors Affected |
|---|---|---|---|
| Change of land use including ground clearance for construction sites (including laydown areas, staff facilities etc.), enabling works and accesses. | Construction | Degradation and/ or loss of habitat (including irreplaceable habitats). Loss of ecological connectivity through severance of habitats resulting in fragmentation. | Designated Sites (International, National and Local)<br>Priority Habitats<br>Amphibians<br>Bats<br>Breeding and wintering birds<br>Badger<br>Reptiles<br>Hedgehog and Brown hare<br>Otter and water vole |
| Noise, activity and increased human presence | Construction and decommissioning | Disturbance of potentially sensitive species resulting in displacement or a reduction in productivity/survival rates. | |
| Clearance of habitats | Construction | Risk of direct mortality or injury to protected and notable fauna. | |
| Dust deposition as a result of construction and vehicle movement. Use of chemicals (e.g. fuels, solvents etc.) and liberation of pollutants and fine material through excavation, demolition or surface water flows during rainfall events | Construction and decommissioning | Pollution incidents, sediment release, or accidental spillages affecting drainage ditches and downstream watercourses. | |
| Construction/ alteration of drainage to facilitate construction works. | Construction and decommissioning | Changes to local hydrology resulting in changes or loss of surrounding habitats with subsequent effects on fauna that they support. | |

| Activity | Phase | Likely Significant Effects | Ecological Receptors Affected |
|---|---|---|---|
| Increase in lighting from construction task lighting | Construction | Displacement of potentially sensitive species resulting in displacement or reduction in productivity survival rates. | |
| Movement of soils, machinery, or imported materials. | Construction and decommissioning | Introduction or spread of invasive non-native species across the site and surrounding habitats. | Habitats and local ecological networks |
| Permanent changes to the landscape | Operation and maintenance | Long-term change in land use from intensive arable agriculture to solar infrastructure. | Designated Sites (International, National and Local)<br>Priority Habitats<br>Amphibians<br>Bats<br>Breeding and wintering birds<br>Badger<br>Reptiles<br>Hedgehog and Brown hare<br>Otter and water vole |
| Maintenance activity and increased human presence, vehicle access, security lighting, or inverter noise. | Operation and maintenance | Disturbance of potentially sensitive species resulting in displacement or a reduction in productivity/survival rates. | Designated Sites (International, National and Local)<br>Amphibians<br>Bats<br>Breeding and wintering birds<br>Badger<br>Reptiles<br>Hedgehog and Brown hare<br>Otter and water vole |
| Export cables passing under water course may emit electromagnetic fields (EMF) | Operation and maintenance | EMF may cause changes in behaviour and physiology in fish resulting in reduction in productivity/survival rates. | Fish |

## 6.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

6.8.1 The generic project-wide approach to the assessment methodology is set out in **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**. However, whilst this will inform the approach used in the biodiversity assessment, it is necessary to align with the standard industry guidance provided by CIEEM (2018).

6.8.2 The assessment will be based upon not only the results of the desk study and field surveys, but also relevant published information (for example on the status, distribution, sensitivity to environmental changes and ecology of the features scoped into the assessment, where this information is available), and professional knowledge of ecological processes and functions.

6.8.3 For each scoped-in ecological feature, effects will be assessed against the predicted future baseline conditions for that feature during construction, operation and decommissioning.

6.8.4 Throughout the assessment process, the initial results of the assessment regarding potentially significant effects will be used to inform whether additional baseline data collection is required, together with the identification of environmental measures that should be embedded into the development proposals to avoid or reduce adverse effects or to deliver enhancements.

6.8.5 Where part of a designated site is located within the ecological ZoI relating to a particular biophysical change as a result of the Proposed Development, an assessment will be made of the effects on the designated site as a whole. A similar approach will be taken for areas of notable habitat.

6.8.6 For species that occur within the ZoI, the assessment will consider the total area that is used by the affected individuals or the local population of the species (e.g. for foraging or as breeding territories).

### *Importance, spatial and temporal evaluation methodology*

6.8.7 For biodiversity, the scope is defined by the type and importance of ecological features that occur within or close to the Site Boundary and the type of potential effects that could be realised by the Proposed Development throughout the project life cycle (i.e. during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). **Table 6-8** provides details of how importance, spatial and temporal scope have been defined with reference to CIEEM guidance (CIEEM, 2018).

Table 6-7: Scope of assessment – approach to importance, spatial and temporal scope

| Importance | Spatial Scope | Temporal Scope |
|---|---|---|
| The importance of each ecological feature has been determined and justified based on legislation and policy, considering the extent of habitat or population that may be significantly affected by the Proposed Development. The following categories have been assigned, where relevant.<br>International / European<br>National<br>County<br>Local<br>Negligible | The extent of potential effects on important ecological features is determined by estimating a ZoI.<br>This considers a features' sensitivity to environmental change and the nature of any actions required to deliver the Proposed Development. | The temporal scope is aligned with the duration of the Proposed Development, covering the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. |

### *Significance evaluation methodology*

6.8.8 CIEEM (2018) defines a significant effect as one "that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for 'important ecological features' or for biodiversity in general".

6.8.9 When considering potentially significant effects on ecological features, whether these be adverse or beneficial, the following characteristics of environmental change are taken into account:

- Extent – the spatial or geographical area over which the environmental change may occur;
- Magnitude – the size, amount, intensity or volume of the environmental change;
- Duration – the length of time over which the environmental change may occur;
- Frequency – the number of times the environmental change may occur;
- Timing – the periods of the day/year etc. during which an environmental change may occur; and
- Reversibility – whether the environmental change can be reversed through restoration actions.

### *Magnitude of change*

6.8.10 Although the characteristics described above are all important in assessing effects by using information about the way in which habitats and species are likely to be affected, a scale for the magnitude of the environmental change, as a result of the Proposed Development, has been described in **Table 6-8** to provide an understanding of the relative change from the baseline position, be that adverse or beneficial changes.

Table 6-8: Guidelines for the assessment of the scale of magnitude

| Scale of change | Criteria and resultant effect |
|---|---|
| High | The change permanently (or over the long-term) affects the conservation status of a habitat/species, reducing or increasing the ability to sustain the habitat or the population level of the species within a given geographic area. Relative to the wider habitat resource/species population, a large area of habitat or large proportion of the wider species population is affected. For designated sites, integrity is compromised. There may be a change in the level of importance of the receptor in the context of the project. |
| Medium | The change permanently (or over the long term) affects the conservation status of a habitat/species reducing or increasing the ability to sustain the habitat or the population level of the species within a given geographic area. Relative to the wider habitat resource/species population, a small-medium area of habitat or small-medium proportion of the wider species population is affected. There may be a change in the level of importance of this receptor in the context of the project. |
| Low | The quality or extent of designated sites or habitats or the sizes of species' populations, experience some small-scale reduction or increase. These changes are likely to be within the range of natural variability, and they are not expected to result in any permanent change in the conservation status of the species/habitat or integrity of |

| Scale of change | Criteria and resultant effect |
|---|---|
| | the designated site. The change is unlikely to modify the evaluation of the receptor in terms of its importance. |
| Very low | Although there may be some effects on individuals or parts of a habitat area or designated site, the quality or extent of sites and habitats, or the size of species populations, means that they will experience little or no change. Any changes are also likely to be within the range of natural variability and there will be no short-term or long-term change to conservation status of habitats/species receptors or the integrity of designated sites. |
| Negligible | A change, the level of which is so low, that it is not discernible on designated sites or habitats or the size of species' populations, or changes that balance each other out over the lifespan of a project and result in a neutral position. |

*Determining significance - adverse and beneficial effects*

6.8.11 The significance of an effect is the product of the magnitude of the impact and the importance or sensitivity of the ecological feature affected. Adverse effects are assessed as being significant if the favourable conservation status of an ecological feature will be lost as a result of the Proposed Development. Beneficial effects are assessed as those where a resulting change from baseline improves the quality of the environment (e.g. increases species diversity, increases the extent of a particular habitat (etc), or halts or slows down an existing decline). For a beneficial effect to be considered significant, the conservation status will need to positively increase in line with a magnitude of change of "high" as described in Table 7.14.

6.8.12 Conservation status is defined as follows (as per CIEEM 2018):

*"For habitats, conservation status is determined by the sum of the influences acting on the habitat that may affect its extent, structure and functions as well as its distribution and typical species within a given geographical area;*

*For species, conservation status is determined by the sum of influences acting on the species concerned that may affect its abundance and distribution within a given geographical area".*

*The decision as to whether the conservation status of an ecological feature will alter has been made using professional judgement, drawing upon the information produced through the desk study, field survey and assessment of how each feature is likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.*

*A similar procedure is used where designated sites may be affected by the Proposed Development, except that the focus is on the effects on the integrity of each site; defined as:*

*"The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified".*

6.8.13 The assessment of effects on integrity draws upon the assessment of effects on the conservation status of the features for which the site has been designated.

*Further Baseline Data*

6.8.14 **Table 6-9** presents a summary of further biodiversity surveys planned for 2026 and **Table 6-4** above provides a summary of survey completion to date. Requirements for additional baseline survey may be adapted dependant on the evolving design. For example, options for the potential cable route are still being considered. Once preferred designs and routes are agreed with the design team, surveys will be designed based on the nature of the effects, the habitats and locations they are likely to cross and will be designed to be proportionate to the ecological features likely to be present and the nature of the construction/installation.

Table 6-9: Further Baseline Data Planned for 2026

| Habitat / Species | Survey Type | Timing Restriction | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Habitat and Vegetation | Extended habitat survey | May – September | Further habitat surveys are proposed for the areas which were inaccessible during the previous surveys. |
| | Hedgerow regulations assessment | April – September | Assessment of each hedgerow present within the parcel boundary to determine whether they qualify as 'Important'. |
| | Habitat condition assessment | April – September | Habitat condition assessments are required as part of the BNG requirements. |
| Amphibians | HSI | March – September | HSI surveys will be conducted to assess the amphibian potential for the Site. The survey will focus on all ponds and waterbodies within the Site.<br>The survey should focus on areas which have been inaccessible during previous surveys. |
| | eDNA | Mid April – June | eDNA samples have been collected for suitable waterbodies present within the Site and within 250m (where possible) during the optimal window in 2026.<br><br>The survey will require sampling kits which will be analysed for newt DNA to confirm presence or absence of GCN DNA. |
| Bats | GLTA | N/A | GLTA to be completed on all individual trees across the parcel which are to be impact by the Proposed Development. These trees will be assessed for |

| Habitat / Species | Survey Type | Timing Restriction | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | their potential to support roosting bats by a licenced ecologist.<br>All trees marked as FAR during the habitat survey should be included. |
| | Static acoustic monitoring | May – October | In line with BCT guidelines[55] for moderate suitability sites, static acoustic monitoring surveys will be carried out to record bat species and activity levels across the northern parcel.<br>The statics will be positioned in carefully selected locations across the northern parcel, typically targeting features with the highest likelihood of bat use, such as linear corridors, potential roost features, or areas of higher-quality habitat.<br>These commenced in April 2026 and are due for completion in October 2026. |
| | NBW | May – October | In line with BCT guidelines[55] for moderate suitability sites, NBW surveys will be carried out to record bat species and activity levels across the northern parcel.<br>One survey visit is required per season (spring, summer and autumn).<br>This survey will require surveyors to walk pre-defined transect routes across the northern parcel at dusk until 2/3 hours after sunset. Surveyors will use a bat detector to record echolocation calls and observe the area to record number of passes and behaviours.<br>NBW surveys are due to start in May 2026 and complete in October 2026. |
| Badger | Site walkover | N/A | A general walkover of the previously inaccessible areas is still required to ensure all setts within 30m of the parcel.<br>Surveys should follow best practice guidelines (Harris et al 1989 and Scottish Badgers 2018).<br>All field signs including droppings, latrines and |

| Habitat / Species | Survey Type | Timing Restriction | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | footprints should also be noted during this survey. |
| | Camera traps | N/A | Camera traps would be placed at the entrance of each sett to determine if they are active or inactive.<br>Camera trapping is only required on setts which are to be impacted by the Proposed Development. Most of these are expected to be avoided through design changes and/or mitigation. |
| Otter & Water vole | Habitat suitability | Year round – but targeting active periods for water vole (May – October) | A walkover of the previously inaccessible ditches will be required to assess for suitability of otter and water vole. Surveys should follow best guidance (Chanin, 2003a, Dean et al. 2016, and Dean et al. 2021).<br>The survey should focus on areas which have been inaccessible during previous surveys. |
| | eDNA | March – September | eDNA may be required on all ditches which are flagged as suitable for both species.<br>eDNA samples to be collected for ditches which are flagged as suitable for both species during the optimal window in 2026.<br><br>The survey will require sampling kits which will be analysed for newt DNA to confirm presence or absence of otter and water vole DNA. |
| Birds – breeding | Breeding bird survey | March – July | A breeding bird survey will be carried out to record species, abundance and distribution of breeding bird species present. The survey will follow standard territory-mapping principles derived from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Birds Census methodology[59]. All birds detected visually and/or aurally will be mapped using standard two-character BTO species codes, and behaviour |

59 Gilbert G., Gibbons D.W. and Evans J. (1998) Bird Monitoring Methods: A Manual of Techniques for Key UK Species. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and CBC-instructions-g100.pdf (bto.org)

| Habitat / Species | Survey Type | Timing Restriction | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | will be recorded using recognised breeding behaviour codes to enable interpretation of breeding status.<br>The survey has adopted a six-visit approach with visits on six separate occasions between April and July. Surveys should start between half an hour before sunrise and half an hour after sunrise for the dusk survey. As species vary in their detectability throughout the day, at least one of the six visits should be at dusk, extending beyond sunset for at least one hour. This will allow species not readily recorded by conventional surveys early in the morning to be picked up and provides an opportunity to assess any potential roost sites.<br>Surveys commenced in April 2026 and are due to be completed in July 2026. |
| Birds – wintering | Wintering bird survey | September – March | Surveys should focus on areas where suitable habitat is present to support large aggregations of waders and/or wildfowl.<br>Two daytime surveys will be completed per month from September 2026 to March 2027.<br>Modifications to the survey method may have to be made to incorporate nocturnal and vantage point elements to increase understanding of temporal variation in distribution and site usage. If this is required, the client will be informed at the earliest opportunity.<br>Wintering bird surveys were completed in March 2026 and will be reported once breeding bird surveys are complete. |
| Surveys required if design changes cannot be altered to avoid potential impacts | | | |
| Fish | Fish survey | May – September | Fish surveys should be carried out to assess the presence, abundance, and diversity of fish within the waterbodies within the Site Boundary. Methods will include netting or trapping to |

| Habitat / Species | Survey Type | Timing Restriction | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | evaluate population structure and habitat use. |
| Reptiles | Presence/absence surveys | May – September/ October | The requirement for reptile surveys will be dependent on design. Currently, suitable habitat will be retained. Reptile mats would be placed within/surrounding target areas of suitable habitat for reptiles, in particular areas of grassland, scrub and woodland. |
| River assessment | Modular River Condition Assessment (MoRPH) | Year-round | For all watercourses within 10m of the Proposed Development a MoRPH survey would be required. The requirement for this survey will be monitored as the design progresses. |

### *Habitat Regulations Assessment*

6.8.15 Given the presence of European Sites within 20km the Proposed Development, information to inform a HRA will be prepared as a "Shadow HRA". This will follow the key stages of HRA, including;

- Stage 1 – Screening;
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment, and where necessary
- Stage 3 – Derogation.

6.8.16 This will be provided as a separate report and assessment but will be considered as part of the ES.

### *Cumulative Assessments*

6.8.17 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

6.8.18 The current design incorporates a broad search area for the cable corridor. Additional desk study, baseline survey and assessment are to be completed within this search area. However, the extent and scope of any further works will be determined based on the refined design.

6.8.19 Access across the Site Boundary has been restricted due to ongoing engagement with landowners regarding access agreements. As a result, survey coverage has been staggered and undertaken across several years, rather than within a single survey season. While efforts have been made to achieve comprehensive spatial coverage over time, this phased approach may introduce variability associated with differing seasonal conditions, habitat changes, and annual fluctuations in species presence and activity. Consequently, the survey findings should be interpreted with an understanding of these temporal and access-related constraints.

# 7 Hydrology

## 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for Hydrology. The Chapter presents policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting relevant baseline data and an overview of baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

7.1.2 Hydrology relates to all aspects of the water environment including flood risk, surface water and foul water management, water quality and water supply.

## 7.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

7.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Hydrology, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC[60];
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017[61];
- Flood Directive 2007/60/EC[62];
- Environmental Protection Act 1990[63];
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010[64]
- Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended 2009)[65];
- Land Drainage Act 1991[66];
- Environment Act 2021[67];
- Water Act 2014[68];
- The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015[69]

[60] European Commission, Water Framework Directive. 2000. Available at: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en
[61] UK Statutory Instruments, 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents
[62] European Parliament Flood Directive, 2007. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/2007/60
[63] UK Public General Act, 1990. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
[64] Uk Public General Acts, 2010. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents
[65] UK Statutory Instruments, 2009. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3104/contents
[66] UK Public General Acts, 1991. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents
[67] UK Public General Acts, 2021. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents
[68] UK Public General Acts, 2014. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/21/contents
[69] UK Statutory Instruments. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/810/contents

- The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (note: 2000 version has been revoked, reference has been made to the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999)[70];
- The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016[71] (Amended 2018)[72];
- The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018[73];
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016[74].
- Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Byelaws[75]

## National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[76] – Part 5 Section 5.8 and Section 5.16;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[77] – Paragraphs 2.10.76 to 2.10.80;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[78] – Paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.3.3;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[79] Section 14 and Draft NPPF (December 2025)[80] – Section 18.

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[81]

## National Guidance

- Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites: Guidance for Consultants and Contractors C532[82];
- Environmental Good Practice on Site CIRIA 5th Edition[83];
- Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects: Technical Guidance C648[84];

[70] UK Public General Acts, 1999. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/24/contents
[71] UK Statutory Instruments, 2016. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/618/contents
[72] UK Statutory Instruments, 2018. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/707/contents/made
[73] Wales Statutory Instruments, 2018. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2018/647/contents
[74] UK Statutory Instruments, 2016. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents
[75] York Consortium Drainage Boards. Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board Byelaws. Available at: YCDB Board Beverley and North Holderness
[76] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[77] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[78] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[79] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[80] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)
[81] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[82] CIRIA, 2001. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C532
[83] CIRIA, 2023. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C811d&Category=DOWNLOAD
[84] CIRIA, 2006. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C648&Category=BOOK

- Guidance on Road Construction and Maintenance (Forests and Water Guidelines 5th Edition, 2011) Forestry Commission[85];
- National Highways Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)[86];
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 2024 Flood Risk and Coastal Change (updated 2025)[87];
- Environment Agency, Flood Risk Assessments applying for planning permission 2025[88];
- Environment Agency, protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution guidance 2025[89];
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive 2025[90];
- DEFRA non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems 2015[91]; and
- Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Report C753 The SuDS Manual 2015[92].

### Local Guidance

- East Riding of Yorkshire (ERoY) Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)[93],
- ERoY Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)[94], and
- ERoY Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)[95].

## 7.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for Hydrology sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under Section 7.4).

### Study Area

7.3.2 Given the nature of hydrology, it is difficult to accurately define a study area as water is a flowing element. Therefore, in the absence of any specific guidance relating to solar developments and in accordance with Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 113 2020[96], a 1km buffer

[85] UK Forestry Standard Guidelines, 2011. Available at: https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2006/03/ukfs_water_fcgl007.pdf
[86] National Highways, 2020. Available at: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/suppliers/design-standards-and-specifications/design-manual-for-roads-and-bridges-dmrb/
[87] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change
[88] Environment Agency, 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications
[89] Environment Agency, 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protect-groundwater-and-prevent-groundwater-pollution
[90] Planning Inspectorate, 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-water-framework-directive
[91] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, July 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems
[92] CIRIA, 2015. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C753
[93] East Riding of Yorkshire (2019). Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/strategic-flood-risk-assessment/
[94] East Riding of Yorkshire (2015). Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/plans-and-policies/other-plans-and-policies-information/flood-risk/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/
[95] East Riding of Yorkshire (2011). Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Available at: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/Preliminary%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment%202011.pdf
[96] Standards for Highways, 2020. Available at: https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/d6388f5f-2694-4986-ac46-b17b62c21727

from the Site Boundary has been considered appropriate, as sufficient distance is provided to encompass catchments associated with the Proposed Development and to enable the deposition of silts in overland flows and dilution of any concentrated pollutants. Any impacts to waterbodies beyond 1km from the Site Boundary are considered to be negligible. The Site Boundary is shown in **Figure 7-1.**

7.3.3 Off Site areas are defined as areas within a 1km buffer from the Site Boundary. The Study Area is therefore defined as all areas encompassed within the Site Boundary and Off Site areas. The Study Area is also shown on **Figure 7-1**. The Study Area in this Chapter considers hydrological receptors only, land and groundwater receptors are considered in **Chapter 18**: **Land Quality and Groundwater.**

7.3.4 It is anticipated that existing roads and crossings within the Study Area will be used for access options where appropriate, and upgrade works would be undertaken to utilise these if necessary. Further details relating to the design of the cable search area are provided in Section 2.4 of this Scoping Report.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

7.3.5 Baseline data was collected using the following sources, as well as project specific surveys:

- Ordnance Survey (OS) and British Geological Survey (BGS) Mapping, geological and borehole mapping[97];
- DEFRA LiDAR 1m Topographic Dataset[98];
- Environment Agency (EA) Watercourse Mapping[99];
- EA Asset Management Mapping[100];
- EA Flood Map for Planning[101];
- EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Mapping[102];
- EA Reservoir Flood Risk Mapping[103];
- EA Historic Flood Maps[104];
- EA Groundwater Vulnerability Mapping[105];
- EA Source Protection Zone Mapping[106];

[97] British Geological Survey GeoIndex Onshore. Available at: https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html?_ga=2.214711319.1075902138.1751972686-410814623.1751972686
[98] Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. Available at: https://environment.data.gov.uk/survey
[99] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/4ae8ba46-f9a4-47d0-8d93-0f93eb494540/statutory-main-river-map
[100] Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. Available at: https://environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/index.html
[101] Environment Agency. Available at: https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/
[102] Environment Agency. Available at: https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/postcode
[103] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/44b9df6e-c1d4-40e9-98eb-bb3698ecb076/risk-of-flooding-from-reservoirs-maximum-flood-extent-web-mapping-service
[104] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/76292bec-7d8b-43e8-9c98-02734fd89c81/historic-flood-map1
[105] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/42d7d021-538c-46e2-abbb-644e01c63551/groundwater-vulnerability-maps-2017-on-magic
[106] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/09889a48-0439-4bbe-8f2a-87bba26fbbf5/source-protection-zones-merged1

- EA Drinking Water Protected Areas (Surface Water)[107];
- EA Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (for Surface Water and Groundwater)[108];
- EA Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Catchment Data Explorer[109];
- ERoY SFRA;
- Consultation with the EA on March 2025 and March 2026, receipt and analysis of River Hull and Holderness Drain - 2013 - Halcrow (EA) model study;
- Review of the River Hull Integrated Catchment Study (2016) modelling report and preliminary results, provided by the EA;
- LandIS – Soilscapes[110]; and
- CEH: Flood Estimation Handbook (FEH) Web Service[111].

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

### *Topography and Land Use*

#### Northern Land Parcel

7.3.6 The northern land parcel is characterised by agricultural land with some highways, dwellings and agricultural buildings present.

7.3.7 Land levels are reasonably consistent across the parcel. 1m resolution LiDAR data shows that the parcel is relatively flat (given the scale of the parcel) and low lying, with land levels varying between 8m AOD and 0m AOD.

#### Cable Search Area

7.3.8 The cable search area consists of agricultural land, highways, dwellings and agricultural buildings.

7.3.9 1m resolution LiDAR data shows that the land levels of the cable search area vary along the corridor with the highest level of around 82m AOD and a low of 5m AOD at the northern end.

#### Southern Land Parcel

7.3.10 The southern land parcel comprises agricultural land for the most part with some areas of built development and hardstanding surrounding the Creyke Beck Substation in the south east corner.

7.3.11 1m resolution LiDAR data shows that the land levels of the Southern Parcel fall from a maximum land level of 90m AOD in the west to a low of 6m AOD in the east.

[107] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/3d136e9a-78cf-4452-824d-39d715ba5b69/drinking-water-protected-areas-surface-water
[108] Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/6ac22521-2e77-4dc8-ba90-6bb55d2ea3b8/drinking-water-safeguard-zones-surface-water, https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/7fe90245-d6e8-4d7c-a13a-65a87455f429/drinking-water-safeguard-zones-groundwater
[109] Environment Agency. Available at: https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning
[110] LandIS. Available at: https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/
[111] UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Available at: https://fehweb.ceh.ac.uk/

*Surface Hydrology (Watercourses) and Flood Defences*

**Northern Land Parcel**

7.3.12 The River Hull flows south and parallel to the eastern edge of the northern land parcel. It is approximately 800m from the Site Boundary at its closest point. The northern area of the Site Boundary falls within the Upper Hull catchment, while the southern area of the Site Boundary is within the Lower Hull catchment.

7.3.13 The Beverley and Barmston Drain diverges from the Hull River to also flow parallel with the eastern boundary of the northern land parcel. A number of reservoirs are located between the Beverly and Barmston Drain and the River Hull approximately 1.2km east at its closest point.

7.3.14 The Scurf Dike and the Watton Beck flow west to east through the northern land parcel. Both are classified as 'Main Rivers' by the EA and discharge into the River Hull approximately 1km downstream. A number of other named watercourses ('ordinary watercourses') flow through the northern land parcel including the: Beswick New Cut, Kilnwick Arm Drain, Kirby Drain, Coal Dike, Decoy Drain, and White Drain; in addition to several other unnamed ordinary watercourses.

7.3.15 The surface water features within the Study Area are shown in **Figure 7-2**.

7.3.16 The EA Spatial Flood Defences show that both the Scurf Dike and Watton Beck within the northern land parcel are lined by embankments and areas of naturally high ground providing a 1 in 20 year standard of protection[112]. The embankments along the Watton Beck are classified as having a condition of '4'[113] while the naturally high ground has a condition of '0'. The embankments along Scurf Dike are classified as having a condition of '3' while the naturally high ground has a condition of '0'.

7.3.17 The right bank of the River Hull (western bank aka the bank closest to the northern land parcel) is also lined by embankments which have conditions ranging from '3' to '4' and provides a 1 in 20 year standard or protection. The Beverly and Barmston Drain is listed as having natural high ground "*defences*" which have a condition of '0'. The Scorborough Beck is lined by embankments with a condition of '3'.

7.3.18 The River Hull is under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Cycle 3, 2022 Classification as being in overall 'Moderate' ecological condition[114]. The Beverley and Barmston Drain Water Body is also classified as being in overall 'Moderate' ecological condition[115].

7.3.19 The Watton Beck which flows through the southern area of the parcel is classified as being in 'Good' overall ecological condition[116], while the Scurf Dike in the northern area of the parcel is classified as being in 'Moderate' overall ecological condition[117].

[112] Environment Agency. Spatial Flood Defences (inc. standardised attributes). Available online at: AIMS Spatial Flood Defences (inc. standardised attributes) (Accessed 11/04/2025)
[113] Environment Agency. AIMS Defence (Spatial Flood Defences). The EA Flood Defence conditions are ranked 1 to 5 with 1 being 'Very Good' through to 5 being 'Very Poor'. A '0' ranking means the condition has not been checked. Available online at: AIMS_Spatial_Flood_Defences_product_description.pdf (Accessed 11/04/2025)
[114] Environment Agency. Catchment Data Explorer. Hull from West Beck to Arram Beck Drain Water Body. Available online at: Hull from West Beck to Arram Beck | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer (Accessed 11/04/2025)
[115] Environment Agency. Catchment Data Explorer. Beverley and Barmston Drain Water Body. Available online at: Beverley and Barmston Drain | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer (Accessed 11/04/2025)
[116] Environment Agency. Catchment Data Explorer. Middleton on the Wolds and Watton Beck Water Body. Available online at: Middleton on the Wolds and Watton Beck | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer (Accessed 11/04/2025)
[117] Environment Agency. Catchment Data Explorer. Surf Dike from Source to river Hull Water Body. Available online at: Scurf Dike from Source to River Hull | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer (Accessed 11/04/2025)

7.3.20 The WFD designated waterbodies and their respective catchments are shown in **Figure 7-3**.

### Cable Search Area

7.3.21 The Bryan Mills Beck and Scorborough Beck flow north-east and converge at the south-west corner of the northern land parcel before flowing south (as the Aike Beck Diversion). These watercourses are EA designated 'Main Rivers'. The banks of the Bryan Mills Beck and Scorborough Beck are lined by natural high ground providing a 1 in 100 years standard of protection and unspecified standard of protection respectively.

7.3.22 There are numerous unnamed ordinary watercourses within the cable search area, as well as the named watercourse Bealey's Beck.

7.3.23 The WFD classification of both the Bryan Mills Beck and Scorborough Beck is 'Moderate' overall ecological condition.

### Southern Land Parcel

7.3.24 The Wanlass Beck (Main River) is present within the south east corner of the southern land parcel, adjacent to the Creyke Beck substation. The watercourse flows away from the Site Boundary in a southerly direction where it converges with the Creyke Beck (another Main River), and further south with ordinary watercourses which discharge to the Humber estuary. There are no mapped flood defences within this parcel.

7.3.25 All other watercourses in the southern land parcel are unnamed ordinary watercourses, generally flowing towards the east.

#### *Geology and Hydrogeology*

7.3.26 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) online mapping, the northern land parcel is underlain by the Flamborough Chalk Formation with overlaying superficial deposits of till, alluvium, and glaciofluvial deposits. The cable search area and southern land parcel are also underlain by the Flamborough Chalk Formation and Burnham Chalk Formation, with overlaying superficial deposits of Till, sand and gravel, diamicton and alluvium.

7.3.27 The EA Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) mapping indicates there are two SPZ's to the south of the northern land parcel near Scarborough Beck and within the 1km Study Area. Both locations are shown to have SPZ 1 (Inner Protection Zone) and SPZ 2 (Outer Protection Zone) boundaries (refer to **Figure 7-4**).

7.3.28 Much of the cable search area is located within SPZ 3 (Total Catchment), with part of the southern section of the cable search area within SPZ 2.

7.3.29 The entire of the southern land parcel is within a SPZ, comprising predominantly of SPZ 2 with a small area of SPZ1 in the south east corner.

7.3.30 The entire Site Boundary is underlain by a 'Principal' aquifer as per the BGS Aquifer Designations.

#### *Water Protected Areas and Safeguard Zones*

### Water Protected Areas

7.3.31 Drinking Water Protection Areas (DWPAs) are areas where raw water is abstracted for human consumption – providing on average more than 10 cubic metres per day or serving more than 50 persons – or is intended for future use. Water sources for drinking supplies need to be

protected under the WFD regulations to ensure they are not polluted and avoid/minimise the need for additional purification treatment.

7.3.32 The north fringes of the northern land parcel and the northern part of the Study Area, fall within the 'West Beck Lower to River Hull' Surface Water DWPA. The whole of the River Hull to the east (which the watercourses on-Site discharge into), is also classified as being a surface water DWPA ('Hull from West Beck to Arram Beck'). Surface Water DWPAs are shown in **Figure 7-5**.

### Water Safeguard Zones

7.3.33 Drinking Water Safeguard Zones are areas designated to protect drinking water supplies from pollution. These zones are identified through monitoring and risk assessment of surface water and groundwater sources.

7.3.34 The northern extents of the northern land parcel falls within the Tophill Low Surface Water Drinking Water Safeguard Zone for ID: SWSGZ6010[118]. Surface Water Drinking Water Safeguard Zones are shown in **Figure 7-6.**

7.3.35 The southern land parcel and majority of the cable search area is located within a Groundwater Drinking Water Safeguard Zone, ID: GWSGZ0246. Groundwater Drinking Water Safeguard Zones are shown in **Figure 7-7.**

7.3.36 As part of the ES process further details on public and private water supplies and abstractions will be obtained from the EA, local authorities, utility providers, and other consultees where appropriate.

## *Flood Risk*

### Tidal

7.3.37 The Humber Estuary is located approximately 8.5km to the south of the southern land parcel. Whilst there may be some tidal influence on the southern part of the River Hull and tributaries, the risk to the entire Site from tidal flooding in isolation is low. The watercourses intersecting and within close proximity to the Site Boundary are understood to be primarily controlled by runoff and baseflow inputs, and therefore the main source of potential flooding is fluvial as covered below.

### Fluvial

#### *Northern Land Parcel*

7.3.38 According to the EA's Flood Map for Planning[119], large areas of the northern land parcel are within Flood Zone 2 (land with an estimated 1 in 100 year and 1 in 1,000 year annual probability of flooding) and Flood Zone 3 (land with greater than 1 in 100 year annual probability of flooding), indicating a medium and high probability of flooding from fluvial sources. The EA's Flood Map for Planning is shown in **Figure 7-8**.

7.3.39 When considering the impacts of climate change up to the year 2125, the EA's Flood Map for Planning with climate change shows an increase in area at risk of flooding around the Scurf Dike.

7.3.40 The EA Recorded Flood Outlines show recorded flood events within the northern corner of the northern land parcel, near the Kirby Drain in the centre and along the Watton Beck, as well as

[118] Environment Agency. Check for Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and NVZs. Available online at: Check for Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and NVZs (Accessed 14/04/2025)
[119] Environment Agency. Flood map for planning. Available online at: Map – Flood map for planning – GOV.UK (Accessed 11/04/2025)

areas of flooding in the south of the parcel. The recorded flood outlines are associated with the June 2007 (surface water and fluvial), February 2020 Storm Ciara and February 2020 Storm Dennis events.

*Cable Search Area*

7.3.41 The EA's Flood Map for Planning indicates that the majority of the cable search area lies within Flood Zone 1, indicating a low probability of flooding from fluvial sources. There are, however, localised areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 at the northern end of the cable search area, associated with the Scorborough Beck and Bryan Mills Beck. There are additional areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 within the central section of the cable search area associated with two unnamed watercourses flowing west to east across the cable search area.

7.3.42 The Flood Map for Planning with climate change indicates largely similar extents of flooding up to the year 2125 than current day conditions, with minor increases around the flow routes.

7.3.43 There are no mapped records of flooding associated with these areas.

*Southern Land Parcel*

7.3.44 The southern land parcel is predominantly within Flood Zone 1, with limited areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 associated with ordinary watercourses. There are narrow flow paths (designated as Flood Zones) along the northern boundary and within the central area of the parcel, as well as Flood Zones associated with watercourses near to the Creyke Beck Substation in the south east corner of the parcel.

7.3.45 The extent of flooding remains largely the same when the Flood Map for Planning with climate change is considered, with the main change being increases around the flood zones in the south east corner of the parcel.

7.3.46 There are a number of localised areas of mapped historic flooding within the south east section of the parcel, associated with flood events of 2007 and 2020.

7.3.47 There are no formal flood defences associated with watercourses within the southern land parcel, although there are defences (natural high ground) within the Study Area associated with the Wanlass Beck and Creyke Beck.

### Pluvial

*Northern Land Parcel*

7.3.48 The EA's Flood Map for Planning Surface Water mapping including climate change up to 2125 shows that the majority of the northern land parcel is classified as being at very low risk of flooding from surface water, with no major flow paths. There are numerous areas of localised surface water accumulation across the agricultural fields which are likely formed as a result of topographic depressions.

7.3.49 During the medium risk scenario (representing a 1 in 100 year return period event), including the impacts of climate change up to 2125, the depth of flooding typically varies between 0.15m to 0.3m, with localised areas of up to 0.6m.

7.3.50 The EA's Surface Water mapping, including climate change up to the year 2125, is shown in **Figure 7-9**.

*Cable Search Area*

7.3.51 The surface water mapping including climate change shows that the cable search area is also largely at very low risk of flooding from surface water, again with localised areas of accumulation within depressions and with some flow paths adjacent to existing watercourses.

7.3.52 The depth of flooding during the medium scenario reaches highs of up to 2.3m in areas. However, typically the depth of flooding is between 150mm to 600mm.

*Southern Land Parcel*

7.3.53 Within the southern land parcel, there are two flow paths of note through the centre of the parcel. In these locations, the risk of flooding varies between low and high. Additionally, there are a few areas of localised accumulation, based on topography.

7.3.54 The depth of flooding within the flow paths varies between 0.15m to 0.9m, with localised areas of accumulation up to 2.3m.

### Flood Risk – Sewers

7.3.55 The Site Boundary is largely located across agricultural fields. With the exception of potential field drains being present to aid in agricultural drainage, piped drainage infrastructure within the Site Boundary is anticipated to be limited. Therefore, the risk of flooding from surcharging sewers is considered to be low.

### Groundwater

7.3.56 The East Riding of Yorkshire SFRA flood data map shows that the northern land parcel is largely located on ground with less than 25% or 25% to 50% risk of groundwater flooding. The cable search area is located on ground where the risk of groundwater flooding varies between less than 25% and greater than 75%. The southern land parcel is predominantly located in an area of less than 25% risk of groundwater flooding, with a small area of between 25% and 75%.

7.3.57 The EA Groundwater Vulnerability Mapping shows that the majority of the Site Boundary is indicated to be at 'Medium-High' and 'Medium' risk of groundwater flooding. However, it is noted that the mapping does not include full coverage of the Site Boundary in the cable search area and southern land parcel.

7.3.58 Further Consideration of groundwater is provided in **Chapter 18: Land Quality and Groundwater.**

### Artificial Sources

7.3.59 The EA Reservoir Flood Extents dataset indicates that the northern land parcel is predominantly outside of the extents of reservoir flooding. However, there are some areas within the Study Area, to the north and east which are indicated to be at risk of flooding under the 'wet day' scenario. The EA's Risk of Flooding from Reservoirs mapping is shown in **Figure 7-10**. There are no other artificial sources to consider.

7.3.60 According to the EA reservoir flood mapping, both the cable search area and southern land parcel are not located in areas where flooding from reservoirs is predicted to occur, nor are there any artificial sources of flooding expected to cause a risk of flooding.

### Water Supply and Sewerage Infrastructure

7.3.61 Yorkshire Water operate clean water and wastewater infrastructure in the Study Area. The location of the infrastructure is not known at this stage but will be obtained from Yorkshire Water as part of the assessment.

## 7.4 Predicted Future Baseline

7.4.1 The future baseline conditions of the Site Boundary and wider Study Area will be determined based upon the EA guidance for climate change impacts on rainfall intensity and peak river flow. For peak river flows, this will include consideration of the maximum credible climate chance scenario as a sensitivity test.

7.4.2 Climate change impacts on flood risk will be discussed and reported where appropriate within the Technical Assessments and ES Chapter.

## 7.5 Important Receptors Identified

7.5.1 Following baseline reviews, important receptors have been identified for the Site Boundary as detailed below:

- Users of both the construction site (i.e. ground workers during construction and decommissioning) and of the completed development (operational maintenance staff) in relation to flood risk from all sources;
- Areas within the identified Study Area in relation to flood risk from all sources;
- Existing named watercourses within the Study Area and other unnamed watercourses within the Study Area with respect to associated existing water level management infrastructure, flood defences, surface water discharge rates, groundwater sources, volume, and quality of runoff; and
- Surrounding public water mains and sewers with regards to capacity/supply.

## 7.6 Environmental Measures

7.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regs), the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Hydrology will be identified and would be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

7.6.2 There are a number of good practice techniques that will be employed during construction of the Proposed Development. The guidance and good practice literature will be used to further develop these methods in an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) which would be submitted with the DCO application.

7.6.3 A range of environmental measures would be adopted, designed to avoid, minimise and mitigate for the effects during the construction phase. **Table 7-1** provides a summary of key measures and mechanisms by which these would be delivered.

Table 7-1: Summary of types of environmental measures that will be consider for managing construction effects

| Aspect/Features | Outline of Environmental Measures |
|---|---|
| Watercourse Offsets and crossings | Infrastructure will be designed to minimise the number of watercourse crossings and encroachments.<br>Suitable offsets will be provided from the top of bank of all watercourses to all construction activities to maintain ecological barriers and to ensure that access for maintenance is provided.<br>Wherever possible, material stockpiles and construction storage will be located outside of the appropriate flood risk extents (likely outside of the design flood risk extents). Where possible, environmental capture measures (mitigation measures) will be employed to mitigate for effects. |
| Temporary drainage measures | Temporary drainage measures will be employed to ensure the rate and quality of surface water runoff is managed. This will include the management of existing flood flow paths, ensuring that these are maintained or diverted as required, to ensure no increased flood risk to users of the Site or areas off-site.<br>In addition, water quality monitoring will be undertaken in appropriate locations to ensure polluted discharges are prevented to surrounding waterbodies. The above measures will all be set out within the oCEMP.<br>Temporary foul drainage measures will be employed to ensure foul drainage is contained and managed during construction. |
| Water Supply | The construction works will be designed to reduce onsite water demand so far as possible through the inclusion of prefabricated components that are constructed offsite (such as the panels and supports) and require limited construction activity during installation.<br>Rainwater harvesting will be utilised wherever possible and water efficiency measures will be implemented to limit the use of water where required.<br>Furthermore, water is to be sourced from non-potable sources or private supplies wherever possible, to reduce the pressure on demand from the water company. However, the feasibility of this is to be confirmed at detailed design stage.<br>Discussions will be held with the water company to determine any capacity concerns. |
| Pollution prevention | Pollution prevention measures will be employed in accordance with good practice guidelines and included when storing, handling and mixing of polluting substances (such as concrete production), to minimise the potential for spills and impact to the environment.<br>Pollution prevention measures will also be employed to ensure water quality of any discharged surface water is maintained for the duration of the construction period. |
| Flood Risk | Flood risk to users of the construction site and off-Site areas will be managed through the delivery of the oCEMP, ensuring users are following good practice procedures as well as flood evacuation measures. This will include a consideration of off-site flood risk, setting out how risk is managed accordingly. |

## Operation and Maintenance

7.6.4 A range of environmental measures will be adopted, designed to avoid, minimise and mitigate for the effects during the operation and maintenance phase. **Table 7-2** provides a summary of key measures and mechanisms by which these will be delivered.

7.6.5 Additionally, guidance and good practice literature will be used to further develop these methods in an outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) which would be submitted with the DCO application.

Table 7-2: Summary of types of environmental measures that will be considered for managing effects during the operation and maintenance phase

| Aspect/Features | Outline of Environmental Measures |
|---|---|
| Surface water runoff and foul drainage management | Surface water runoff from new impermeable surfaced areas (such as Substations and the BESS Compound) will be managed through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to ensure that there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, and to ensure that the potential for pollutants is appropriately controlled prior to discharge.<br>For the solar array within the northern and southern land parcels, a quantified surface water runoff strategy will not be provided. This is on the basis that when vegetated cover is provided beneath the panels and within spaces between panel rows (which will be the case for the Proposed Development), runoff from panels is considered to have a negligible effect when compared to the baseline scenario. However, strategic SuDS such as cutt off drains, swales, filter drains and scrapes/shallow basins will be implemented where appropriate and feasible within the solar array areas.<br>The Surface Water Drainage Strategy will include measures to ensure sufficient fire water and containment procedures are provided for emergency purposes should a fire occur.<br>The Surface Water Drainage Strategy will include SuDS that are commensurate with the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and designed in line with national and local planning policy and guidance.<br>There is limited potential for foul flows to be generated across the Site. At this stage, the preferred foul management strategy is unknown but would comprise either discharge to public sewers (where available), containment in cess pits (from which foul runoff would be tankered away from Site) or package treatment plant with subsequent discharge to a waterbody. Suitability of the chosen method would be confirmed through consultation with Yorkshire Water, the EA and Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board (IDB). |
| Watercourse offsets and crossings | Development will be suitably offset from watercourses to allow sufficient access for maintenance. The watercourse offsets will be discussed and agreed with the EA, LLFA, or Beverley and North Holderness IDB as relevant. The largest offset will be taken to encompass offset requirements from others.<br>Where necessary to cross watercourses for access or cable crossings, development will be required within the offset and the details, such as type of crossing or depth beneath watercourse (in the case of cable crossings) will be discussed and agreed with the consultees. |
| Water Supply | Water supply measures will be employed during the operation period to ensure that the users of the site have sufficient potable water for amenity and operational activity purposes. |

| Aspect/Features | Outline of Environmental Measures |
|---|---|
| | The operational works will be designed to reduce onsite water demand so far as possible through the use of rainwater harvesting (where possible) and water efficiency measures to limit the use of water where required.<br>Water is to be sourced from non-potable sources or private supplies wherever possible, to reduce the pressure on demand from the water company. However, the feasibility of this is to be confirmed at detailed design stage.<br>Discussions will be held with the water company to determine any capacity concerns. |
| Flood Risk | Flood risk to users of the Site and Off Site areas would be managed through the delivery of the oOEMP and the provision of the FRA and outline Drainage Strategy, ensuring users are following flood evacuation and management plans.<br>Environmental design measures will be included within the FRA and outline Drainage strategy (such as panel raising above flood levels, where required) to ensure there is no increase in flood risk as a result of the Proposed Development and that the Site will remain safe and operational for its lifetime.<br>A sequential approach will be taken wherever possible, to ensure that sensitive infrastructure (such as the Substations and the BESS Compound) is located away from areas of flooding, maintaining their operational capacity and minimising their potential impact on floodplain storage. |

### Decommissioning

7.6.6 The potential effects during the decommissioning stage are expected to be no worse than those experienced during construction, and a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be employed during the decommissioning stage to ensure that the natural drainage regime is maintained and that any potential pollution of surface water runoff is managed. An outline version (oDEMP) will be submitted with the DCO application. Furthermore, the DEMP, secured by the oDEMP would ensure that decommissioning activities would not impede flow routes where possible to ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. It is anticipated that the environmental measures implemented for the decommissioning phase will be substantially similar to those proposed for the construction stage.

## 7.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

7.7.1 An overview of consultation undertaken to date for Hydrology, and how this has informed the scope to the assessment is provided in **Table 7-3**.

Table 7-3: Consultation Undertaken To Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| March 2025 | Environment Agency (EA) National Infrastructure Team | Introduction of the proposed methodology to the EA. EA technical advisors within the National Infrastructure Team identified topics they would like to be included in the EIA. |

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| March 2026 Further consultation to be undertaken | EA National Infrastructure Team | To discuss the approach and methodology to be employed within the fluvial flood modelling across the northern land parcel.<br>The EA will be consulted further as the design evolves, and in particular, to agree the scope of assessment in relation to the Flood Risk Assessment, foul drainage strategy and WFD Assessment for the DCO application. |

As the Proposed Development progresses, further consultation will be undertaken with the following additional consultees:

- Beverley and North Holderness IDB - To discuss elements of the surface water drainage strategy for the DCO application and the required offsets, crossings and flood risk management measures for IDB watercourses.
- EroY (LLFA) – To discuss the management of flood risk, surface water and watercourses for the DCO application.
- Yorkshire Water (with regards to Water Supply) - Discussions with the local water provider to determine the demands of the Proposed Development and construction/decommissioning activities on water supply where appropriate.
- Yorkshire Water (with regards to Foul Water) - Discussions with the local sewerage provider to determine capacity of the existing sewerage network and local treatment works in relation to the effects of the Proposed Development and construction activities on foul drainage.

## Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

7.7.2 **Table 7-4** presents the Hydrology matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 7-4: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Tidal, sewer and reservoir flood risk (construction, operation and decommissioning) | The Site Boundary is located beyond areas considered to be at risk from tidal sources.<br>Whilst a small area of the northern land parcel is within an area that could be subject to flooding from reservoirs during extreme circumstances, this is considered highly unlikely to occur as reservoirs are maintained and operated to a high standard. Furthermore, this area of flooding aligns with the fluvial flood risk and any mitigation put in place for this will likely also mitigate for reservoir flood risk.<br>Consultation with the EA and IDB will continue to evolve to agree the scope of assessment for flood risk and modelling assessments. |
| Changes to flood risk associated with cabling (operation) | Whilst details on the cabling including route and design are still evolving, there is potential for the proposed cable routing to cross a number of flood risk areas and watercourses. If buried, they are not anticipated to impact flood risk. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations associated with underground cabling, it is anticipated that |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | groundwater flows, if any, would flow as existing or around and therefore remain unaffected. |
| Erosion and sedimentation (during operation) | Operation of the Proposed Development will have a negligible impact on sediment loads and therefore any effects are considered unlikely to be significant. The adopted Surface Water Drainage Strategy will ensure that surface water runoff is managed in line with national and local planning policy and guidance to ensure water quality and quantity is managed appropriately and subsequently does not cause increased sedimentation and erosion of the surrounding ground. |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

7.7.3 The construction, operational and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment, which include the following, as presented in **Table 7-5**.

Table 7-5: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| Public water supply (construction, operation, decommissioning) | The potential for the increased demand for potable water as a result of the Proposed Development during all phases of the development. Effect on the capacity of local supplies and on the local network infrastructure. |
| Effects of changes in quality and quantity of surface water runoff to surrounding watercourses and/or waterbodies (construction, operation, decommissioning) | The potential for the Proposed Development to have effects on the quality and quantity of surface water runoff i.e. as a result of potentially polluted runoff or flow pathway alterations. |
| Leakage of contaminants from fire suppressant water (operation) | In the scenario of a fire within the BESS compound, there is potential for any leaked contaminants to enter the surface water drainage system via fire suppressant water, and subsequently downstream receptors connected to the system. The ES will outline the proposed approach for managing fire suppressant runoff to prevent downstream effects, and also the required water consumption and source for fire fighting. |
| Fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flood risk effects on users of the Site (construction, operation, decommissioning) | The potential for increased effects of flooding from fluvial, pluvial (surface water) and groundwater sources to affect users of the construction/decommissioning and operational Site, including for safety. |
| Changes in Flood Risk to areas Off Site (construction, operation, decommissioning) | The potential for the changes in flood risk from tidal, surface water and groundwater sources to affect areas off-Site during all phases of the Proposed Development. |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| Wastewater Infrastructure and Impact on Capacity (construction, operation, decommissioning) | The potential effects on the local sewerage treatment works capacity as a result of the Proposed Development due to increased foul flow rates. |

## 7.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

*Further Baseline Data*

7.8.1 In order to inform the assessment, a detailed review of the baseline conditions will be undertaken to ensure that all aspects of the Site Boundary and important receptors are understood, and the effects can be assessed accurately. As well as baseline research, further and continued consultation will be undertaken with the consultees noted in **Table 7-3**.

7.8.2 A walkover of the Site will be carried out, where appropriate, to assess the existing baseline conditions. Furthermore, the assessments will be informed by a topographic survey (undertaken by a survey contractor).

7.8.3 Where necessary and appropriate, the Applicant will undertake infiltration testing and groundwater monitoring which will inform groundwater conditions at the Site. This will further inform the assessment of groundwater flood risk at the Site.

7.8.4 Additionally, due to the increased risk of flooding to the northern land parcel, fluvial flood modelling will be undertaken to inform the baseline assessment of flood risk associated with the watercourses in the vicinity. This modelling will be based upon watercourse surveys and the model methodology for the watercourses within the northern land parcel is summarised below:

- Extension of the strategic scale River Hull and Holderness (2013) model to evaluate flood risk within the Site Boundary. This is considered the most appropriate basis for assessing risk to the Proposed Development due to spatial coverage and details included within the existing model (e.g., defences, pumping stations).
- Detailed survey of the Skerne Beck, Scurf Dike and Watton Beck channels from the existing model extent to a suitable topographic limit (anticipated to be the Yorkshire Coast Line rail embankment).
- Detailed survey of the Arram Catchwater Drain channel, between the Yorkshire Coast Line rail embankment and the confluence with the River Hull.
- Creation of a new 2D domain covering the floodplain between the Skerne Beck, Scurf Dike, Watton Beck, Arram Catchwater Drain and Beverley and Barmston Drain channels, to cover the proposed development site and surroundings.
- Updates to model operating rules where necessary (e.g., Wilfholme Pumping Station, Hempholme Weir).
- Detailed simulation of flood extents, quantification of depths and levels and identification of existing flow paths.

7.8.5 Given the baseline flood risk within the southern land parcel and the fact that just underground cabling is proposed in the cable search area, it is not proposed that flood modelling is required for these areas.

## Determining Receptor Sensitivity

7.8.6 Sensitivity criteria are based on both the ability of a receptor to accommodate the anticipated impact of the likely changes, as well as the importance of the resource under consideration or designated value of the receptor (e.g. a designated area of international or national importance has a higher value and therefore higher sensitivity than other areas of lower status). Evaluation of sensitivity of hydrology requires a considerable degree of judgement, based on defined characteristics and values, and professional experience.

7.8.7 The sensitivity criteria used in this assessment is presented in **Table 7-6**.

Table 7-6: Receptor Sensitivity Criteria

| Sensitivity of Receptor | Typical Descriptions | Typical Examples | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very High | Very high importance and rarity, international scale and very limited potential for substitution. | Surface Water | Watercourse with WFD Ecological classification of High, or Ecological Potential of Good |
| | | Groundwater | Principal aquifer providing regionally important resource Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 |
| | | Flood Risk | Essential Infrastructure or Highly Vulnerable development in line with Annex 3 of the NPPF |
| High | High importance and rarity, national scale, and limited potential for substitution. | Surface Water | Watercourse with WFD Ecological classification of Good, or Ecological Potential of Moderate |
| | | Groundwater | Principal aquifer providing locally important resource Groundwater Source Protection Zone 2 |
| | | Flood Risk | More Vulnerable development in line with Annex 3 of the NPPF |
| | | Water supply | Water supply network with insufficient capacity to serve the Proposed Development, where additional supply required by the development would lead to over abstraction / environmental degradation |
| | | Foul drainage | Foul drainage network with insufficient capacity to receive flows from the development, where additional foul flows would lead to flooding / releases to the environment |
| Medium | Medium or high importance and rarity, regional | Surface Water | Watercourse with WFD Ecological classification of Moderate / Poor / Bad, or Ecological Potential of Poor / Bad |

| Sensitivity of Receptor | Typical Descriptions | Typical Examples | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | scale, limited potential for substitution. | Groundwater | Aquifer providing water for agricultural or industrial use with limited connection to surface water Groundwater Source Protection Zone 3 |
| | | Flood Risk | Less Vulnerable development in line with Annex 3 of the NPPF |
| Low | Low or medium importance and rarity, local scale. | Surface Water | Watercourse without WFD classification |
| | | Groundwater | Unproductive strata |
| | | Flood Risk | Water Compatible Development in line with Annex 3 of the NPPF |
| | | Water supply | Water supply network with sufficient capacity (current or planned for) to serve the Proposed Development; therefore, not envisaged to result in over abstraction / environmental degradation |
| | | Foul drainage | Foul drainage network with sufficient capacity (current or planned for) to receive flows from the Proposed Development; therefore, not envisaged to result in flooding / releases to the environment |

## Determining the Magnitude of Impact

7.8.8 Magnitude of impact or change is the potential effect in relation to the resource that has been quantified using the scale: Very High, High, Medium, or Low. It includes the consideration of timing, scale, size and duration of a potential impact. The magnitude of the impact is a measure of the degree that the potential effect could manifest on the receptors.

7.8.9 The magnitude of impact criteria is summarised in **Table 7-7** below.

Table 7-7: Magnitude of Impact

| Sensitivity of Receptor | Typical Descriptions | Typical Examples | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Adverse | Results in loss of attribute/ receptor and / or quality and integrity of the attribute. | Surface Water | Loss or extensive change to a fishery, regionally important public water supply or designated nature conservation site<br>Reduction in waterbody WFD classification |
| | | Groundwater | Loss or extensive change to an aquifer or regionally important water supply<br>Reduction in waterbody WFD classification |

| Sensitivity of Receptor | Typical Descriptions | Typical Examples | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Flood Risk | Increase in peak flood level (>100mm) |
| Moderate Adverse | Results in effect on integrity of attribute, or loss of part of attribute. | Surface Water | Partial loss in productivity of a fishery<br>Degradation of regionally important public water supply or loss of major commercial / industrial / agricultural supplies<br>Contribution to reduction in water body WFD classification |
| | | Groundwater | Partial loss or change to an aquifer<br>Degradation of regionally important public water supply or loss of significant commercial / industrial / agricultural supplies<br>Contribution to reduction in water of WFD classification |
| | | Flood Risk | Increase in peak flood level (>50mm) |
| Minor Adverse | Results in some measurable change in attributes, quality or vulnerability. | Surface Water | Minor effects on water supplies |
| | | Groundwater | Minor effects on an aquifer or groundwater abstractions |
| | | Flood Risk | Increase in peak flood level (>10mm) |
| Negligible | Results in effect on attribute, but of insufficient magnitude to affect the use or integrity. | Surface Water | No measurable impact upon a surface water feature / receptor |
| | | Groundwater | No measurable impact upon an aquifer and / or groundwater receptors |
| | | Flood Risk | Negligible change to peak flood level (≤ +/- 10mm) |
| Minor Beneficial | Results in some beneficial effect on attribute or a reduced risk of negative effect occurring. | Surface Water | Minor reductions in existing surface water polluting discharges |
| | | Groundwater | Reduction of groundwater hazards to existing structures<br>Reductions in waterlogging |
| | | Flood Risk | Creation of flood storage / decrease in peak flood level (>10mm) |
| Moderate Beneficial | Results in moderate improvement of attribute quality. | Surface Water | Contribution to improvement in water body WFD classification |
| | | Groundwater | Improvement in water body catchment abstraction management Strategy (CAMS) (or equivalent) classification.<br>Support to significant improvements in damaged Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) |
| | | Flood Risk | Creation of flood storage and decrease in peak flood level (>50mm) |

| Sensitivity of Receptor | Typical Descriptions | Typical Examples | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Beneficial | Results in major improvement of attribute quality. | Surface Water | Removal of existing polluting discharge, or removing the likelihood of polluting discharges occurring to a watercourse<br>Improvement in water body WFD classification |
| | | Groundwater | Removal of existing polluting discharge to an aquifer or removing the likelihood of polluting discharges occurring<br>Recharge of an aquifer<br>Improvement in water body WFD classification |
| | | Flood Risk | Creation of flood storage and decrease in peak flood level (>100mm) |

## Significance Criteria

7.8.10 The predicted significance of the effect is determined through a standard method of assessment based on professional judgement while considering sensitivity and magnitude of impact as detailed in **Table 7-8**.

7.8.11 The combination of sensitivity and magnitude of impact combine to provide a matrix categorisation of significance (Major, Moderate, Minor and Negligible), subject to professional judgement.

7.8.12 Major and Moderate effects are considered to be significant in the context of the EIA Regulations. Where the significance of effect is assessed as being moderate or above, additional site-specific mitigation will be required.

Table 7-8: Significance of Effect

| Magnitude of Impact | Sensitivity of Receptors | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Effect Criteria | Very High | High | Medium | Low |
| Major | Major | Major | Moderate | Minor |
| Moderate | Major | Moderate | Minor | Minor |
| Minor | Moderate | Minor | Minor | Negligible |
| Negligible | Minor | Minor | Negligible | Negligible |

## Nature of Effect

7.8.13 In addition to determining the significance of the effect, the assessment process also includes a qualitative description regarding the nature of the effect, as outlined in Table 7-9. These terms add information about how the effect will impact receptors. Unless otherwise stated, identified potential effects are considered to be adverse.

Table 7-9: Nature of Effect

| Term | Nature of Effect Descriptors |
|---|---|
| Adverse | An effect which has the potential to decrease receptor value or status relative to baseline conditions. |
| Beneficial | An effect which has the potential to increase receptor value or status relative to baseline conditions. |
| Short-term | Effects that persist only for a short time, e.g., during the construction (or decommissioning) phase only; includes reversible effects. |
| Medium-term | Effects that may persist until additional mitigation measures have been implemented and become effective. |
| Long-term | Effects that persist for a much longer time, e.g., for the duration of the operational phase (essentially until the development ceases or is removed/reinstated); includes effects which are permanent (irreversible) or which may decline over longer timescales. |
| Temporary | A reversible effect where recovery is possible and for which effects would persist for only a short or medium term. |
| Frequent | Refers to a recurring effect that occurs repeatedly; in some cases, a lower level of impact may occur with sufficient frequency to reduce the ability of a receptor to recover effectively. |

## Technical Assessments

### *Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy*

7.8.14 As part of the DCO application, an FRA and accompanying Outline Drainage Strategy will be prepared which will take account of the above baseline research, consultation and analysis.

7.8.15 The FRA will be supported by detailed site specific hydraulic flood modelling for the northern land parcel which will be summarised within a modelling report appended to the FRA and Drainage Strategy.

7.8.16 The principles of the assessment will be agreed with the EA, IDB and LLFA. Flood risk and drainage constraints and opportunities will be incorporated into the masterplan submitted alongside the DCO application, which sets out the overall design principles and layout for the Proposed Development. The scope of the FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy will include the following:

- Consideration of the likely significant effects of flooding to the Site and identification of any necessary embedded mitigation measures.
- Consideration of the likely significant effects of flooding to areas off Site and identification of any necessary embedded mitigation measures.
- Residual risks after implementation of any necessary mitigation measures, allowing for the future impacts of climate change.
- Qualitative consideration of any effects on the flow of groundwater beneath the Site.

- SuDS appropriate for inclusion within the Proposed Development. A quantitative assessment of surface water runoff will be provided for the On-Site Substations and BESS compounds, with a qualitative assessment for the solar areas.

7.8.17 The above research, consultation and FRA (including outline Drainage Strategy) will be used to determine and conclude the impacts that the potential effects would have on the receptors identified.

### *Water Usage Assessment*

7.8.18 An assessment of potable water supply to serve the Proposed Development and likely foul runoff volumes will also be provided.

### *Water Framework Directive*

7.8.19 A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment will be progressed in consultation with the EA and Natural England. In line with previous consultations on similar schemes, we propose to take a combined approach which avoids the need to separate out the three traditional stages of WFD Assessment (i.e. screening, scoping and detailed assessment) but rather considers the potential typical activities that may take place and mitigation measures that could be implemented.

7.8.20 The WFD Assessment is likely to include the following:

- A summary of baseline conditions of all waterbodies within the defined Study Area.
- Consideration of typical activities that could impact waterbodies within the Study Area during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- Mitigation measures likely to be implemented to ensure no negative impacts on waterbodies within the Study Area during all phases of development. This will largely utilise information set out within the outline environmental management plans.

7.8.21 This would be submitted alongside the FRA and outline Drainage Strategy as technical appendices to the ES.

## Cumulative Assessments

7.8.22 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

- Consideration of Site topography has been based on EA's 1m LiDAR (2022).
- A walkover survey will be completed to ground truth the desk-based study.
- The assessment will cover the hydrology aspects of the Site. No assessment of slope stability, geotechnical risk or contamination will be carried out as part of the assessment. The approach to the assessment of these receptors is detailed within **Chapter 18: Land Quality and Groundwater** and a Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) will be submitted alongside the DCO application.
- Floods are natural occurrences and the risk they pose are wide ranging. With regards to flood risk specifically, this study is primarily concerned with the risk to people and property from the watercourse network, as well as flooding from other sources including surface water (pluvial) flooding, groundwater flooding, foul water and flooding from artificial sources.

- Limited information is known about public and private water supplies and abstractions at the time of scoping. However, this will be sought as part of the technical assessments and ES.

7.8.23 The technical assessments and ES Chapter are to be informed through continued consultation with the relevant statutory consultees.

# 8 Agricultural Soils

## 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of the detailed environmental assessment for Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) and soils. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data, and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area, based on current knowledge and understanding. It concludes by setting out the scope of assessment, including, with justification, the matters proposed to be scoped out and in for detailed assessment, and by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed assessment.

## 8.2 Review of Policy, Legislation and Relevant Guidance

8.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to agricultural land and soils, and relevant to the Proposed Development, comprises:

### Legislation

- Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act 1953[120];
- Control of Pollution Act 1974[121];
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990[122];
- Environmental Protection Act 1990[123];
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006[124];
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016[125];
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017[126]; and
- Environment Act 2021[127].

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[128], including the general assessment principles and Section 5.11 (Land Use, Including Open Space, Green

[120] Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act 1953 (c. 10). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/10/contents
[121] Control of Pollution Act 1974 (c. 40). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/contents
[122] Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents
[123] Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
[124] Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (c. 16). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents
[125] The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (SI 2016/1154). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents
[126] The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/572). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents
[127] Environment Act 2021 (c. 30). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents
[128] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf

Infrastructure, and Green Belt), in particular paragraph 5.11.12 (minimising impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land, defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a, and preferably using land of poorer quality) and paragraph 5.11.34 (siting on best and most versatile agricultural land only where justified, taking into account its economic and other benefits);

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[129], in particular Section 2.10 (Solar Photovoltaic Generation), including paragraphs 2.10.21 to 2.10.22 (preference for previously developed, brownfield, contaminated and industrial land, and consideration of impacts where best and most versatile agricultural land is used) and paragraph 2.10.137 (taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land and minimising impacts on soils and soil resources);

- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[130], relevant to the cable search area; and

- National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024, updated online February 2025)[131], and the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)[132], with particular reference to Chapter 15 (Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment): recognising the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (paragraph 187(b)) and, in plan-making, that where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred (paragraph 188 and footnote 65).

8.2.2 In addition, The Land Use Framework for England (Defra, 2026; CP 1545)[133] provides strategic context for balancing competing demands on land, including food production, nature recovery, housing and clean energy. It provides evidence and broad direction but does not itself form part of planning policy or determine individual planning applications.

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Strategy Document (2025 update): Policy ENV1 supports[134] the sustainable use of natural resources and requires development to minimise the disturbance of soils; and Policy EC5 addresses renewable and low-carbon energy development, requiring proposals to avoid significant adverse impacts on the BMV agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) unless there is clear justification and no suitable alternatives; and

[129] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[130] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[131] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), updated online February 2025. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[132] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/697b71c52ff8d10a830d5d4a/Draft_NPPF_December_2025.pdf
[133] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2026) The Land Use Framework for England. CP 1545. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-use-framework
[134] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update 2025–2039: Strategy Document Update (adopted 2 April 2025). Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/images/pages/local-plan-update/LPU%20-%20Strategy%20Document%20Update%20Adopted%202025.pdf

- East Riding Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Interim Planning Guidance (2008)[135].

8.2.3 There are currently no soil-specific supplementary planning documents within East Riding of Yorkshire Council; the national Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (2009) will therefore be followed.

## National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Paragraph 013, Reference ID 5-013-20150327), which identifies the factors for large-scale solar farms, including focusing development on previously developed and non-agricultural land and, where greenfield land is proposed, preferring poorer quality agricultural land to land of higher quality;

- Defra and Welsh Government (2025) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land[136] – the current ALC guidelines, which update the 1988 MAFF guidelines (grading criteria and reference climate dataset unchanged); the ALC remains the only approved system for grading the quality of agricultural land in England and Wales;

- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land[137] – the foundational methodology underpinning the 2025 guidelines;

- Natural England (2012) Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (Technical Information Note TIN049)[138];

- Natural England (2021) Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land[139];

- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP, 2025) Solar PV on Agricultural Land: Essential Components of Environmental Assessments and Reports[140] – advice on the components expected within environmental assessments for solar development on agricultural land, including ALC survey, soils and soil health;

[135] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2008) Planning for Renewable Energy: Interim Planning Document (Volumes 1 and 2). Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-library/ (The 2008 Interim Planning Document is the version currently relied upon; this may be superseded by a forthcoming updated renewable energy guidance document and should be reviewed at ES stage.)
[136] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Welsh Government (2025) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6257050620264448
[137] Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. Available at: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130402151656/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/landmanage/land-use/documents/alc-guidelines-1988.pdf
[138] Natural England (2012) Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (Technical Information Note TIN049, Second Edition). Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012
[139] Natural England (2021) Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land
[140] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (2025) Solar PV on Agricultural Land: Essential Components of Environmental Assessments and Reports. Available at: https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/news/2026/january/the-best-and-most-versatile-farmland-should-be-protected-amid-rapid-expansion-of-uk-solar-power-says-new-guidance/

- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP, 2026) advice note on assessing the effects of development on soil health[141];
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA, 2022) A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment[142]; and
- Defra (2009) Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (PB13298)[143].

### Local Guidance

8.2.4 The Proposed Development falls within the East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority, within the Yorkshire and Humber region, neither of which has specific local guidance on agricultural land and soils.

## 8.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

8.3.1 This section describes the existing agricultural land and soils baseline relevant to the Proposed Development: the Study Area, the approach to baseline data collection, the relevant baseline conditions, and the predicted future baseline.

### Study Area

8.3.2 The Study Area for agricultural land and soils comprises the northern land parcel, the southern land parcel and the cable search area, together forming the Site as shown on **Figure 1-1** in **Appendix A**. The northern land parcel covers an area of approximately 574ha. The southern land parcel covers an area of approximately 580ha. The cable search area is currently defined as a broad search area of approximately 2,013ha, which covers all route options pending confirmation of the final alignment (see Chapter 2: Description of the Site and Surrounding Area).

8.3.3 Soil is a highly localised resource. For the purposes of the ALC and soils assessment, the Study Area is therefore confined to the Site Boundary, and it is not considered necessary or appropriate to extend the Study Area beyond it. The Site Boundary is shown on **Figure 1-1** in **Appendix A.**

### Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

8.3.4 Baseline data has been collected using the following sources, alongside site specific surveys:

- Defra Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map for England (2026), together with the Natural England Provisional and Regional ALC maps, via the Defra MAGIC application and the Cranfield LandIS Portal (these strategic/indicative datasets do not replace detailed field survey);
- Soil Survey of England and Wales mapping and the Cranfield LandIS NATMAP;

[141] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (2026) Advice note on assessing the effects of development on soil health. Referenced at: https://www.isepglobal.org/engage/transform/features/isep-policy-news-janfeb-2026/ (advice note may be available to ISEP members; direct link to be confirmed).
[142] Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2022) A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at: https://www.iema.net/media/3xejdu0u/2022-iema_land_and_soils_guidance.pdf
[143] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2009) Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (PB13298). Available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13298-code-of-practice-090910.pdf

- British Geological Survey (BSG) mapping and the UK Soil Observatory Soil Parent Material Model;
- Natural England National LIDAR Programme Digital Terrain Model (relief and micro-relief);
- The ALC Climatological Data 5 km Dataset (1989, Met Office); and
- Open-source aerial and historical imagery (Google Earth Pro).

8.3.5 Baseline information for the northern land parcel also utilises 2024 / 2025 ALC survey results from the previous Kingfisher Solar Farm proposals in this area of the Site (as detailed in **Section 1.2**). An area-specific ALC field survey of the southern land parcel has also been commissioned to inform the baseline for that part of the Site Boundary and is ongoing.

8.3.6 The cable search area is included within the Study Area as it forms part of the Site Boundary. No surveys are proposed for this area. This is on the basis that, once designed, the cable will comprise a thin corridor, affecting a negligible area of available agricultural resource. However, once the actual route is established, the relevant areas' soils can be assessed to confirm the negligible impact. Desk based baseline is provided below and has been used to inform the consideration of potential effects arising from the cable in **Section 8.7.**

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

8.3.7 The ALC system classifies land into five grades, Grade 1 being the highest quality and Grade 5 the lowest. Grade 3 is divided into Subgrades 3a and 3b to distinguish good-quality from moderate-quality land. The 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land comprises Grades 1, 2 and Subgrade 3a. The 'Provisional and Regional ALC' maps are strategic in nature, derived from surveys undertaken primarily between the 1960s and 1970s, and are not of sufficient resolution to delineate subgrade boundaries or to confirm grades at the individual-field scale; they are used here only to inform the scoping baseline. In April 2026, Defra published a new 'Predictive ALC Map for England', remodelled using Cranfield LandIS soils data at 50m resolution and including the Grade 3a/3b subdivision; like the earlier maps, it is intended for strategic or indicative use only and does not replace field-based ALC survey for planning purposes.

8.3.8 The 2026 'Predictive ALC Map for England' has been used to indicate the soil classifications across the Site Boundary and is shown in **Table 8-1**. The results of the ALC surveys being undertaken in support of the Proposed Development will be reported on in the ES, using the below table to present the findings.

Table 8-1: Predictive Agricultural Land Classification breakdown by ALC Grade Whole Site (Northern land parcel, Southern land parcel and cable search area)

| | ALC class | Area (ha) | % of covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Grade 1 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Grade 2 | 644.99 | 20.42% |
| | Grade 3a | 2010.52 | 63.65% |
| | Grade 3b | 454.67 | 14.39% |
| | Grade 4 | 0.25 | 0.01% |
| | Grade 5 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Non-Agricultural | 39.26 | 1.24% |

| | ALC class | Area (ha) | % of covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Urban | 9.00 | 0.29% |
| | Covered total | 3158.69 | 100.00% |

Table 8-2: Predictive Agricultural Land Classification breakdown by ALC Grade Northern Land Parcel

| | ALC class | Area (ha) | % of covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Grade 1 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Grade 2 | 16.83 | 2.93% |
| | Grade 3a | 238.88 | 41.58% |
| | Grade 3b | 318.51 | 55.44% |
| | Grade 4 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Grade 5 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Non-Agricultural | 0.25 | 0.04% |
| | Urban | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Covered total | 574.47 | 100.00% |

Table 8-3: Predictive Agricultural Land Classification breakdown by ALC Grade Southern Land Parcel

| | ALC class | Area (ha) | % of covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Grade 1 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Grade 2 | 296.69 | 51.89% |
| | Grade 3a | 271.57 | 47.50% |
| | Grade 3b | 1.00 | 0.18% |
| | Grade 4 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Grade 5 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Non-Agricultural | 2.51 | 0.44% |
| | Urban | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Covered total | 571.77 | 100.00% |

Table 8-4: Predictive Agricultural Land Classification breakdown by ALC Grade Cable Search Area

| | ALC class | Area (ha) | % of covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Grade 1 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Grade 2 | 332.07 | 16.50% |

| | ALC class | Area (ha) | % of covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Grade 3a | 1498.54 | 74.46% |
| | Grade 3b | 136.25 | 6.77% |
| | Grade 4 | 0.20 | 0.01% |
| | Grade 5 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | Non-Agricultural | 36.43 | 1.81% |
| | Urban | 9.06 | 0.45% |
| | Covered total | 2012.54 | 100.00% |

## Agricultural Land Classification – Northern Land Parcel

8.3.9 The 'Provisional and Regional ALC' mapping showed the northern land parcel predominantly as Grade 3 (97% of sampled points), with the remainder Grade 4 (3%). It is noted that this mapping does not subdivide Grade 3 meaning it could not distinguish Subgrade 3a (BMV) from Subgrade 3b. Defra's 2026 'Predictive ALC Map for England' now provides this subdivision. Across the northern land parcel, the mapping indicates Grade 3b as dominant at 55%, with Grade 3a at 42% and Grade 2 at 3%. No land is mapped as Grade 4 or below. A proportion of the parcel therefore falls within the BMV category (Grades 2 and 3a).

8.3.10 The Defra Predictive ALC dataset is strategic and indicative only and has been used at this scoping stage because it provides the most consistent basis for considering the full Site Boundary, including land where detailed survey access has not yet been available. Field survey work has commenced on part of the northern land parcel under the earlier scheme proposal; however, as this does not yet provide complete coverage of the wider land required for the Site Boundary, reliance on the partial results could be misleading and create inconsistency between surveyed and unsurveyed areas. The survey data will therefore be treated as emerging evidence and carried forward into the ES baseline once sufficient coverage is available to establish the actual ALC grade and subgrade distribution.

## Agricultural Land Classification – Southern Land Parcel

8.3.11 The 'Provisional and Regional ALC' mapping showed the southern land parcel predominantly as Grade 2 (100% of sampled points). As above, it is noted that mapping does not subdivide Grade 3. Defra's 2026 'Predictive ALC Map for England' now provides this subdivision. Across the southern land parcel, the predictive mapping indicates Grade 3a as dominant at 48%, with Grade 2 at 52%. No land is mapped as Grade 4 or 5. Almost all of the parcel therefore falls within the BMV category (Grades 2 and 3a). The detailed ALC field survey of the southern land parcel (see the Further Baseline Data section below) will confirm the actual grade and subgrade distribution to inform the ES.

## Soil Resources

8.3.12 Indicative soil types across the Site Boundary will be confirmed through the detailed ALC survey, comprising auger observations at approximately one location per hectare, supported by representative hand-dug soil inspection pits at approximately one pit per 20 auger locations. The pits will provide detailed soil profile descriptions by horizon, with samples from each horizon submitted for laboratory particle-size analysis to determine sand, silt and clay percentages, sand fractionation and soil texture class. This field and laboratory evidence will form the primary basis for confirming soil characteristics relevant to the final ALC grade, including the NATMAP National

Soil Map for England and Wales and associated soil texture, used as supporting contextual information.

### *Soil Types - Northern Land Parcel*

8.3.13 For the northern land parcel, the NATMAP National Soil Map for England and Wales and associated soil texture indicates three principal soil types: loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater (60.5% of sampled points), slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid loamy and clayey soils (36.6%), and freely draining lime-rich loamy soils (2.9%). The dominance of soils with naturally high groundwater levels and seasonally wet, slowly permeable soils reflects the low-lying, near-level terrain of the land parcel.

8.3.14 The northern land parcel lies at low altitude, ranging from approximately 0 to 7.2m AOD (mean 3 m), on near-level ground with a mean slope of 0.9° (maximum 4.2°). The land falls entirely within Climate Grade 1, indicating no climatic limitation on agricultural use. In flood-risk terms, the parcel spans Flood Zone 3 (42.7%), Flood Zone 1 (32.2%) and Flood Zone 2 (25.1%), consistent with the low-lying setting and the prevalence of soils with high groundwater. NATMAP derived soil depth data indicate that, across all sampled points, the soil and subsoil can be relatively easily dug to a depth of more than 1 metre.

### *Soil Types - Southern Land Parcel*

8.3.15 For the southern land parcel, the NATMAP National Soil Map for England and Wales and associated soil texture mapping indicates a more varied soil cover. The principal types are freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (33.6% of sampled points), slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (30.5%), and freely draining lime-rich loamy soils (25.6%), together with smaller proportions of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid soils (7.6%), loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater levels (1.7%), and loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (1.0%). The predominance of freely draining soils is consistent with the higher, more varied terrain of this parcel.

8.3.16 The southern land parcel lies at higher and more variable altitude than the northern parcel, ranging from approximately 1.7 to 86.9m AOD (mean 46.2m), with a mean slope of 2.2° (maximum 9.7°). The land falls predominantly within Climate Grade 2 (89.1%), with the remainder Climate Grade 1 (10.9%). In flood-risk terms, the parcel lies predominantly within Flood Zone 1 (95.3%), with only small proportions in Flood Zone 3 (2.5%) and Flood Zone 2 (2.1%), reflecting the predominantly freely draining soils and elevated setting. NATMAP derived soil depth data indicate that, across 77% of sampled points, the soil and subsoil can be relatively easily dug to a depth of more than 1 metre.

## Northern land parcel and Southern land parcel summary

8.3.17 Taking the northern and southern land parcels together, the Defra 2026 'Predictive ALC Map for England' indicates that the northern and southern land parcels comprise predominantly Subgrade 3a land (45%), with Grade 3b (28%) and Grade 2 (27%), together with a small unclassified remainder. No areas are mapped as Grade 1, 4 or 5. On this basis, approximately 72% of the northern and southern land parcels fall within the BMV category. Given the high proportion of BMV land, particular attention will be given to embedded measures to retain soils in situ and to potential beneficial soil effects during operation (**Sections 8.6**). Soils range from low-lying soils with naturally high groundwater and impeded drainage on the northern land parcel to predominantly freely draining soils on the higher southern land parcel. The northern and southern land parcels mainly lie within Flood Zone 1 (67%), with Flood Zone 3 (20%) and Flood Zone 2 (12%) concentrated on the low-lying northern land parcel. These grade, subgrade and BMV figures derive from strategic, indicative mapping and will be confirmed by the detailed ALC

field survey, once complete, before they are carried into the ES. The ES will also consider opportunities to avoid and minimise effects on higher-quality agricultural land and soil resources through the final layout, construction methodology and soil management measures, including appropriate soil stripping, storage, reinstatement and aftercare. Subject to detailed design, the effects on agricultural land and soil resources will therefore be assessed in the context of both the predicted land quality and the proposed mitigation measures.

8.3.18 There were no records of existing detailed ALC surveys held on the Natural England ALC database for the Site Boundary at the time of writing. However, some information is available from the previous project, (Kingfisher Solar Farm; 2024-2025), and from survey work undertaken to date in 2026. This information has been considered in the above sections but should be treated as preliminary and emerging evidence only. The evidence currently available indicates that the Site Boundary is not uniform, with considerable variation in soil texture, drainage, wetness, flood risk, altitude and slope across the land parcels. This variability means that reliance on strategic mapping alone is unlikely to fully represent the agricultural land quality of the Site Boundary. The detailed ALC field survey will provide a more robust basis for defining the actual grade and subgrade distribution and will allow any areas of higher-quality agricultural land or more sensitive soil resources to be identified more accurately. This will support an evidence-led approach to the ES, including layout refinement and targeted soil management measures where required.

## Soil Types and Agricultural Land Classification – Cable Search Area

8.3.19 The cable search area is within the Site Boundary and has been considered at this scoping stage on a desk-based basis only. No detailed ALC survey is proposed for the cable search area at this stage, as the final cable route has not yet been fixed and the operational cable corridor is expected to comprise a narrow linear feature affecting only a small proportion of the wider search area. The desk-based baseline therefore provides an indicative assessment of the agricultural land and soil resources potentially present within the search area, rather than a final assessment of the land that would be directly affected by cable installation.

8.3.20 The ‘Provisional and Regional ALC’ mapping indicates the cable search area to be predominantly Grade 2, with the remainder mapped as undivided Grade 3. As this dataset does not distinguish between Subgrade 3a and Subgrade 3b, it does not identify whether the Grade 3 land would fall within or outside the BMV category. Defra’s 2026 ‘Predictive ALC Map for England’ provides this subdivision and indicates that the cable search area is predominantly Subgrade 3a, with smaller areas of Grade 2 and Subgrade 3b, together with limited non-agricultural and urban land. On this basis, a substantial proportion of the wider cable search area is predicted to fall within the BMV category. These figures are strategic and indicative only and should not be interpreted as representing the final area of agricultural land affected by the cable route.

8.3.21 The NATMAP National Soil Map for England and Wales and associated soil texture information indicates that the cable search area is dominated by slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. Smaller areas of freely draining lime-rich loamy soils, freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils, and loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface are also present. BGS Soil Parent Material mapping indicates that the cable search area is predominantly underlain by glacial till, with smaller areas of chalk, riverine clay and floodplain sands and gravel, floodplain sand/gravel and glaciofluvial deposits. This indicates that soil handling requirements may vary along the final route, particularly where heavier, seasonally wet or slowly permeable soils are encountered.

8.3.22 Once the final cable alignment and working corridor are established, the relevant land parcels and soil types along the selected route will be reviewed to confirm the likely magnitude of effect

on agricultural land and soil resources. Where necessary, route-specific soil handling measures will be incorporated into the Soil Management Plan and construction methodology. Given the narrow and temporary nature of cable installation, and subject to appropriate soil stripping, storage, reinstatement and aftercare, the permanent loss of agricultural land and soil resource is expected to be negligible.

## 8.4 Predicted Future Baseline

8.4.1 In the absence of the Proposed Development, the Site Boundary is expected to remain in agricultural use, with no material change anticipated to the agricultural land quality or soils over the assessment period (60 years), subject to ordinary agricultural management and the effects of climate change (see the Climate Change chapter).

8.4.2 Relevant policy and data are evolving and would be reflected at ES stage where appropriate. Defra is undertaking a technical review of the ALC system (due to complete in 2028), the new Predictive ALC Map (2026) provides improved strategic data.

## 8.5 Important Receptors Identified

8.5.1 Following the baseline review, the following important receptors have been identified and shall be considered within the assessment:

- Agricultural land quality – the agricultural potential of the land, assessed through the ALC system, with particular regard to the presence of BMV agricultural land; and
- Soil resources and soil health – the physical structure, make-up and biological and chemical function of the topsoil and subsoil, consistent with the increasing emphasis on soil health in national policy (the Environment Act 2021 and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2025[144]) and in current practice guidance (ISEP, 2026).

## 8.6 Environmental Measures

8.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to agricultural land and soils will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

8.6.2 The DCO application will include an Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) and an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) setting out measures to be implemented during construction. A draft oSMP, and the soil-related details to be contained within the oCEMP, will be provided to Natural England. These commitments are recorded in the

[144] Defra (2025) Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 (published 1 December 2025). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025

Commitments Register accompanying the Scoping Report (**Appendix B**) and will be updated to accompany the ES. Such measures would include, but not be limited to:

- All works to be undertaken in general accordance with the Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (Defra, 2009);
- Soil handling guidelines, including the stripping, segregated storage, and replacement/reinstatement of topsoil and subsoil, with stockpiles managed to prevent erosion and anaerobic conditions;
- A traffic management plan establishing dedicated construction routes to minimise soil compaction and sealing, with track matting where access is required over un-stripped soils;
- Control of the timing of works to avoid periods when soils are most susceptible to structural damage; and
- Works undertaken and overseen by suitably qualified individuals to minimise impacts on the soil.

## Operation and Maintenance

8.6.3 The oSMP, together with an Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), will be submitted as part of the DCO application and will set out the management measures to avoid likely significant effects during operation and maintenance, including identifying areas more susceptible to damage and advising when soils are suitable to be handled or trafficked. Operational design principles incorporated into the Proposed Development, and to be detailed within the oSMP and oOEMP, would include, but not be limited to:

- A permanent grass sward maintained beneath and between the panel rows to protect soil structure, limit erosion and surface runoff, and maintain soil organic matter;
- Use of low-ground-pressure vehicles and designated access tracks for routine maintenance, with vehicle movements confined to established routes to avoid widespread soil compaction;
- Scheduling of maintenance activities and vehicular access to avoid periods when soils are wet and most susceptible to compaction and rutting;
- Retention of soils in situ beneath the arrays, with minimal disturbance during operation and no routine cultivation or soil stripping;
- Management of the sward by low-intensity grazing or cutting, avoiding overstocking that could cause poaching and localised compaction; and
- Periodic monitoring of soil condition during operation, with remedial measures (such as targeted decompaction) implemented where damage is identified.

## Decommissioning

8.6.4 An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP), together with the oSMP, will set out the measures for returning the Site Boundary to agricultural use, including the careful removal of foundations to enable normal farming practices to resume, in accordance with best-practice soil handling. Provided the oSMP and management plans are followed during the earlier phases, significant effects are not expected during decommissioning.

Decommissioning design principles incorporated into the Proposed Development, and to be detailed within the oDEMP and oSMP, would include, but not be limited to:

- Removal of above-ground and below-ground infrastructure, including foundations, using low-ground-pressure plant and designated access routes to limit soil compaction;
- Decompaction and loosening of soils affected during decommissioning to restore soil structure and rooting depth;
- Reinstatement of soil profiles to pre-development levels, with topsoil and subsoil handled separately and replaced in the correct sequence in accordance with best-practice soil handling;
- Scheduling of decommissioning works to avoid periods when soils are wet and most susceptible to structural damage;
- Removal of the operational sward and reinstatement of the land to agricultural use, retaining where practicable the soil-health benefits accrued during the operational period; and
- Post-decommissioning soil monitoring, with any remedial measures necessary to confirm the land has been returned to its former agricultural use and quality.

## 8.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

8.7.1 An overview of consultation undertaken to date relevant to agricultural land and soils, and how it has informed the scope of the assessment, is provided below.

Table 8-5: Consultation Undertaken to Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| May 2026 | East Riding of Yorkshire Council | Project-wide EIA consultation request issued to the Council (Environmental Control). |
| Feb 2026 | Linesearch beforeUdig (LSBUD) | An LSBUD enquiry was undertaken, which highlighted the presence of a high-pressure gas pipeline crossing/adjacent to the Site Boundary. The pipeline and its easement would be taken into account in the survey approach and in siting considerations. |
| Feb 2026 | SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited | The presence of a petroleum products (petrol) pipeline was discussed with SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited as the asset owner/operator, to understand its alignment and any constraints relevant to soil survey and ground works. |
| Feb 2026 | National Gas | Site visits and approvals for surveying in the vicinity of the high-pressure gas pipeline were approved by Daniel Bainbridge of National Gas, enabling ALC field survey to be undertaken safely near the pipeline easement. |

8.7.2 Consultation with statutory and other relevant consultees is ongoing. Further consultation is planned during the pre-application stage, including engagement with Natural England on the scope and methodology of the ALC and soils assessment and on the draft oSMP, and continued liaison with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Environment Agency and the relevant pipeline asset operators (National Gas and SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited) in relation to survey access and ground works in the vicinity of their apparatus. The outcomes of this further consultation will be reported in the ES.

## Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

8.7.3 The following matters are proposed to be scoped out of detailed assessment:

Table 8-6: Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Physical damage to soil during the operation and maintenance phase | There would be limited ground disturbance or trafficking over soils during operation, beyond periodic maintenance using established access tracks. With the operational soil-protection design principles embedded in the Proposed Development (see Section 8.6 above), uncontrolled trafficking and disturbance is unlikely and soil condition is expected to be maintained, so the risk of significant physical soil damage during operation is low. The potential for physical damage to soil during operation is therefore not proposed to be considered in the ES. However, the associated potential beneficial effect on soil quality during operation is, scoped into the assessment (see below). |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

8.7.4 It is anticipated that the following effects would be assessed:

- Reduction in soil quality during the construction and decommissioning phases (e.g. compaction, loss of structure, mixing of horizons);
- Loss of BMV agricultural land during construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Given that the strategic baseline indicates substantial BMV land across the northern and southern land parcels (with the Defra 'Predictive ALC Map for England' showing approximately 72% of these areas as BMV, subject to confirmation by the detailed ALC field survey), the loss of BMV agricultural land is a key matter for the assessment;
- Soil degradation (e.g. compaction, loss of structure and quality) along the cable corridor. The exact route of the Grid Connection Corridor within the cable search area is to be confirmed and is not yet defined. The cable search area is, however, included within the baseline through the Defra Predictive ALC mapping. Given that the eventual cable design would comprise a trenched buried cable route within a narrow corridor, no site-specific ALC field survey is proposed for the cable component of the Proposed Development. Rather than being scoped out, these effects are reserved for desk-based assessment once the alignment is confirmed and will be reported in the ES (or, if necessary, addressed through a further scoping request); and
- Potential beneficial effect on soil quality during the operational phase. With the design principles embedded in the Proposed Development (**Section 8.6**) — including reversion to and maintenance of a permanent grass sward, retention of soils in situ and the cessation of

routine cultivation — there is potential for soil structure, organic matter content and overall soil health to be maintained or improved over the operational period relative to the existing arable baseline. This potential beneficial effect will be assessed and reported in the ES and taken into account in the planning balance, including in the context of the loss of BMV agricultural land.

## 8.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Further Baseline Data

8.8.1 Site-specific ALC field survey of the southern land parcel commenced in February 2026, with completion anticipated in autumn 2026, subject to land access. The survey involves field augering at one location per hectare, on a 100m grid, to a maximum depth of 1.2m using a Dutch auger, in accordance with the ALC guidelines (Defra and Welsh Government, 2025[145], which update MAFF 1988[146]) and Natural England's expectations for planning-grade ALC work[147]. A hand-dug soil description pit (0.6–1.2m deep) is undertaken for each notable soil type, generally every 20–30 ha, to determine subsoil characteristics. Topsoil samples would be taken from representative soil description pits and submitted to a UKAS-accredited laboratory for particle size distribution analysis by the pipette method to confirm field texturing. Soil nutrient and soil health analysis would also be undertaken in the laboratory to establish nutritional and soil health baselines for the Site Boundary. In addition, the surveyors would make a visual site assessment for any limiting factors, such as compaction and soil structure, to inform the soil health baseline.

### Significance of Effects

8.8.2 The significance of effect on agricultural land depends principally on the area of best and most versatile (BMV) land affected, considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptor. There is limited published guidance on what constitutes a significant area of loss. A commonly used benchmark is the 20 ha threshold at which a local planning authority must consult Natural England[148] where development not in accordance with an approved development plan would result in the loss (or likely cumulative loss) of 20 ha or more of BMV land. This is a consultation trigger under the town and country planning regime rather than a threshold that applies directly to a Development Consent Order; for the purposes of this assessment it is used as a reference point for the scale at which the loss of BMV land is likely to be material. The magnitude criteria below apply a graduated, area-based scale informed by this benchmark and professional judgement, with the significance of effect then determined by combining magnitude with receptor sensitivity in the significance matrix. On this basis, a loss in the order of 20 ha of BMV land would already give rise to a significant effect for higher-sensitivity (BMV) receptors, with larger areas falling within the higher magnitude bands.

8.8.3 The significance of effect is determined by considering the magnitude of impact against the sensitivity of the receptor. It is also recognised that the operational period may give rise to

[145] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Welsh Government (2025) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6257050620264448
[146] Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. Available at: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130402151656/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/landmanage/land-use/documents/alc-guidelines-1988.pdf
[147] Natural England (2021) Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land
[148] Defra and Natural England, Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land (GOV.UK). The consultation requirement derives from the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 4.

beneficial effects on the soil resource: the establishment of grassland beneath and between the panels, together with the absence of cultivation and the substantially reduced trafficking of the soil over an extended period, would be expected to allow soil structure to recover, soil organic matter and biological activity to increase, and the potential for additional carbon sequestration associated with grassland establishment. These potential soil-health benefits would be considered in the assessment alongside the loss-of-use effects and would inform the soil health baseline and the measures secured through the oSMP. Effects of moderate significance or above are considered significant.

8.8.4 Duration is also considered, with greater weight given to permanent or long-term reversible changes than to temporary ones. The loss of use of BMV agricultural land for the operational life of the Proposed Development (assumed to be up to 60 years) is treated as a long-term (albeit reversible) effect, reflecting that the land would remain in agricultural use beneath and between the panels where practicable. Further to this, the land would be returned to agricultural use on decommissioning in accordance with the oDEMP and oSMP. While reversible, an effect of this duration is afforded substantial weight in the assessment, approaching that given to a permanent loss; the area of BMV land taken out of arable production for the operational period would be assessed against the magnitude criteria in Table 8-8 and the sensitivity of the receptor in **Table 8-7.** Permanent losses (for example, land occupied by foundations, substations, access tracks or other built infrastructure not reinstated on decommissioning) would be assessed separately and afforded the greatest weight.

Table 8-7: Sensitivity of Receptor

| Sensitivity | Characteristics |
|---|---|
| High | Grades 1 and 2 (best and most versatile agricultural land) |
| Medium | Subgrade 3a (best and most versatile agricultural land) |
| Low | Subgrade 3b, Grades 4 and 5 |

Table 8-8: Magnitude of Impact

| Magnitude | Area of Effect |
|---|---|
| High | ≥ 50 ha |
| Medium | 20 – < 50 ha |
| Low | 5 – < 20 ha |
| Negligible | < 5 ha |

Table 8-9: Matrix for Determining Significance

| Magnitude \ Sensitivity | High | Medium | Low |
|---|---|---|---|
| High | Very Large | Large | Moderate |
| Medium | Large | Moderate | Slight |
| Low | Moderate | Slight | Neutral |
| Negligible | Slight | Neutral | Neutral |

## Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

8.8.5 An assessment of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on agricultural land would be undertaken, taking account of the measures set out in the oSMP, oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP. The operational assessment would take into account the loss of use of BMV land for the life of the Proposed Development, which is assumed to be up to 60 years. A cumulative assessment relating to the loss of BMV land within the East Riding of Yorkshire region would be considered within a separate Cumulative Effects chapter, based on the list of schemes agreed for cumulative assessment and the loss of BMV land across the study area.

## Assumptions and Limitations

8.8.6 The following assumptions and limitations are acknowledged at this scoping stage:

- A detailed ALC survey shall be completed to inform the forthcoming ES. In the absence of complete survey data, this scoping report chapter has been informed by publicly available strategic ALC mapping — the Defra 'Predictive ALC Map for England' (2026) and the Natural England 'Provisional and Regional ALC maps' — which is strategic in nature and not sufficiently accurate for assessing individual fields.
- Earlier ALC survey work (2024–2025) over the northern land parcel is being reused and supplemented where data is absent; survey of the southern land parcel remains ongoing at the time of writing.
- Access to parts of the northern and southern land parcels, that has not been surveyed to date, is not expected until August 2026 at the earliest. Where access has not been granted and ALC field survey has not been undertaken, the baseline for that area relies on the published ALC mapping; the survey would be completed to inform the ES once access is available.
- Site areas and grade distributions stated at scoping stage are subject to confirmation of the redline boundary and the detailed ALC survey.
- Desk-based information obtained from publicly available datasets has been taken at face value and assumed accurate and complete at the time of writing.
- Defra is undertaking a technical review of the ALC system, due to complete in 2028; this assessment applies the ALC guidelines current at the time of writing.

The assessment reflects the baseline at the time of writing (June 2026); future changes in land use, climate, regulatory standards or guidance may affect the conclusions and will be assessed appropriately.

# 9 Archaeology

## 9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of the detailed environmental assessment for Archaeology. This Chapter outlines the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and provides an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also defines the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and concludes by outlining the methodology that will be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

9.1.2 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, archaeology is defined as below-ground remains and above-ground earthworks associated with past human activity, collectively referred to as 'archaeological remains', or 'archaeological assets'. Only heritage assets incorporating archaeological remains are considered in detail. Heritage assets incorporating built heritage remains are considered in detail in **Chapter 10: Built Heritage**. Heritage assets[149] incorporating both archaeological and built heritage remains are considered in both Scoping Chapters, as appropriate to the specific matters addressed.

## 9.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

9.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Archaeology, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, with specific reference to Part I Ancient Monuments: Protection of Scheduled Monuments; and,
- Planning Act 2008 ('the 2008 Act'), with specific reference to Section 104, which imposes a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to determine applications for development consent in accordance with that section where a national policy statement has effect

### National Planning Policy

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025), with specific reference to Section 2.3: Factors Influencing Site Selection and Design, Section 2.10: Solar Photovoltaic Generation[150];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025), with specific reference to Section 2.2: Factors Influencing Site Selection and Design and Section 2.4: Consideration of Good Design for Energy Infrastructure[151];

[149] Heritage Assets are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'
[150] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available athttps://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[151] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[152], with specific reference to Section 5.9: Historic Environment; and,
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[153], with specific reference to Section 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, and the Draft NPPF (December 2025)[154].

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[155], specifically:
- Policy EC5: Supporting the renewable and low carbon energy sector; and,
- Policy ENV3: Valuing our Heritage, with specific reference to Part F.

## National Guidance

- Archaeology and Solar Farms Good Practice Guide (CIfA 2026)[156];
- Code of Conduct (CIfA 2025)[157];
- Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment, Historic England Advice Note 15 (Historic England, 2021)[158];
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England, 2008)[159];
- Managing significance in decision-taking in the historic environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (Historic England, 2015)[160];
- Preserving Archaeological Remains, Decision-taking for Sites under Development (Historic England, 2016)[161];

[152] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[153] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[154] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)
[155] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[156] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2026), Archaeology and Solar Farms Good Practice Guide. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/news/2026/archaeology-and-solar-farms-good-practice-guide-published
[157] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2025) Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Code-of-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf
[158] Historic England (2021) Commercial renewable energy development and historic environment
Historic England Advice Note 15. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significanceadvice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/
[159] Historic England (2008) Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructiveconservation/conservation-principles
[160] Historic England (2015) Managing significance in decision-taking in the historic environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-indecision-taking/gpa2/
[161] Historic England (2016) Preserving archaeological remains: Decision-taking for sites under development. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/imagesbooks/publications/preserving-archaeological-remains/

- Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 2020)[162]; and,
- Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment (CIfA 2020)[163];

### Local Guidance

- East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston-Upon-Hull Historic Landscape Characterisation (2018)[164]

## 9.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

9.3.1 This section of the Chapter sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development for Archaeology. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment that will be presented in the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 9.4**).

### Study Area

9.3.2 The purpose of an archaeological study area is to provide a contextual archaeological baseline of the Site Boundary and its surroundings, to assess the potential effects to known archaeological assets, and to understand the potential for unknown archaeological remains that may be affected by the Proposed Development.

9.3.3 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, the Site Boundary has been divided into three sections, as shown in **Figure 9-1**:

- Northern land parcel;
- Southern land parcel; and,
- Cable search area.

9.3.4 These sections are referenced through this Scoping Report as required, while the term 'Site' is referenced when referring to the Proposed Development area in its entirety.

9.3.5 According to CIfA's Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (2020):

9.3.6 The range of sources containing potential information that need to be consulted in undertaking desk-based assessment will vary according to a number of factors:

- the size and location of the Site;
- the nature and quality of existing information; and
- the exact purpose and scope of the study.

[162] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2020) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf
[163] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-Archaeological-Consultancy-2020.pdf
[164] East Riding of Yorkshire (2018) Historic Landscape Characterisation of The East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston-Upon-Hull. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/83-2018 (Accessed: April 2026)

9.3.7 The extents of the Study Areas (**Figure 9-1**) considered for the purposes of this Scoping Report to inform the archaeological baseline, are as follows:

- 1km radius from the northern land parcel and southern land parcel boundary for Non-Designated Heritage assets; and
- 2km radius from the northern land parcel and southern land parcel boundary for Designated Heritage assets (i.e. Scheduled Monument).

9.3.8 In addition to the above, as discussed in **Chapter 2: Description of Development**; at this stage the cable search area remains a broad search area rather than a fixed alignment. The assessment undertaken for the cable search area to inform this Scoping Report has therefore been designed principally to inform the iterative design and route refinement process, rather than to provide a comprehensive baseline assessment of the wider surrounding archaeological environment. Therefore, the Study Area for this component comprises the boundary of the cable search area only and does not include a 1km or 2km radius as per the northern and southern land parcel.

9.3.9 The Study Areas to inform the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) and the Archaeology ES Chapter will be refined and extended following confirmation of the cable alignment within the cable search area, as set out below.

9.3.10 The preliminary Study Area(s) that will be considered to inform the Archaeological DBA and Archaeology ES Chapter have been defined in consultation with the Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire and comprise the following:

- 1km radius from the Site Boundary (including cable search area) for Non-Designated Heritage assets; and,
- 2km radius from the Site Boundary (including cable search area) for Designated Heritage assets (i.e. Scheduled Monument).

9.3.11 A flexible approach will be taken to the identification of assets located outside the Study Areas that are of the highest value, and the Study Areas may be extended where required. Any such extensions will be informed by research and professional judgement, particularly where specific designated or non-designated archaeological assets are considered to provide additional contextual information relevant to the assessment of the potential for unknown archaeological assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

9.3.12 Baseline data was collected using the following sources of data, as well as Proposed Development specific surveys:

- Aerial imagery from Google Earth;
- British Geological Survey (BGS) - Solid and drift geology digital mapping;
- Databases of known archaeological sites, find spots, historic buildings, and previous archaeological works, including Archaeology Data Service;
- East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston-Upon-Hull Historic Landscape Characterisation (2018);
- Environment Agency lidar data;
- Geophysical survey report, Kingfisher (Magnitude 2025); and

- Information held within the Humber Historic Environment Record (HER)

9.3.13 The sources consulted, and the data collected, are considered sufficient to inform this Scoping Report. Further assessments will be undertaken to inform the Archaeological DBA, and the Archaeology ES Chapter.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

9.3.14 The following baseline archaeological condition has been established from a preliminary, high-level review of the sources listed above.

9.3.15 Further archaeological assets may be identified during the full review and assessment of the data sources listed above. In addition, as outlined above, the Study Areas may evolve during the assessment process. As a result, the designated and non-designated assets included in the assessment, and the asset count presented below, may change in the Archaeological DBA and Archaeology ES Chapter.

9.3.16 No Designated Heritage Assets have been identified within the northern land parcel.

9.3.17 The Beverley Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bishop Burton cross Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England: 1012589) is currently located within the cable search area considered for this Scoping Report.

9.3.18 A section of the Scheduled Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall, and Medieval Settlement (NHLE: 1018600) is included in the southern land parcel. It is likely that further archaeological remains associated with the Scheduled Monument continue within the Site Boundary and should be treated as of high Significance (Sensitivity, as per methodology discussed in Section 9.9 of this Chapter) due to their potential association with the Scheduled monument. The inclusion, and proposed design in this area, will be refined prior to DCO application submission.

9.3.19 The Scheduled Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bentley Cross (NHLE: 1012590), and Scheduled Sanctuary Limit Stone, Walkington Cross (NHLE: 1012591), are also included in the cable search area within the southern land parcel.

9.3.20 The Scheduled Monuments listed in **Table 9-1** below are located within the Study Areas considered for this Scoping Report:

Table 9-1: Scheduled Monument within the Study Area

| Name | National Heritage List for England (NHLE) | Distance from the Site Boundary (m) |
|---|---|---|
| Northern land parcels | | |
| Iron Age Barrow 400m SE of Station Farm | 1016053 | 40 |
| Rosea Medieval Settlement and Field System, 600m SE of Rotsea Manor | 1005212 | 220 |
| Barf Hill Moated Site | 1007717 | 245 |
| Gilbertine Priory, two possible medieval archery butts and Civil War Earthworks | 1007751 | 970 |
| Moated Site 310m NE of Scorborough Church | 1015818 | 1430 |

| Name | National Heritage List for England (NHLE) | Distance from the Site Boundary (m) |
|---|---|---|
| Square Barrow Cemetery, Moated Site, Fishponds and Medieval Settlement Remains at Scorborough | 1015613 | 1700 |
| Moated Site 550m SE of Scorborough Hall | 1016250 | 1725 |
| Southern land parcels | | |
| Cellar Heads' Moated Site and Related Ridge & Furrow Earthworks at Risby Park | 1015312 | Within the Site |
| Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bentley Cross | 1012590 | Within the Site |
| Sanctuary Limit Stone, Walkington Cross | 1012591 | Within the Site |
| Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall, and Medieval Settlement | 1018600 | <5 |
| Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gunsite, 350m W of Butt Farm | 1019186 | 85 |
| Bowl Barrow 400m N of Highfield House | 1007731 | 105 |
| Baynard Castle | 1019823 | 1175 |
| Romano-British Enclosure on Westwood Common, 510m SW of Blackmill | 1013999 | 1230 |
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 120m S of Blackmill | 1013995 | 1680 |
| Group of Four Square Barrows on Westwood Common, 200m NW of Blackmill | 1013994 | 1690 |
| Romano-British Enclosure in Burton Bushes | 1014001 | 1710 |
| Square barrow on Westwood Common, 50m west of Blackmill | 1013996 | 1712 |
| Oval Barrow on Westwood Common, 55m NW of Blackmill | 1014000 | 1760 |
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 150m NW of Blackmill | 1013993 | 1790 |
| Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common, 50m N of Blackmill | 1013992 | 1820 |
| Square barrow on Westwood Common, 230m north west of Blackmill | 1013997 | 1865 |
| Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common, 150m N of Blackwill | 1013991 | 1870 |
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 230m NW of Blackmill | 1013998 | 1904 |
| Cable search area | | |

| Name | National Heritage List for England (NHLE) | Distance from the Site Boundary (m) |
|---|---|---|
| Beverley Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bishop Burton Cross | 1012589 | - Within the Site |

9.3.21 The non-designated archaeological assets listed in **Table 9-2** are located within the Site, and are considered potential archaeological receptors (**Figure 9-2, Figure 9-3,** and **Figure 9-4**). Within the Study Area considered for this Scoping Chapter, but outside the Site, a further 508 archaeological assets are recorded within the HER (not represented in the figures and not individually listed in this Scoping Chapter). These assets are not currently anticipated to be affected by the Proposed Development; however, they will be considered within the Archaeological DBA to inform the wider archaeological context, baseline and assessment of archaeological potential.

Table 9-2: Non designated assets within the Site Boundary (including the cable search area)

| Name | Ref Number |
|---|---|
| **Northern land parcel** | |
| Site Of Post Medieval Canal | MHU22745 |
| Carr House Cropmark Complex | MHU3734 |
| Stack Stand, South of Carr House | MHU3735 |
| Stack Stand, South-East of Carr House | MHU3736 |
| Ditches & Trackways, Ring Ditch | MHU979 |
| Bridge Farm or Windmill Mound | MHU8120 |
| Trackways, Enclosures and Field Boundaries | MHU21673 |
| Rectangular Cropmarks | MHU19368 |
| Square Barrow, S Of Station Farm | MHU19419 |
| Square Enclosure, NW of Manor Farm | MHU19421 |
| Possible Enclosures | MHU19432 |
| Large Double-Ditched Oval Feature & Possible Round Enclosure | MHU19434 |
| Beswick Gatehouse | MHU14960 |
| Wilfholme Bridge | MHU12871 |
| Artesian Well | MHU12875 |
| Site Of Duke of Wellington Ph | MHU12886 |
| Artesian Well | MHU12887 |
| Old Sand & Gravel Pits | MHU13107 |
| Banks/Earthworks, S Of Carr Lane | MHU13262 |

| Name | Ref Number |
|---|---|
| Square Barrows, SSE Of Brickyard Farm | MHU19425 |
| Sw-Ne Trackway | MHU9878 |
| Possible Round Barrow, Se of Brickyard Farm | MHU19424 |
| Ditches & Trackways, Ring Ditch | MHU979 |
| Cherry Garth Dmv | MHU3228 |
| Second World War Bomb Craters | MHU27377<br>MHU27390 |
| Possible Iron Age or Roman Ditched Enclosures and Field Boundaries | MHU27391 |
| Medieval To Post Medieval Rectilinear Enclosure | MHU27392 |
| Medieval To Post Medieval Field Boundaries | MHU27399 |
| Six Post Medieval Stack Stands | MHU27400 |
| Former Lockington Railway Station | MHU8269 |
| Two Medieval or Post Medieval Embanked Enclosures | MHU27401 |
| Possible Iron Age or Roman Field Boundaries | MHU27396 |
| Possible Archaeology - river terrace depositional layer but may also represent a former causeway or embankment system | NLP001 |
| Probable Archaeology – potential settlement activity (possibly associated to MHU9878) | NLP002 |
| Possible Archaeology - rectilinear anomaly (possibly associated to MHU193369) | NLP003 |
| Possible Archaeology - partial enclosures (possibly associated to MHU21673) | NLP004 |
| Probable Archaeology - ephemeral structure possibly related to agricultural activity | NLP005 |
| Possible Archaeology - anthropogenic activity | NLP006 |
| **Southern land parcel** | |
| Site Of Wood House | MHU12440 |
| Lob Hole Pond | MHU12530 |
| Milestone On A164 | MHU12805 |
| Site Of Barn | MHU12968 |
| Site Of Risby Manor House | MHU12972 |
| Old Pit at Burn Park Farm | MHU12977 |
| Pratwoods Gate | MHU12978 |
| Risby Gate | MHU12981 |

| Name | Ref Number |
|---|---|
| Halfpenny Gate | MHU12993 |
| Oldgate Skidby To Bentley Road | MHU12995 |
| Site Of Dunflat Gate | MHU12996 |
| Walkington Park | MHU13025 |
| Site Of Fishponds | MHU13026 |
| Ponds, S Of Briarpit Plantation | MHU13030 |
| Bentley Park Farm | MHU13308 |
| Site Of Old Chalk Pit | MHU1381 |
| Site Of Bentley Cottages | MHU1495 |
| Chalk Pit | MHU1497 |
| Buildings At Mouse Hill | MHU16584 |
| Site Of Shepherd Hut | MHU18737 |
| Well, Nw of Shepherd Hut, Near Bentley | MHU19512 |
| Autherd Pit, Briar Pit Plantation | MHU21700 |
| Risby Hall, Parks and Gardens, Deer Park | MHU24469 |
| Site Of Two Round Barrows | MHU2545 |
| Two Ring Ditches | MHU26542 |
| Square Barrow Cemetery | MHU27143 |
| Site Of C17 House, Wanlass | MHU3524 |
| Two Possible Barrows, Hall Ings | MHU3530 |
| Possible Mortuary Enclosure, Ring Ditch & Other Cm | MHU3532 |
| Enclosures | MHU6599 |
| Cropmarks Within Former Extent of Bentley Moor Wood | MHU6600 |
| Ruin | MHU6618 |
| Iron Age to Romano British Features and Finds and Ridge and Furrow | MHU7518 |
| Multi-Phase Iron-Age Settlement, Creyke Beck | MHU7519 |
| Oak Coffin, Beverley Parks | MHU7521 |
| Rectangular Enclosures, Fields | MHU833 |
| Possible Round Barrow | MHU8799 |
| Burn Park Cm Complex, Ia/Rb Occ | MHU8801 |
| Ditch System Fragments | MHU8940 |

| Name | Ref Number |
|---|---|
| 3 Barrows, Enclosures & Ditches | MHU9237 |
| Ring Ditch, Enclosure, Trackway and Boundary Ditches | MHU9751 |
| Possible Double Ditch | MHU12440 |
| Triple Dyke, Birkhill Wood | MHU12530 |
| Site Of Tumulus | MHU12805 |
| Site Of Deer Park, Nw of Bentley | MHU12968 |
| Site Of Deer Park & Pale | MHU12972 |
| Possible Roman Road, Park Lane, Risby | MHU12977 |
| Beverley-Skidby-Hessle Ferry Turnpike | MHU12978 |
| Iron Age to Roman Surface Finds Indicating Possible Settlement | MHU12981 |
| Site Of Wood House | MHU12993 |
| Lob Hole Pond | MHU12995 |
| Milestone On A164 | MHU12996 |
| Site Of Barn | MHU13025 |
| Site Of Risby Manor House | MHU13026 |
| Old Pit at Burn Park Farm | MHU13030 |
| Pratwoods Gate | MHU13308 |
| Site of Two Round Barrows | MHU1381 |
| Possible Iron Age / Roman Field System | MHU27611 |
| **Cable search area** | |
| Possible Post Medieval Pillow Mound | MHU22337 |
| Iron Age or Roman Rectilinear Ditched Enclosure and Field Boundary Ditches | MHU22179 |
| York and Beverley Railway (Market Weighton-Beverley Section | MHU27240 |
| Medieval Settlement of Raventhorp | MHU3350 |
| Iron Age to Romano British Field System | MHU3705 |
| Cropmarks Of an Iron Age And/or Romano-British Enclosure | MHU22297 |
| Iron Age or Roman Boundary Ditches and Enclosures | MHU6605 |
| Old Lock, Aike Beck | MHU14970 |
| Site Of Turnpike Bar and Road | MHU10977 |
| Mill House, N Of Walkington | MHU12176 |
| Milestone At Bryan Mills | MHU12883 |

| Name | Ref Number |
|---|---|
| Site Of Building, Bryan Mills | MHU12884 |
| Pinfold, Scorborough. | MHU14963 |
| Site Of Building, Scorborough | MHU14969 |
| Pinfold | MHU15140 |
| Bryan Mills Occupation Site | MHU2802 |
| Possible Round Barrow | MHU6590 |
| Soilmark Complex | MHU6592 |
| Beverley To Kendale Turnpike | MHU9246 |
| Site Of Windmill | MHU12725 |
| Site Of Molescroft Side Gate | MHU13019 |
| Dog Kennel Farm | MHU13020 |
| Milestone, B1248 | MHU13033 |
| Fishponds, Rose Cottage Farm | MHU14918 |
| Old Gravel Pits, Raventhorpe | MHU14919 |
| Soilmark West Of Parkhouse | MHU19099 |
| Ditches, Possible Enclosure | MHU3346 |
| Beverley-Bainton Balk Turnpike | MHU9245 |
| Milestone | MHU12974 |
| Site Of Roman Villa, Bishop Burton | MHU3028 |
| Dyke | MHU3663 |
| Square Barrow | MHU1519 |
| Site Of Arram Carr Fishery | MHU12722 |
| Undated Ditch and Post Hole | MHU26696 |
| Plate Prehistoric / Roman Multiple Ditched Boundary | MHU27253 |
| Iron Age or Roman Rectilinear Ditched Enclosure | MHU6588 |
| Five Probable Iron Age Square Barrow | MHU19427 |
| Medieval Or Post Medieval Platform | MHU14962 |
| Medieval Field Boundary | MHU27486 |
| Possible Medieval Causeway | MHU27487 |
| Second World War Pillbox | MHU27449 |
| An Iron Age or Roman Field System | MHU27451 |
| Probable Iron or Roman Field System | MHU2292 |

| Name | Ref Number |
|---|---|
| Possible Iron Age or Roman Field Boundary | MHU27455 |
| Iron Age or Roman Rectilinear Enclosure | MHU27457 |
| Possible Iron Age or Roman Trackway | MHU27456 |
| Second World War Pillbox | MHU27444 |
| Iron Age or Roman Trackway and Boundaries | MHU27460 |
| Medieval Field Boundary | MHU27459 |
| Old Enclosure Bank | MHU13179 |
| Site Of St Mary Magdalen Hospital | MHU3017 |
| Enclosures And Boundary Ditches | MHU21699 |

9.3.22 Additionally, extensive ridge and furrow systems are mapped across the Site Boundary and the Study Area for Non-Designated Heritage assets. Ridge and furrow systems are represented in **Figure 9-5** and are not individually listed in this Scoping Report.

9.3.23 Considering the above baseline information, the Site Boundary has medium to high potential to contain previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological remains spanning from the prehistoric to the post-medieval and modern period.

9.3.24 A geophysical survey evaluation was undertaken within portions of the northern land parcels (Magnitude, 2025), as part of the Kingfisher Solar Farm project, as described in **Section 1.2**. Some possible archaeological anomalies have been detected, possibly relating to enclosures, linear features, and field boundaries, and there is potential for further unknown remains to be identified during ground works or archaeological investigation. The list of assets presented in **Table 9-2** includes the results of survey, where appropriate.

9.3.25 The Site Boundary extends within the Humber region across a large and historically diverse landscape stretching from Beverley to Driffield. The wider Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) shows a predominantly rural landscape shaped by centuries of agricultural enclosure and estate management, with extensive areas of Parliamentary Planned Enclosure, Private Planned Enclosure, Early Enclosure, Re-organised Early Enclosure, Estate Fields, Modern Fields, and Common Pasture and Meadow reflecting the long-term evolution of farming practices. The majority of the Site Boundary falls within the Modern Fields HLC, with smaller areas included within the Early Enclosure HLC (mostly the southern land parcels), and Parliamentary Planned Enclosure HLC (mostly the northern land parcels). In evidence, the following HLCs are associated with archaeological remains presented in **Table 9-2**:

- Medieval Village Earthworks HLC includes:
  - Scheduled Rotsea medieval settlement and field system, 600m southeast of Rotsea Manor (NHLE: 1005212);
  - Scheduled Square barrow cemetery, moated site, fishponds and medieval settlement remains at Scorborough (NHLE: 1013993);
  - Scheduled Hall Garth motte and bailey castle, moated site and fishponds (NHLE: 1016250); and,

- Medieval Settlement of Raventhorpe (MHU3350);

- Motte and Bailey HLC includes:
  - Scheduled Hall Garth motte and bailey castle, moated site and fishponds (NHLE: 1016250)

- Other Historical Earthworks HLCs include:
  - Scheduled Moated site and two fishponds 80m south-west of Parkhouse Farm (NHLE: 1005200); and,
  - Scheduled Moated site 100m north of Parkhouse Farm (NHLE: 1008292).

9.3.26 A full assessment of the HLCs will be undertaken as part of the Archaeological DBA and Archaeology ES Chapter, following refinements to the Site Boundary.

9.3.27 Alluvial deposits are mapped across the Site Boundary. The potential for geoarchaeological deposits to be present, including the survival of palaeoenvironmental remains dating to the Holocene (post-Ice Age), will be assessed as part of the Archaeological DBA. This may include, but is not limited to, waterlogged seeds, pollen, macrofossils and sedimentological evidence. Such deposits may also contain indicators of human activity and early landscape management.

## 9.4 Predicted Future Baseline

9.4.1 In the case of the Proposed Development not being implemented, it is expected that the majority of the fields included in the Site Boundary will maintain their current use as predominantly arable land.

9.4.2 Therefore, changes to archaeological assets may still occur due to the prolonged soil erosion and degradation connected to agricultural activities, such as ploughing, trenching and use of heavy machinery. In consideration of this, it is expected that the baseline would remain as existing, and the currently ongoing detrimental effects on buried heritage assets resulting from soil erosion from agricultural activities and turf farming will continue.

9.4.3 Additionally, the future archaeological baseline may continue to evolve as a result of archaeological investigations, mitigation works, preservation measures and land use changes associated with other DCOs which include portions of the Site Boundary within their development.

9.4.4 The potential for cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development in combination with other consented or reasonably foreseeable developments will be considered separately as part of the cumulative effects assessment presented within the Environmental Statement.

## 9.5 Important Receptors Identified

9.5.1 The potential sensitive receptors include all of the known and as-yet unknown archaeological assets within the Site Boundary (**Figure 9-2, Figure 9-3,** and **Figure 9-4**).

9.5.2 At this stage, and for the purpose of this Scoping Report, the following archaeological assets are considered sensitive receptors. Impacts arising from the Proposed Development on them will be assessed as part of the Archaeological DBA and Archaeology ES Chapter:

- The Beverley Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bishop Burton cross Scheduled Monument (NHLE: 1012589), included in the cable search area;

- The section of the Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall, and Medieval Settlement Scheduled Monument (NHLE: 1018600), and any associated archaeological remains included in the southern land parcel; and
- Any archaeological remains recorded within the Site Boundary that will be impacted by the Proposed Development (preliminary list presented in **Table 9-2**).

9.5.3 In consideration of the potential for currently unrecorded archaeological deposits to survive within the Site Boundary that could potentially be impacted by the Proposed Development, it is expected that additional assets will be included in the Archaeological DBA and Archaeology ES Chapter as required.

## 9.6 Environmental Measures

9.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Archaeology will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

9.6.2 Archaeological remains, if present, will be principally affected during ground disturbance which will occur as part of the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

9.6.3 Ahead of construction, an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) will be prepared by a third party and is anticipated that, where reasonably practicable and appropriate, archaeological assets which could experience major or moderate adverse effects resulting from any phase of the Proposed Development, will be avoided, and preserved in situ, as per NPS and NPPF requirements, and HE guidelines.

9.6.4 The oCEMP will be informed by the results of the Archaeological DBA and of any non-intrusive and intrusive survey undertaken.

9.6.5 Where necessary and practicable, the mounting structure for solar arrays will involve micrositing of piles, in line with good practice[165] in order to avoid specific archaeological features and/or it will be supported by concrete footings rather than piles, avoiding the need for ground intrusive impact[166]. The mitigation by design will follow and be informed by the results of the geophysical survey and targeted intrusive evaluation (such as archaeological trial trenching, and/or geoarchaeological bore holes as required). This will allow the design of the Proposed Development to adapt and respond to the buried heritage considerations, to assess residual effects (if any) and avoid any unnecessary loss of significant heritage assets.

[165] EN-3, paragraph 2.10.130; and Archaeology and Solar Farms Good Practice Guide, paragraph 2.4.2.
[166] As suggested by Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 15: 'Mitigation may be possible; for example, the use of concrete bases for the panels, which entail less ground disturbance. Planning guidance published by BRE supported by Cornwall Council notes that: "Where possible Solar PV arrays should be installed using 'pile' driven or screw foundations, or pre-moulded concrete blocks (shoes), and capable of easy removal. The use of shoes may be required for archaeological sensitive areas." The vehicles and equipment used during construction can also damage archaeological remains.'

9.6.6 Where necessary and practicable, the design of the Proposed Development will limit the necessity for excavation through design decisions, such as by retaining on-site cabling above ground attached to panels. Where excavation cannot be avoided, the use of previously disturbed areas will also be prioritised where practicable, to avoid disturbance of archaeological deposits.

### Operation and Maintenance

9.6.7 Any future maintenance and/or reinstatement works will be subject to prevailing legislation, guidance and permitting regimes at the time of the implementation.

9.6.8 The maintenance design will consider and be advised by the Archaeology ES Chapter, and any potential impact on buried heritage arising from maintenance operations will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders (including LPAs' Archaeological Advisors, and Historic England) and addressed by DCO requirement. Any detrimental effect will be mitigated at design stage or by archaeological fieldwork.

9.6.9 An outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) will be submitted as part of the DCO application, ensuring that any area of archaeological value identified during the construction phase, will be protected during operation and maintenance, and no further ground disturbance is anticipated to occur during this stage or, where non practicable adequate mitigation measures will be implemented prior to this.

9.6.10 At this (scoping) stage, the Operation and Maintenance Phase is not expected to result in archaeological impacts greater than those arising during the Construction Phase, taking account of the Environmental Measures and any archaeological mitigation secured and implemented during construction. However, this will be reviewed as part of the Archaeology ES Chapter, when both the design of the Proposed Development and the archaeological baseline are further developed. Environmental Measures and bespoke mitigations required during the Operation and Maintenance Phase will be secured via the oOEMP.

### Decommissioning

9.6.11 The decommissioning works will be subject to prevailing legislation, guidance and permitting regimes at the time of decommissioning.

9.6.12 The Proposed Development will be operational for a period of up to 60-years after the construction period ends. Ahead of decommissioning, an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) will be prepared by a third party and is anticipated to include similar techniques and mitigation measures as the CEMP to protect archaeological assets, and any specific areas mitigated through design and avoidance at design and construction phase, will be also considered and protected during decommissioning. Based on the above, it is expected that the decommissioning phase will not have any additional impacts compared to the construction phase.

9.6.13 The solar panels and associated infrastructure will be removed in accordance with the relevant statutory process agreed and in place at the time. Potential risks unknown at the time of writing, if any, to buried heritage assets resulting from removal of piles (vibration, ground disturbance), and/or associated groundworks, will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders post consent, pursuant to a DCO requirement and ahead of commencement and required mitigations will be implemented.

9.6.14 At this (scoping) stage, it is not expected the Decommissioning Phase to have impacts worse than those of construction with adequate Environmental Measures and bespoke mitigations implemented as part of the Construction Phase. This will be reviewed as part of the Archaeology

ES Chapter, when both the design of the Proposed Development and the archaeological baseline are further developed. Environmental Measures and bespoke mitigations required during the Decommissioning Phase will be secured via the DEMP.

## 9.7 Additional mitigation Measures

9.7.1 Where archaeological remains within the Site Boundary do not require preservation in situ and cannot be avoided through the environmental measures discussed in Section 9.6 of this Scoping Report, it is anticipated that additional mitigation to off-set potential adverse impacts will take the form of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording secured by a DCO Requirement.

9.7.2 A complete review of the impact arising from the different phases and elements of the Proposed Development, and the required additional mitigation measures will be undertaken as part of the Archaeology ES Chapter.

## 9.8 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

9.8.1 An overview of other consultation undertaken to date for Archaeology, and how this has informed the scope to the assessment is provided in **Table 9-5.**

9.8.2 Continued engagement with relevant stakeholders, including Historic England and the Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire, will be undertaken throughout the application process to discuss key archaeological considerations.

9.8.3 The scope, methodology and results of any archaeological assessment and intervention will be discussed with relevant stakeholders, including Historic England and the Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire.

Table 9-5: Consultation Undertaken To Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| 01.04.2026 | Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire | Preliminary Study Areas for Scoping and Archaeology ES Chapter agreed. |
| 08.04.2026 | Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire | The Proposed Development and the Site Boundary were presented by the Applicant<br>The area west of the Scheduled Risby Jacobean gardens, hall, and medieval settlement remains (NHLE: 1018600) was recommended for removal from the developable area by the Development Management Archaeologist owing to the potential presence of associated archaeological remains.<br>This is currently under review by the Applicant. |
| 19.05.2026 | Development Management | Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for geophysical survey of the Site approved. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire | |
| 02.06.2025 | Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire | Extent of the Study Area(s) for the Scoping Chapter, and for the forthcoming Archaeological DBA and ES have been agreed (as per Section 9.3 of this Scoping Chapter).<br>A dedicated HER search (based on the agreed Study Areas) for the cable corridor will be undertaken to inform the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and ES chapter, as soon as the design of the proposed development progress. |

## Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

9.8.4 **Table 9-3** presents the Archaeology matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 9-3: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Effects on findspots | As findspots, these remains have already been removed from the Site Boundary and are no longer present in situ. Consequently, the Proposed Development will have no direct or indirect impact upon them, and the heritage significance of their former locations will not be harmed. However, the findspots will be included within the baseline data to inform the assessment of archaeological potential. |
| Effects on currently known and unknown non-designated heritage assets outside of the Site Boundary during construction, operation and decommissioning | The assets are anticipated to be located at varying distances from the Site Boundary, and therefore it is not anticipated that archaeological remains associated with the assets will encroach into the Site, cable corridor, or the local road network to be used by construction, maintenance and decommissioning vehicles. There is therefore not anticipated to be any physical impacts to the assets from any changes to air quality, ground vibration or compaction arising from construction, maintenance or decommissioning activities within and around the Site Boundary. |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

9.8.5 Physical impacts on archaeological assets resulting in their disturbance or removal, in part or in whole, result in direct, permanent, site-scale adverse effects on those assets. In addition to the above, impacts that result in alteration in the below-ground burial environment, such as alteration of groundwater hydrology, have the potential to result in indirect, permanent effects that may affect the buried heritage assets within the Site Boundary and the immediate vicinity (local scale), that may either be adverse (resulting in the physical alteration of archaeological assets) or neutral (resulting in no discernible change in the nature of archaeological assets).

9.8.6 Archaeological assets are finite, and irreplaceable once physically disturbed. The understanding of the significance of any individual archaeological asset or group of assets often relies on a physical relationship to other archaeological assets adjacent, or an associative relationship to

assets nearby or in the wider environment. For this reason, once damaged or removed from its context an archaeological asset cannot be meaningfully replicated or replaced, and its significance is likely to be reduced or lost. Effects arising from the removal of archaeological assets are therefore usually high, and adverse.

9.8.7 At this stage, the expected effects to be scoped into the detailed assessment, will primarily consist of works that penetrate the ground surface as they have the potential to damage and/or remove archaeological deposits, features and finds. These will likely all occur during the enabling and construction phases and include activities such as (but not limited to) piling, excavation of service trenches, foundations or any other element, probing, coring ground levelling, road construction, compound constructions and below ground demolition.

9.8.8 Works undertaken as part of the maintenance and eventual decommissioning of the Proposed Development, such as the replacement or removal of substations, BESS and solar arrays, may impact archaeological remains due to the potential requirement for additional excavations.

9.8.9 While, at this stage, effects arising during operation, maintenance and decommissioning are not expected to exceed those assessed and mitigated during construction, and are anticipated to be low magnitude and managed through the OEMP and DEMP, maintenance and decommissioning activities are proposed to be scoped into the detailed assessment. This will ensure that potential impacts on archaeological receptors are fully assessed within the Archaeological DBA, with the results reported in the Archaeology ES Chapter.

9.8.10 Where possible, impacts on particularly sensitive receptors will be mitigated through design, as discussed in **Section 9.6** of this Scoping Report Chapter. Where adverse effects on sensitive receptors are identified as 'significant' for the purposes of the The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations), they will be subject to further mitigation and justification, as outlined in **Section 9.9** of this Scoping Report Chapter.

9.8.11 **Table 9-4** presents the Archaeology matters that are likely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped into the detailed assessment.

Table 9-4: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| Displacement, compaction, partial or total truncation of archaeological assets | All intrusive below-ground works associated with the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development, and any intrusive below-ground works required during the Operation, Maintenance or Decommissioning Phases in areas not previously subject to ground disturbance, have the potential to negatively impact any surviving archaeological asset within their footprint, potentially leading to permanent and irreversible truncation, compaction, full or partial loss of archaeological remains or deposits. |
| Indirect effects on archaeological assets | Alteration in the below-ground burial environment, such as alteration of groundwater hydrology and vibration, have the potential to result in indirect, permanent effects that may affect the archaeological assets within the Site Boundary. |

## 9.9 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

9.9.1 In line with the NPS, NPPF, local planning policies and industry standards and guidance, a full Archaeological DBA will be produced to inform the Archaeology ES Chapter. The aim of the Archaeological DBA is to establish the full archaeological environment baseline, to provide a detailed assessment of impacts on archaeological assets/receptors, and to assess the potential for currently unknown archaeological assets within the Site Boundary. A non-exhaustive list of the datasets that will inform the Archaeological DBA is provided below:

- Aerial Photography – full review of Historic and modern aerial photography by using the Historic England Aerial Photo Explorer;
- BGS - full review of the geoarchaeological dataset included in the BGS, to inform on the geoarchaeological potential of the Site;
- Consultations with the Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire and Historic England
- Details of the Proposed Development – existing and proposed site plans, topographical survey, contamination report, borehole data, existing site services and utilities report;
- Geographical and basic topographical layout using Google Maps (www.google.co.uk/maps) and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDaR) imagery;
    - Historic England – information on statutory designated assets data including National Heritage List for England (NHLE), World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings, and any identified Heritage at Risk;
    - Historic maps – Ordnance Survey (OS) maps from the historic first edition through to modern OS mapping. Earlier historic maps will also be consulted where available;
    - HLC – full review of the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston-Upon-Hull Historic Landscape Characterisation;
    - Humber HER – full detailed review of the historical environment records for the Site Boundary and the Study Areas;
    - Site Reports – reports on past archaeological investigations within the Study Area; and
        - Site visit and archive visit – to consult archival material pertaining to the Site Boundary and Study Areas which are only available in local repositories, and to undertake a visual assessment of the Site condition, when relevant.

9.9.2 The Archaeological DBA will be produced in accordance with the requirements of legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Archaeology presented in **Section 9.2** of this Chapter.

9.9.3 If substantial geoarchaeological deposits are identified, in consultation with the Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire, a geoarchaeological deposit model may be developed to assess potential significance and nature of any geoarchaeological deposits within the Site Boundary. This will be undertaken as part of the Archaeological DBA and will inform any relevant geoarchaeological intrusive evaluation and/or mitigation.

9.9.4 A suite of overarching research questions will be developed and agreed with the Development Management Archaeologist for the East Riding of Yorkshire to inform the Archaeological DBA and any archaeological work required in support of the DCO application. These questions will be designed to address key uncertainties relating to the archaeological resource within the Site, guide the scope of any archaeological investigations, and ensure that any fieldwork is targeted towards addressing the objectives of the relevant Archaeological Research Framework.

9.9.5 In addition, a geophysical survey is currently being undertaken to support the application, to further assess to potential for previously unknown archaeological deposits. The programme for geophysical survey has been agreed via a WSI, including a specification for works agreed with the Development Management Archaeologist to East Riding of Yorkshire.

9.9.6 Depending on the results of the Archaeological DBA and geophysical survey, proportionate and targeted trial trenching may be required to inform the Archaeology ES Chapter baseline section.

*Methodology*

9.9.7 The Archaeology ES Chapter will set out an assessment of the impacts of any groundworks associated with the Proposed Development on any identified or potential archaeological receptors. This will be followed by an assessment of the overall significance of effect upon archaeological receptors, both before and after mitigation. The significance of effect reflects both the importance of the receptors and the degree to which the receptor would be impacted.

9.9.8 For each phase of the Proposed Development (construction, operation, and decommissioning), a staged assessment will be carried out using professional judgement and considering the national legislation, guidance and best practice documents listed in **Section 9.2** above.

9.9.9 The Archaeology ES Chapter will provide a reasonable worst-case assessment of the potential effects associated with the Proposed Development to archaeological receptors, based on the maximum design parameters.

9.9.10 The process of impact assessments applied to archaeological receptors involves the following steps:

- Assessing the potential for unknown archaeological assets based on known baseline preliminary evidence;

9.9.11 Understanding the archaeological receptors. This includes describing the receptors, its surroundings and defining its heritage significance;

9.9.12 Understanding the level and degree of impact (magnitude of change) to the significance of the archaeological receptors;

9.9.13 Determining the significance of effect on archaeological receptors caused by the Proposed Development, by considering the magnitude of the impact and assessing the significance of the change.

9.9.14 Where assets of related chronology occur in close proximity, or where neighbouring assets relate to linked or successive activities (e.g. funerary practices, material production etc.) their collective significance is considered in the evaluating the individual value of any single asset. For example, non-designated assets will be deemed higher in significance if associated with a designated scheduled monument.

9.9.15 The likely significance of effects of the Proposed Development on known archaeological receptors as well as currently unknown receptors that may be present on the Proposed

Development will be assessed. A full assessment of the planning policy context at national, and local level will be set out together with the relevant methodology and assessment criteria.

9.9.16 Significance values (Sensitivity) of an archaeological receptor are guided by its designated status and its heritage interest. Each identified archaeological asset can be assigned a value in accordance with the criteria set out in the NPS, Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' and NPPF Annex 2, as per **Table 9-5** below. Using professional judgement and the results of consultation with relevant stakeholders, archaeological assets are also assessed on an individual basis. Regional variations and individual qualities are also considered where applicable. This includes aspects such as the regional scarcity of specific asset type, or whether assets can be considered to the of schedulable quality die to them being of national importance.

Table 9-5: Significance/Sensitivity Classification

| Significance/Sensitivity | Designation of Receptor |
|---|---|
| International / National (very high) | The highest status of asset and indicative of national importance:<br>e.g. World Heritage Sites (WHS), Scheduled Monuments (SMs), Grade I and II* Listed Buildings (LBs), Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs), Protected Wrecks, Heritage assets of national importance, well preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factor(s). |
| National / Regional / County (high) | Archaeological sites that may be designated or undesignated, may contain well preserved or in situ structures, buildings of historical significance, historic landscapes with a reasonably defined extent, or reasonable evidence of occupation/settlement or activities (ritual, industrial etc.).<br>e.g. Grade II RPGs, Conservation Areas (CAs), Designated historic battlefields, Grade II LBs, burial grounds, protected heritage landscapes such as Ancient Woodland, heritage assets of regional or county importance. |
| Sub-regional / District (medium) | Designated or undesignated archaeological sites with reasonable evidence of human activity. Assets may be of limited historic value but may contribute to district or local knowledge and/or research objectives. May contain structures or buildings of potential historic merit.<br>e.g. Historic village settlements, associated historic field systems and boundaries, historic road systems. |
| Local Area / Parish (Low) | Heritage assets with a local level cultural or education value only<br>e.g. Historic field systems and boundaries, agricultural features such as ridge and furrow, ephemeral archaeological evidence, artefacts of poor contextual stratigraphy. |
| Negligible | Historic assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest or stratigraphic integrity. Buildings and landscapes of no historical significance.<br>e.g. Destroyed objects, buildings of no architectural merit, relatively modern landscape features or |

| Significance/Sensitivity | Designation of Receptor |
|---|---|
| | disturbances such as quarries, field boundaries, drains etc. |
| Unknown | Insufficient information exists to assess the importance. Significance of below ground archaeological remains is often unknown until their nature and extent |

9.9.17 As part of the Archaeology ES Chapter, the assets likely to be impacted will be fully identified and their Sensitivity assessed. Where assets of related chronology occur in close proximity, or where neighbouring assets relate to linked or successive activities (e.g. funerary practices, material production etc.) their collective Sensitivity is considered in the evaluating the individual value of any single asset. For example, non-designated assets will be deemed higher in Sensitivity if associated with a designated Scheduled Monument.

9.9.18 The magnitude of change is a combination of (i) the size and scale of the potential change; and (ii) the duration of the change and its reversibility i.e. direct physical impacts are considered permanent and result in the total, or partial loss of a buried heritage asset. The magnitude of change can be high, medium, low, or negligible, as per **Table 9-6**. Any impact upon archaeological assets can be positive or negative; direct or indirect; and/or cumulative. Impacts can affect the physical fabric of the asset of their setting.

Table 9-6: Magnitude of Change

| Magnitude of Change | Typical Criteria |
|---|---|
| High | Total loss, major alteration, or fundamental change to key characteristics or features of the baseline. |
| Medium | Partial loss, material alteration, or visible but contextual change to key characteristics or features of the baseline. |
| Low | Minor loss, alteration, or discernible but non-material change to key characteristics or features of the baseline. |
| Negligible | Barely distinguishable or very limited change from baseline conditions. |

9.9.19 The Significance of Effect, intended as the overall effect on the asset caused by any impact arising from the Proposed Development is determined by consideration of the Sensitivity of the asset and the Magnitude of Change, with a level of professional judgement included in the determination, as per **Table 9-7.** This is identified by the degree of change that would be experienced by the asset and its setting if the Proposed Development were to be completed as compared with a 'do nothing' situation. Effects can be neutral, adverse, or beneficial. Residual major or moderate effects are deemed to be 'significant' for the purposes of the EIA Regulations, in accordance with standard EIA practice. Minor and negligible effects are deemed to be 'not significant.'

Table 9-7: Significance of Effect

| | Magnitude of Change | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Significance/Sensitivity | High | Medium | Low | Negligible |
| High | Major | Moderate | Moderate/ Minor | Minor |
| Medium | Moderate | Moderate | Minor | Minor/ Negligible |
| Low | Moderate/ Minor | Minor | Minor/ Negligible | Negligible |
| Negligible | Minor | Minor/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

### *Cumulative Assessments*

9.9.20 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**.

9.9.21 Specifically for Archaeology, the assessment of cumulative effects is not always applicable. Cumulative effects on archaeological assets can occur during construction where areas of archaeology or contiguous or contemporaneous archaeology assets are affected by more than one development footprint.

9.9.22 For such effects to occur, development footprints need to overlap or be adjacent and where this is not the case the distance of separation is such that the inter-project development proposal can be scoped out of any inter-cumulative assessment for this aspect of the historic environment topic. Nonetheless, it is possible that different developments within the Study Area may have the potential to harm similar remains (both in terms of archaeological significance and cultural/historical association) even if not adjacent. This includes also the potential for fragmentation and isolation from surroundings.

9.9.23 It is also assumed that any other direct or indirect impact arising from construction activities relating to other developments will be assessed by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Archaeology Advisory team to the LPA, and adequate mitigation will be implemented. Therefore, it is not expected that the inter-cumulative effect to be greater than the predicted effects arising from any individual development, which will be assessed and mitigated separately.

9.9.24 A full review of any Cumulative and In-combination effect will be undertaken as part of the Archaeology ES Chapter, where sufficient information exists in the public domain to allow for a meaningful assessment to be undertaken.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

9.9.25 This Scoping Chapter provides preliminary information based on the design of Proposed Development to date and the data gathered at this point in time. Some of the information and conclusions reached at this (scoping) stage will be reviewed and supplemented in full and final form within the Archaeology ES.

9.9.26 Archaeological DBAs are based on factual archaeological data, yet given the nature of archaeological receptors, they are speculative pieces of work. The true archaeological potential

of any site can only be determined via a programme of field evaluation, such as geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching.

9.9.27 It is assumed that data provided by third parties is accurate at the time of the reporting, including but not limited to the information supplied by the HER sources.

9.9.28 Given the flexibility required by the design at this stage of the Proposed Development, a conservative worst-case scenario has been applied whereby all the archaeological remains within the Proposed Development will be entirely removed. The Rochdale Envelope approach will as such be applied, implementing flexibility and uncertainty ensuring that the maximum possible impact is calculated. Maximum (and, where relevant, minimum) parameters for the Order Limits are applied based on a reasonable worst-case scenario to determine the Significance of Effects, assuming that construction activities could take place anywhere within the Site Boundary.

9.9.29 The inherent limitations of any geophysical survey methodology applied to archaeology must be considered when assessing the archaeological potential of a Site Boundary. These limitations primarily revolve around two key factors: the variability of the subsurface and the inability of any single geophysical method to provide a complete picture of the underground conditions.

It should be noted that archaeological investigations cannot absolutely preclude the discovery of previously unrecorded buried archaeological remains during construction of the Proposed Development. The potential for such discoveries is, however, substantially reduced through the iterative process of assessment and archaeological investigation.

# 10 Built Heritage

## 10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment regarding cultural (or above ground) heritage assets. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that will be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

10.1.2 Heritage assets incorporating archaeological remains are considered in detail in **Chapter 9: Archaeology**. Heritage assets incorporating both archaeological and built heritage remains are considered in both Scoping Chapters, as appropriate to the specific matters addressed.

10.1.3 For the purposes of this assessment and to avoid conflict with the EIA use of the term 'significance,' the heritage significance will be referred to as 'value.'

## 10.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

10.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Built Heritage, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

10.2.2 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (excluding normal planning procedures, which are disapplied by the DCO, which if granted, will encompass all of the normal consents); [167]

- Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 – specific reference to Regulation 3: Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and Scheduled Monuments.[168]

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[169];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025), with specific reference to Section 2.3: Factors Influencing Site Selection and Design[170];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025),[171];

[167] UK Government (1990) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 [Online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents (Accessed: March 2026)
[168] UK Government (2010), The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 [Online]. Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/305/contents/made (Accessed: May 2026).
[169] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[170] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[171] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[172] and Draft NPPF (December 2025).[173]

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[174]

## National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) – Historic Environment (July 2019);[175]
- Historic England: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015);[176]
- Historic England: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (revised 2017);[177]
- Historic England Advice Note 12, Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (2019);[178]
- Historic England Advice Note 15, Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment (2021);[179]
- Historic England (2008), Conservation Principles, Policies, and Guidance;[180]
- ISEP (formerly IEMA) (2021), Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment;[181]
- UNESCO (2022), Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.[182]

## Local Guidance

- East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2018);[183]
- East Riding Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (2025).[184]

[172] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[173] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)
[174] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
175 UK Government (2019) Guidance: Historic Environment [Online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment (Accessed: March 2026)
176 Historic England (2015) Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment [Online] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/ (Accessed: March 2026)
177 Historic England (revised 2017) Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets [Online] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/ (Accessed: March 2026)
178 Historic England (2019) Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12 [Online] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/ (Accessed: March 2026)
179 Historic England (2021) Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 15 [Online] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment-advice-note-15/heag302-commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment/ (Accessed: March 2026)
[180] Historic England (2008), Conservation Principles, Policies, and Guidance [Online]. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web/ (Accessed May 2026).
[181] IEMA (2021), Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK [Online]. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2024-11/CIfA-IEMA-Principles-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-UK_2021.pdf (Accessed: May 2026).
[182] UNESCO (2022), Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context [Online].
[183] East Riding of Yorkshire (2018) East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/landscape-character-assessment/ (Accessed: April 2026).
[184] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Design Code Supplementary Planning Document. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/east-riding-design-code/ (Accessed: April 2026)

## 10.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

10.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the project. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 10.8**). The relevant designated and non-designated heritage assets have been mapped using QGIS, as illustrated in **Figures 10-1, 10-2, 10-3** and **10-4**.

### Study Area

10.3.2 The scope of this assessment has been identified to be proportionate to the value of identified heritage assets and the nature of change proposed, in line with NPS EN-1 (5.9.12).

10.3.3 A study area of a 2km radius from the boundary both the northern land parcel and southern land parcel as well as a 1km radius from the boundary of the cable search area, has been identified within which above ground heritage assets have been reviewed ('Built Heritage Study Area'). The radius of the Built Heritage Study Area is based on a review of the data sources listed in the following section, including fieldwork conducted on site in May 2026.

10.3.4 In order to further define the Built Heritage Study Area, the potential for significant effects to heritage assets to arise beyond a 2km radius of the Site Boundary has been reviewed. Due to the anticipated scale of the solar arrays (c. 3m) and associated infrastructure (c.13m), the intervening distance, as well as likely screening and visibility, it is considered unlikely that significant effects to heritage assets beyond 2km would arise. However, selected heritage assets which are particularly sensitive (i.e. highly designated and prominent in the landscape) which fall beyond 2km radius have been reviewed and will be scoped in on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the potential for significant effects to heritage assets to arise beyond a 1km radius of the cable search area has been reviewed. Owing to the intervening distance and the underground nature of the cable search area, the potential for significant effects to heritage assets beyond 1km is unlikely. This pertains to the operational phase within the cable search area, rather than the construction phase, which will be scoped into assessment.

10.3.5 Furthermore, a screening process has subsequently been undertaken within the Built Heritage Study Area to scope out any heritage assets which are unlikely to be affected by the Proposed Development. This screening process has been informed by a high-level desk-based review of value, using the baseline data below, as well as fieldwork around the Site Boundary. This has informed an initial understanding of the value, and contribution of setting to value, of each asset to support the scoping process. As such, within this 2km Study Area, Non-Designated Heritage Assets are considered within a 1km radius only due to their lower value in heritage terms. It is considered unlikely that impacts on the setting of non-designated heritage assets beyond 1km will lead to significant effects (in EIA terms), owing to their low value and distance from the Site Boundary meaning the visibility and potential impact is likely to be lessened. A selective approach has been undertaken when scoping in designated assets beyond a 1km radius, based on the likelihood of potential significant effects. The justification of this proposal for highly designated assets within a 1-2km radius is the result of the higher sensitivity of the assets in question. As such, the likelihood of significant effects, as per our methodology, are much greater. The scope of heritage assets within the Built Heritage Study Area which will be assessed will be agreed with the relevant stakeholders, such as Local Planning Authority and Historic England. Once a ZTV ('Zone of Theoretical Visibility') has been undertaken and received, the scope of assessment within the Study Area will be further refined by an understanding of the potential visibility of the Proposed Development.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

10.3.6 Baseline data was collected using the following sources of data, as well as project specific surveys. A list of locally listed buildings within the East Riding of Yorkshire is not at present publicly available:

- Historic England, National Heritage List for England ('NHLE'), for information on designated heritage assets including World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields;[185]
- Humber Historic Environment Record ('HER') for data on sites, events and monuments;[186]
- Historic Mapping, including large-scale county surveys, enclosure mapping, tithe mapping, and early editions of the Ordnance Survey;[187]
- Historic England, Aerial Photo Explorer, for historic vertical and oblique aerial imagery;[188]
- Google Earth, satellite, street-view and three-dimensional terrain data, including the 'time-slider' feature;
- East Riding Archives & Hull History Centre; archival information, including enclosures maps, manorial and estate records, and relevant documentation;[189]
- Local Planning Authority's (East Riding Council) Online Planning Portal; for relevant documentation submitted in relation to proximate planning applications;[190]
- Relevant Secondary Literature, including scholarly articles, research papers, archaeological surveys, diaries, and local history studies;
- Fieldwork conducted on a built heritage site visit undertaken in May 2026, including an observational site walkthrough and photographic recording;
- East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston-Upon-Hull Historic Landscape Characterisation (2018);[191]
- The following Conservation Area Appraisal prepared by East Riding of Yorkshire Council: Beswick (2007)[192]; Beverley [Introduction & Areas 1 – 9] (2012-2013)[193]; Beverley (Grosvenor Place) (2006)[194]; Bishop Burton (2008)[195]; Cherry Burton (Reviewed May 2009)[196]; Cottingham

[185] Historic England (2024) Search the List [Online] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/ (Accessed: March 2025)
186 Hull City Council (2025) Humber Historic Environment Record [Online] Available at: https://www.hull.gov.uk/environment/humber-historic-environment-record (Accessed: March 2025)
187 National Library of Scotland (2024) Map Images [Online] Available at: https://maps.nls.uk/ (Accessed: March 2026)
188 Historic England (2022) Aerial Photo Explorer [Online] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/ (Accessed: March 2026)
189 East Riding Archives (2026) East Riding Archives [Online] Available at: https://www.eastridingarchives.co.uk/ (Accessed: April 2025)
190 Planning Portal (2026) East Riding of Yorkshire [Online]. Available at: https://newplanningaccess.eastriding.gov.uk/newplanningaccess/ (Accessed: April 2025)
191 East Riding of Yorkshire (2018) Historic Landscape Characterisation of The East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston-Upon-Hull. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/83-2018 (Accessed: April 2026)
[192] East Riding of Yorkshire (2007) Conservation Area Appraisal: Beswick [Accessed: April 2026]
193 East Riding of Yorkshire (2012-2013) Conservation Area Appraisal: Beverley (Introduction, Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, Area 4, Area 5, Area 6, Area 7, Area 8, and Area 9) [Accessed: April 2026]
[194] East Riding of Yorkshire (2006) Conservation Area Appraisal: Beverley (Grosvenor Place) [Accessed April 2026]
195 East Riding of Yorkshire (2008) Conservation Area Appraisal: Bishop Burton [Accessed April 2026]
196 East Riding of Yorkshire (2009) Conservation Area Appraisal: Cherry Burton [Accessed April 2026]

(2010)[197]; Cranswick (2006)[198]; Etton (2007)[199]; Lockington (2009)[200]; Skidby (2023)[201]; and, Walkington (2018)[202].

10.3.7 To determine the baseline conditions, and to provide an understanding of the value of the heritage assets and the contribution of such value to their setting, the following actions will be undertaken, using the resources outlined above.

10.3.8 Fieldwork has been undertaken in May 2026 to review heritage assets within the Built Heritage Study Area and understand whether the scope and extent of the Built Heritage Study Area was sufficient to understand likely significant effects. This will also be undertaken in a winter context to fully understand any seasonal changes to settings and visibility. This fieldwork encompassed a review and photographic recording of heritage assets within the Study Area (northern and southern parcels), as appreciable from the public realm and footpaths.

10.3.9 Desk-based and archival research is planned to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the value and settings of relevant built heritage assets. For example, this understanding will be informed by analysis of historic cartography, Ordnance Survey mapping, and local tithe mapping. The Humber Historic Environment Record (HER) and historic aerial photography will also be used to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of value. These sources will inform the baseline understanding of the history of the assets, as well as the landscape and its uses.

10.3.10 Geographical Information System ('GIS') software has been used to collate and interrogate digital data. This has included mapping of both designated and non-designated heritage assets within the identified Study Area.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

### *Designated Heritage Assets*

10.3.11 No designated heritage assets have been identified within the northern land parcel and the southern land parcel. However, Killingwoldgraves (Grade II) does sit within the boundaries of the cable search area.

### Northern Land Parcels

*Designated Heritage Assets within 1km*

10.3.12 As shown in **Figure 10-2**, there are four Scheduled Monuments within the 1km Study Area: Rotsea Medieval Settlement and Field System, 600m SE of Rotsea Manor (NHLE: 1005212), Barf Hill Moated Site (NHLE: 1007717), Gilbertine Priory, two possible medieval archery butts and Civil War Earthworks (NHLE: 1007751), Iron Age Barrow 400m SE of Station Farm (NHLE: 1016053).

10.3.13 There are four Grade II listed buildings within the 1km Study Area: Former Lockington Railway Station (NHLE: 1346972), Decoy Farmhouse (NHLE: 1103453), Rose Cottage (NHLE: 1346969), Sunnyside (NHLE: 1160665).

10.3.14 There are no Grade I Grade II* listed buildings, or Conservation Areas, within the 1km Study Area.

197 East Riding of Yorkshire (2010) Conservation Area Appraisal: Cottingham [Accessed April 2026]
198 East Riding of Yorkshire (2006) Conservation Area Appraisal: Cranswick [Accessed April 2026]
199 East Riding of Yorkshire (2007) Conservation Area Appraisal: Etton [Accessed April 2026]
200 East Riding of Yorkshire (2009) Conservation Area Appraisal: Lockington [Accessed April 2026]
201 East Riding of Yorkshire (2023) Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan: Skidby [Accessed April 2026]
202 East Riding of Yorkshire (2018) Conservation Area Appraisal: Walkington [Accessed April 2026]

*Designated Heritage Assets between 1km and 2km*

10.3.15 There are three Scheduled Monuments within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Moated Site 550m SE of Scorborough Hall (NHLE: 1016250), Square Barrow Cemetery, Moated Site, Fishponds and Medieval Settlement Remains at Scorborough (NHLE: 1015613), Moated Site 310m NE of Scorborough Church (NHLE: 1015818).

10.3.16 There are three Grade II listed buildings within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Scorborough Hall (NHLE: 1160548), Bridge over Moat at Scorborough Hall (NHLE: 1103452), White House Farm (NHLE: 1160555).

10.3.17 There are two Grade II* listed building within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Beswick Hall (NHLE: 1103484), Outbuildings to Watton Abbey (NHLE: 1083773).

10.3.18 There are three Grade I listed buildings within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Watton Abbey (NHLE: 1161550), Church of St Mary (NHLE: 1083772), Church of St Leonard (NHLE: 1103451).

10.3.19 There is one Conservation Area within the 2km Study Area: Beswick (including Grade II* Beswick Hall).

## Southern Land Parcel

*Designated Heritage Assets within 1km*

10.3.20 As shown in **Figure 10-3**, there are five Scheduled Monuments within the 1km Study Area: 'Cellar Heads' Moated Site and Related Ridge & Furrow Earthworks at Risby Park, 700m NW of Risby Park Farm (NHLE: 1015312), Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall and Medieval Settlement (NHLE: 1018600), Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gunsite, 350m W of Butt Farm (NHLE: 1019186), Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bentley Cross (NHLE: 1012590), Sanctuary Limit Stone, Walkington Cross (NHLE: 1012591).

10.3.21 There are no Grade I listed buildings within the 1km Study Area.

10.3.22 There are eight Grade II* listed building within the 1km Study Area: Church of All Hallows (NHLE: 1161425), Lambert Hall, The Lawns (NHLE: 123675), Nicholson Hall, The Lawns (NHLE: 1276987), Morgan Hall, The Lawns (NHLE: 1103344), Downs Hall, The Lawns (NHLE: 1103346), Grant Hall, The Lawns (NHLE: 1103345), Reckitt Hall, The Lawns (NHLE: 1103343), Church of Saint Michael (NHLE: 1103341).

10.3.23 There are 10 Grade II listed buildings within the 1km Study Area: 2, Skidby Road (NHLE: 1309909), Folly in Fishpond Wood (NHLE: 1161815), Risby Hall Park and Garden (NHLE: 1001419), Middle Farmhouse (NHLE: 1103418), 18 West End (NHLE: 1310085), 4 East End (NHLE: 1161437), The Old Rectory (NHLE: 1103416), 34 and 36 Northgate (NHLE: 1310082), Northgate House (NHLE: 1103417), Manorhouse (NHLE: 1346991).

10.3.24 There are two Conservation Areas within the 1km Study Area: Walkington (including Grade II* Church of All Hallows and six Grade II listed buildings), and Skidby (including Grade II* Church of Saint Michael).

*Designated Heritage Assets between 1km and 2km*

10.3.25 There are nine Scheduled Monuments within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Baynard Castle (NHLE: 1019823), Bowl Barrow 400m N of Highfield House (NHLE: 1007731), Romano-British Enclosure in Burton Bushes (NHLE: 1014001), Romano-British Enclosure on Westwood Common, 510m SW of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013999), Group of Four Square Barrows

on Westwood Common, 200m NW of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013994), Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 120m S of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013995), Oval Barrow on Westwood Common, 55m NW of Blackmill (NHLE: 1014000), Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common, 50m N of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013992), Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 150m NW of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013993), Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common, 150m N of Blackwill (NHLE: 1013991), Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 230m NW of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013997), Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 230m NNW of Blackmill (NHLE: 1013998).

10.3.26 There are 31 Grade II listed buildings within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: The Black Mill (NHLE: 1310087), Windmill at the Golf Club (NHLE: 1346337), Chalk Villa (NHLE: 1310093), White Hall (NHLE: 1161458), Garden Walls at Low Hall (NHLE: 1310090), Barn at Low Hall (NHLE: 1103419), Gate Piers at Low Hall Farm (NHLE: 1346992), Old Hall (NHLE: 1103420), 44, Main Street (NHLE: 1103340), Outbuildings and Stables to North of Skidby Mill (NHLE: 1276984), Old Manor House (NHLE: 1347016), Coach House and Stable at Number 270 (NHLE: 1103392), The White House (NHLE: 1103391), Beech House (NHLE: 1346981), 188, King Street (NHLE: 1161536), The Manse (NHLE: 1161521), Elmtree House (NHLE: 1310058), 22, South Street (NHLE: 1346982), 7,8,9 Market Green (NHLE: 1347018), Arlington Hall (NHLE: 1161528), Church House (NHLE: 1347017), Mark Kirby's Free School (NHLE: 1310046), Sarum House (NHLE: 1161551), Goods Shed at Cottingham Station (NHLE: 1103399), Station-Master's House (NHLE: 1310022), Cottingham Railway Station (NHLE: 1103398), Newgate House and Gate Piers (NHLE: 1161541), 28 Beck Bank (NHLE: 1103388), 24 & 26 Beck Bank (NHLE: 1103389), Stable and Coach House at Eastgate House (NHLE: 1310054), Eastgate House (NHLE: 1103396).

10.3.27 There are two Grade II* listed buildings within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Zion United Reform Church (NHLE: 1103393), Skidby Mill (NHLE:1103339), Church of Saint Peter (NHLE: 1347015).

10.3.28 There is one Grade I listed building within the 2km Study Area, in addition to those identified within 1km: Church of Saint Mary (NHLE: 1103394).

*Designated Heritage Assets beyond 2km*

10.3.29 Selected designated heritage assets beyond a 2km radius have been reviewed and individual assets will be scoped in on a case-by-case basis if these assets are of particularly high value or sensitivity due to their high designation, the extent of their setting and their relationship with the Site Boundary.

10.3.30 Only one heritage asset identified as meeting this criteria: Beverley Minster (The Minster Church of St John) (Grade I listed, NHLE: 1084028), due to the extent of its setting in terms of key views and historic pilgrimage routes having the potential to reach beyond 2km.

*Cable Search Area Designated Heritage Assets within 1km*

10.3.31 As shown in **Figure 10-4**, in addition to those identified within 2km of the northern and southern land parcel, there are 18 Grade II listed buildings within 1km of the cable search area: Bishop Burton Grange (NHLE: 1103431), Former High Hall Entrance Lodge at Bishop Burton College (NHLE:1379970), Northview (NHLE: 1310171), Callais Farm House (NHLE: 1161276), The Old Village Pump (NHLE: 1103383), Bishop Burton War Memorial (NHLE: 1429042), Westfield Farmhouse (NHLE: 1161280), Red House (NHLE:1103433), Eastfield Farm House (NHLE: 1161285), 13 & 14, The Green (NHLE: 1161278), Forge Cottage (NHLE: 1103432), Old Farmhouse (NHLE: 1346998), North End Farmhouse (NHLE: 1103434), Church of Saint Michael (NHLE: 1310173), Cherry Burton House (NHLE: 1103437), 1, Arram Road (NHLE: 1103449), Cowthorpe (NHLE: 1310518), The Manor House (NHLE: 1160530).

10.3.32 In addition to those identified within 2km of the northern and southern land parcels there is one Grade II* listed building within 1km of the cable search area: Church of All Saints (NHLE: 1103429).

10.3.33 In addition to those identified within 2km of the northern and southern land parcels, there is one Grade I listed building within 1km of the cable search area: Church of St Catherine (NHLE: 1103450).

10.3.34 In addition to those identified within 2km of the northern and southern land parcels, there are six Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the cable search area: Beverley Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bishop Burton Cross (NHLE: 1012589), Churchyard Cross 4m North of All Saints Church (NHLE: 1013711), The Reins, Medieval Deer Park Boundary with Park Ends and Oaktree Wood (NHLE: 1019864), Moated Site 100m North of Parkhouse Farm (NHLE: 1008292), Moated Site and Two Fishponds 80m SW of Parkhouse Farm (NHLE: 1007842), Moated Site of Leconfield Castle (NHLE: 1007949).

## 10.4 Predicted Future Baseline

10.4.1 Non-Designated Heritage Assets have started to be identified through review of the Historic Environment Record and local Conservation Area Appraisals. East Riding of Yorkshire Council currently do not have a publicly accessible list of Locally Listed Heritage Assets. The scope of Non-Designed Heritage Assets will be determined in consultation with the local authority and contact has been made with the local conservation officer. The scope of assets will be further defined following the receipt of a ZTV, and an associated review of potential visibility.

10.4.2 Further to this, there are no changes to the baseline of heritage assets known, aside from the potential impacts of other emerging development in the area. Any cumulative effects arising from other consented development will be assessed as part of the cumulative assessment.

## 10.5 Important Receptors Identified

10.5.1 As outlined in Section 10.5, the relevant heritage assets have been mapped using GIS (see **Figures 10-1, 10-2, 10-3** and **10-4**) and are considered to be possible sensitive receptors. As such, the relevant designated heritage assets, considered to have the potential to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development, are included in **Table 10-1** below. In the interests of proportionality, it may be appropriate to group certain heritage assets for the purposes of assessment, and this approach will be taken where the value of assets and/or potential effects are similar. In the absence of a ZTV and winter fieldwork, **Table 10-1** adopts a precautionary approach to potential sensitive receptors. The proposed scope of designated assets for assessment is likely to be refined based on an understanding of the likelihood of significant effects, as per out methodology.

Table 10-1: List of Designated Heritage Assets in the Study Area

| Designated Heritage Assets | Designation |
|---|---|
| Church of Saint Michael | Grade II* |
| Church of All Hallows | Grade II* |
| Lambert Hall, The Lawns | Grade II* |
| Nicholson Hall, The Lawns | Grade II* |
| Morgan Hall, The Lawns | Grade II* |

| Designated Heritage Assets | Designation |
|---|---|
| Downs Hall, The Lawns | Grade II* |
| Grant Hall, The Lawns | Grade II* |
| Reckitt Hall, The Lawns | Grade II* |
| Risby Hall Park & Garden | Grade II |
| Middle Farmhouse | Grade II |
| 18, West End | Grade II |
| 4, East End | Grade II |
| The Old Rectory | Grade II |
| 34 and 36 Northgate | Grade II |
| Northgate House | Grade II |
| 2, Skidby Road | Grade II |
| Manorhouse | Grade II |
| Folly in Fishpond Wood | Grade II |
| Walkington | Conservation Area |
| Skidby | Conservation Area |
| Cellar Heads' Moated Site and Related Ridge & Furrow Earthworks at Risby Park | Scheduled Monument |
| Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall, and Medieval Settlement | Scheduled Monument |
| Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gunsite, 350m W of Butt Farm | Scheduled Monument |
| Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bentley Cross | Scheduled Monument |
| Sanctuary Limit Stone, Walkington Cross | Scheduled Monument |
| Garden Walls at Low Hall | Grade II |
| White Hall | Grade II |
| Old Hall | Grade II |
| Barn at Low Hall | Grade II |
| Gate Piers at Low Hall Farm | Grade II |
| 44, Main Street | Grade II |
| Eastgate House | Grade II |
| Stable and Coach House at Eastgate House | Grade II |
| 24 & 26 Beck Bank | Grade II |
| 28 Beck Bank | Grade II |
| Newgate House and Gate Piers | Grade II |

| Designated Heritage Assets | Designation |
|---|---|
| Cottingham Railway Station | Grade II |
| Goods Shed at Cottingham Station | Grade II |
| Station-Master's House | Grade II |
| Sarum House | Grade II |
| Mark Kirby's Free School | Grade II |
| Church House | Grade II |
| Arlington Hall | Grade II |
| 7,8,9 Market Green | Grade II |
| 22, South Street | Grade II |
| Elmtree House | Grade II |
| The Manse | Grade II |
| 188, King Street | Grade II |
| Beech House | Grade II |
| The White House | Grade II |
| Coach House and Stable at Number 270 | Grade II |
| Old Manor House | Grade II |
| Outbuildings and Stables to North of Skidby Mill | Grade II |
| Chalk Villa | Grade II |
| Windmill at the Golf Club | Grade II |
| The Black Mill | Grade II |
| Zion United Reform Church | Grade II* |
| Skidby Mill | Grade II* |
| Church of St Peter | Grade II* |
| Church of Saint Mary | Grade I |
| Cottingham | Conservation Area |
| Beverley Grosvenor Place | Conservation Area |
| Baynard Castle | Scheduled Monument |
| Bowl Barrow 400m N of Highfield House | Scheduled Monument |
| Romano-British Enclosure in Burton Bushes | Scheduled Monument |
| Romano-British Enclosure on Westwood Common, 510m SW of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Group of Four Square Barrows on Westwood Common, 200m NW of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |

| Designated Heritage Assets | Designation |
|---|---|
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 120m S of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Oval Barrow on Westwood Common, 55m NW of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common, 50m N of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 150m NW of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common, 150m N of Blackwill | Scheduled Monument |
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 230m NW of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Square Barrow on Westwood Common, 230m NNW of Blackmill | Scheduled Monument |
| Former Lockington Railway Station | Grade II |
| Decoy Farmhouse | Grade II |
| Rose Cottage | Grade II |
| Sunnyside | Grade II |
| Rosea Medieval Settlement and Field System, 600m SE of Rotsea Manor | Scheduled Monument |
| Barf Hill Moated Site | Scheduled Monument |
| Gilbertine Priory, two possible medieval archery butts and Civil War Earthworks | Scheduled Monument |
| Iron Age Barrow 400m SE of Station Farm | Scheduled Monument |
| Scorborough Hall | Grade II |
| Bridge over Moat at Scorborough Hall | Grade II |
| White House Farm | Grade II |
| Beswick Hall | Grade II* |
| Outbuildings to Watton Abbey | Grade II* |
| Watton Abbey | Grade I |
| Church of Saint Mary | Grade I |
| Church of St Leonard | Grade I |
| Beswick | Conservation Area |
| Moated Site 550m SE of Scorborough Hall | Scheduled Monument |
| Square Barrow Cemetery, Moated Site, Fishponds and Medieval Settlement Remains at Scorborough | Scheduled Monument |
| Moated Site 310m NE of Scorborough Church | Scheduled Monument |
| Killingwoldgraves | Grade II |

| Designated Heritage Assets | Designation |
|---|---|
| Bishop Burton Grange | Grade II |
| Former High Hall Entrance Lodge at Bishop Burton College | Grade II |
| Northview | Grade II |
| Callais Farmhouse | Grade II |
| The Old Village Pump | Grade II |
| Bishop Burton War Memorial | Grade II |
| Westfield Farmhouse | Grade II |
| Red House | Grade II |
| Eastfield Farmhouse | Grade II |
| 13 & 14, The Green | Grade II |
| Forge Cottage | Grade II |
| Old Farmhouse | Grade II |
| North End Farmhouse | Grade II |
| Church of Saint Michael | Grade II |
| Cherry Burton House | Grade II |
| 1, Arram Road | Grade II |
| Cowthorpe | Grade II |
| The Manor House | Grade II |
| Church of All Saint | Grade II* |
| Church of St Catherine | Grade I |
| Beverley Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bishop Burton Cross | Scheduled Monument |
| Churchyard Cross 4m N of All Saints Church | Scheduled Monument |
| The Reins, Medieval Deer Park Boundary with Park Ends and Oaktree Wood | Scheduled Monument |
| Moated Site 100m N of Parkhouse Farm | Scheduled Monument |
| Moated Site and Two Fishponds 80m SW of Parkhouse Farm | Scheduled Monument |
| Moated Site of Leconfield Castle | Scheduled Monument |
| Bishop Burton | Conservation Area |
| Cherry Burton | Conservation Area |
| Beverley Minster (The Minster Church of St John) | Grade I |

10.5.2 As laid out in Section 10.3, the non-designated heritage assets identified within the boundaries of the Site Boundary have been mapped using GIS (see **Figures 10-1, 10-2, 10-3** and **10-4**) and are considered to be potentially sensitive receptors. A proposed scope of non-designated heritage

assets within 1km of the northern land parcels, southern land parcels, and cable search area will be refined further, following additional fieldwork, a comprehensive review of HER Data, review of a ZTV ('Zone of Theoretical Visibility') and engagement with the LPA. This proposed scope of non-designated assets for assessment will be based on an understanding of the likelihood of significant effects, as per our methodology. In the interests of proportionality, it may be appropriate to group certain non-designated heritage assets for the purposes of assessment, and this approach will be taken where the value of assets and/or potential effects are similar.

## 10.6 Environmental Measures

10.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Built Heritage will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development).

10.6.2 In a built heritage context, the key statutory and policy tests are to preserve or enhance the setting and significance (value) of heritage assets. Therefore, good design generally means mitigating potential harm to heritage assets and their settings, i.e. by understanding and taking into account the key features which contribute to the value of heritage assets in the design, such as key views. NPS EN-1 (5.9.15) encourages, where possible, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, taking account of the value of heritage assets affected. Examples of this includes:

- *"Enhancing, through a range of measures, such as sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or settings affected;"*
- *"Considering where required the development of archive capacity which would deliver significant public benefits;"*
- *"Considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme."*

10.6.3 In this instance, design mitigation might entail the use of strategic landscaping and planting, or the setting-back of development. These measures have the potential to reduce the visual influence of existing power infrastructure in the settings of heritage assets. Therefore, opportunities for localised enhancements in line with Historic England's GPA3, will also be explored. In addition, embedded measures, such as an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) will set out key mitigation measures alongside the aforementioned design mitigation.

10.6.4 NPS EN-1 (5.9.29, 5.9.32 and 5.9.33) and NPPF (213-215) identify that any adverse effects to the value (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting) ) of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification and be weighed against the wider benefits of the application. As such, where adverse effects to heritage assets are unavoidable, opportunities will be sought to enhance the wider beneficial effects of the Proposed Development in heritage terms.

## 10.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

10.7.1 No consultation has been undertaken to date regarding Built Heritage for the Proposed Development. In December 2024, East Riding of Yorkshire & Hull City Council (Humber Historic Environment Record) were consulted regarding the northern land parcel. However, this pertained to the approval of a geophysical survey within the area of the Site Boundary. Therefore, it addressed the potential Archaeological impacts of the proposals, rather than matters pertaining to Built Heritage. Further information is provided in Chapter 9: Archaeology.

10.7.2 Engagement with relevant stakeholders, including Historic England and local authority conservation officers, is in the process of commencing (initial contact had been made in May 2026) and will be undertaken throughout the pre-application process, including at programme milestones after the Scoping Opinion and any preliminary reporting, to discuss key heritage considerations.

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

10.7.3 **Table 10-2** presents the Built Heritage matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects (as per the methodology of this Chapter) and which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 10-2: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Receptor | Phase | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|---|
| Non-Designated Heritage Assets outside 1km Study Area | Construction | There will be limited noise, vibration, and visual effects during construction, mitigated by the distance between the Site Boundary and the assets in question As a result of the distance, the likelihood of intervisibility or important historic land associations being affected are limited. These changes will be temporary and reversible. As such, it is unlikely for there to be the potential for significant effects. It is considered unlikely that impacts on the setting of non-designated heritage assets will lead to significant effects (in EIA terms), owing to their low value. |
| | Operational | Due to the distance from the Proposed Development, potential effects through changes to the setting, including the encroachment of development on farmland and visual effects – such as solar arrays and associated built infrastructure – are unlikely. In addition, the anticipated scale of most of the Proposed Development, at c.3m, will likely be wholly or partially screened from view as a result of intervening built form, vegetation, and topography, or, should elements such as substations (c.13m) be visible, form a minor element within the wider surroundings of the asset only. It is considered unlikely that impacts on the setting of non-designated heritage assets will lead to significant effects (in EIA terms), owing to their low value. |

| Receptor | Phase | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|---|
| Grade II Listed Buildings outside 1km Study Area | Construction | There will be limited noise, vibration, and visual effects during construction, which will be temporary and reversible. As such, it is unlikely for there to be the potential for significant indirect effects on the setting of the assets, due to the nature of the changes during construction and the intervening distance. As a result of this distance, the likelihood of visibility or historic associations are limited. |
| | Operational | Due to the distance from the Proposed Development, potential effects through changes to the setting, including the encroachment of development on farmland and visual effects – such as solar arrays and associated built infrastructure – are unlikely. The anticipated scale of most of the Proposed Development, at c.3m, will likely be wholly or partially screened from view as a result of intervening built form, vegetation, and topography, or, should elements such as substations (c.13m) be visible, form a minor element within the wider surroundings of the asset only. Even if the changes are visible, the purpose of the assessment is to establish whether the value of heritage assets would be significant affected and it is unlikely that the key elements of setting which contribute to their value would be so greatly affected as to cause significant effects. |
| All Heritage Assets within the Cable Search Area | Operational | Due to the underground nature of the cable routes, and a resultant lack of visual intrusion on the settings of assets, no indirect effects are anticipated. The design will seek to avoid direct impacts on assets. |
| All Heritage Assets within 1km of the Cable Search Area | Operational | Due to the underground nature of the cable routes, and a resultant lack of visual intrusion on the settings of assets, no indirect effects are anticipated from the operational stage. |
| All Non-Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of the Cable Search Area | Operational | Due to the underground nature of the cable routes, and a resultant lack of visual intrusion on the settings of assets, no indirect effects are anticipated from the operational stage. As with NDHAs beyond 1km of the Study Area, it is considered unlikely that impacts on the setting of non-designated heritage assets will lead to significant effects (in EIA terms), owing to their low value. |

10.7.4 Following the completion of a detailed desk-based assessment, an understanding of potential visibility (ZTV) and additional fieldwork, it is possible that a more nuanced and assessment-based approach to scoping may emerge as there may be further opportunities to scope out individual heritage assets within the Study Area which are currently scoped in, for example if there is shown to be no intervisibility in a ZTV. If so, this will be discussed with relevant stakeholders. The scope of assessment of heritage assets within the Study Area will be agreed with relevant stakeholders (Historic England and the Local Planning Authority) to ensure it is both robust and proportionate.

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment

10.7.5 The construction, operational and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potential effects that require detailed assessment. There is potential for direct and indirect significant effects to designated heritage assets during these stages of the Proposed Development. While non-designated heritage assets are relevant considerations, it is considered unlikely that for most of these assets, the impacts on their setting will be so large as to lead to significant effects (in EIA terms) due to their low value (see **Table 10-4**).

### *Construction*

10.7.6 Any changes to the setting of an asset during the construction phase will typically be short-term, lasting only for the duration of the construction phase or less, depending on the nature of works. An increase in noise, dust, and traffic associated with construction works may be relevant where the tranquillity or character of a heritage asset's setting is impacted. Overall, effects arising during this stage will be temporary (limited to the construction period only) and reversible. Ground disturbance during the construction phase could theoretically cause potential loss of whole, or part, of a built heritage asset (which will be permanent and irreversible). However, ground disturbance associated with construction activity would typically impact assets within the Site Boundary only and is not considered to be likely.

### *Operational and Maintenance*

10.7.7 There are likely to be indirect effects to designated and non-designated assets within 1km arising during the operational and maintenance phase. The operational phase of the Proposed Development may impact upon the setting of built heritage assets within the Study Area. This may include visual and noise intrusions associated with the operational and maintenance phases, as well as changes to the wider historic landscape, which may detract value from built heritage assets. The visual impacts may arise from the introduction of solar panels and associated built infrastructure (such as BESS); this includes potential effects on associational view corridors or the appreciation of heritage assets from elevated positions. In addition, the encroachment, or 'industrialisation,' of historic farmland ownership presents another potential effect. The impacts on the setting of heritage assets would be long-term, based on the proposed operational timeline of the development. However, they would typically be fully reversible, following the removal of all above ground infrastructure.

### *Decommissioning*

10.7.8 The decommissioning phase will involve similar types and numbers of vehicles and equipment to the construction phase. As such, it may introduce temporary changes in the form of noise, dust, and visual impacts on the environment. These changes have the potential to impact the settings of built heritage assets similarly to the construction phase. The decommissioning of groundworks will be restricted to the same area as the construction groundworks.

10.7.9 The following table aims to provide an overview of the scope of these direct and indirect significant effects arising from the construction and operational phase of the Proposed Development:

Table 10-3: Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment

| Receptor | Phase | Description of Potential Effect |
|---|---|---|
| Direct Effects - All Heritage | Construction | Potential for direct effects on Killingwoldgraves (Grade II) from ground disturbance, associated with an uptick |

| Receptor | Phase | Description of Potential Effect |
|---|---|---|
| Assets within the Cable Search Area | | in construction and infrastructure within the Site Boundary. |
| All Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of the Site Boundary and Cable Search Area | Construction | Potential temporary visual effects to the setting of heritage assets on account of the appearance of infrastructure, which may affect the contribution of setting to value or the appreciation of such value.<br>Potential for temporary increase in noise, dust and vibration effects as a result of construction activity, and an associated increase in traffic. This is relevant where the tranquillity or character of the setting of heritage asset is affected (in cases where this characteristic contributes to the value of the asset). This includes on-site construction activity and the delivery of infrastructure. |
| All Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of the Site Boundary | Operational | Potential visual effects to the setting of heritage assets from introduction of solar arrays and associated built infrastructure, such as BESS and substations. This includes potential effects on long or open views of church towers or within designed gardens or parkland whereby these views make a contribution to the value of the asset.<br>Potential effects to historic landscape character where it contributes to the value of heritage assets, such as encroachment on land historically associated with heritage assets (i.e. farmland). |
| All Non-Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of the Site Boundary and Cable Search Area | Construction | Potential temporary visual effects to the setting of heritage assets on account of the appearance of infrastructure, which may affect the contribution of setting to value or the appreciation of such value.<br>Potential for temporary increase in noise, dust and vibration effects as a result of construction activity, and an associated increase in traffic. This is relevant where the tranquillity or character of the setting of heritage asset is affected (in cases where this characteristic contributes to the value of the asset). This includes on-site construction activity and the delivery of infrastructure. |
| All Non-Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of the Site Boundary | Operational | Potential visual effects to the setting of heritage assets from introduction of solar arrays and associated built infrastructure, such as BESS and substations. This includes potential effects on long or open views of church towers or within designed gardens or parkland whereby these views make a contribution to the value of the asset.<br>Potential effects to historic landscape character where it contributes to the value of heritage assets, such as encroachment on land historically associated with heritage assets (i.e. farmland). |
| Selective Designated Heritage Assets within | Construction | Potential for temporary visual effects to the wider setting of assets, on account of the appearance of infrastructure (such as cranes). This would affect the contribution of setting to value or the appreciation of |

| Receptor | Phase | Description of Potential Effect |
|---|---|---|
| 2km of the Site Boundary | | such value. This is of particular relevance for assets which act as focal points within the landscape, such as churches. Beverley Minster (Grade I) would fall within this category. |
| | Operational | Potential visual effects on the wider setting of the assets, on account of the appearance of solar arrays and associated built infrastructure, such as BESS and substations. This would generally apply to long or open views of church towers, within designated gardens or parkland and farmhouse or country estates whereby these views of the surrounding land make a contribution to the value of the asset. Beverley Minster (Grade I) would fall within this category. |

## 10.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

*Further Baseline Data*

10.8.1 Further desk-based and archival research is planned to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the value, and contribution of setting to value, of identified built heritage assets. This will include detailed analysis of date from the Humber Historic Environment Record ('HER'), as well as relevant documentary and cartographic records, with historic aerial and terrestrial photography. Further fieldwork in the form of site walkthroughs and photographic recordings will be undertaken in winter to fully understand any seasonal changes to relative visibility and settings of identified heritage assets.

10.8.2 A Zone of Theoretical Visibility prepared as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('LVIA') will assist with further scoping, informing an understanding of the potential visual effects on identified heritage assets.

10.8.3 A final list of heritage assets requiring full detailed assessment, and a selection of viewpoints for heritage-focused photomontages, will be agreed with the relevant LPA Conservation Officers and Historic England. This information will be supplied to support a detailed understanding of the potential effects of the Proposed Development.

### Assessment Methodology

10.8.4 Under the requirements of NPS EN-1 (2025), NPS EN-3 (2025), NPS EN-5 (2025), the NPPF (2025), and other aforementioned guidance, such as ISEP's (Formerly IEMA) CHIA (2021) and Historic England's Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes (GPAs), the process of heritage impact assessments can be summarised as comprising three distinct parts:

- Understanding the heritage value of identified designated and non-designated heritage assets, including the contribution made by their settings;
- Understanding the nature and extent of likely significant effects to the heritage value of identified heritage assets;
- Making a judgement on the impact that the proposals may have on heritage value and setting.

### *Value*

10.8.5 Legislative and policy requirements for the assessment of effects on heritage assets require an assessor (the decision maker) to establish whether the value (heritage significance) is preserved, better revealed/enhanced, or harmed as a result of the Proposed Development. For the purposes of this assessment and to avoid conflict with the EIA use of the term 'significance,' the heritage significance will be referred to as 'value.'

10.8.6 It is important to note that understanding value is primarily a descriptive exercise. However, guidance by IEMA, IHBC and CIfA identifies that 'importance' can be defined and scaled as 'high', 'medium' or 'low' or any other simple scale that offers a form of gradation. As such, designation is an obvious way of attributing value or sensitivity to heritage receptors, as set out in **Table 10-4.**

Table 10-4: Sensitivity Classification

| Heritage Value | Designation of Receptor |
|---|---|
| Very High | Site acknowledged to be of international importance/World Heritage Site |
| High | Grade I or Grade II* Listed Asset/Scheduled Monument |
| Medium | Grade II Listed Asset/Conservation Area |
| Low | Locally Listed Asset/Designated Heritage Assets compromised by poor preservation |
| Very Low | Non-Designated Heritage Asset (not recognised as locally listed)/Locally Listed Asset with little or no surviving interest |

### *Magnitude of Impact*

10.8.7 The magnitude of impact is a combination of (i) the size and scale of the potential change; and (ii) the duration of the change and its reversibility i.e. effects during the construction phase are likely to be temporary effects, whereas effects during operation will span for the duration of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of impact can be high, medium, low, or negligible (as per **Table 10-5**) or nil, meaning no effect. The consideration of magnitude of impact takes into account environmental measures embedded in the proposed design.

Table 10-5: Magnitude of Change Classification

| Magnitude of Change | Typical Criteria |
|---|---|
| High | Total loss, major alteration, or fundamental change to key characteristics or features of the baseline. |
| Medium | Partial loss, material alteration, or visible but contextual change to key characteristics or features of the baseline. |
| Low | Minor loss, alteration, or discernible but non-material change to key characteristics or features of the baseline. |
| Negligible | Barely distinguishable or very limited change from baseline conditions. |

*Defining the Effect*

10.8.8 There are two ways in which new development can affect heritage assets:

- By physical changes to the fabric, use, and visual appearance of designated or non-designated heritage assets (known as 'direct effects'); and
- By changes to the setting of designated or non-designated heritage assets in the vicinity (known as 'indirect effects').

10.8.9 The significance of effects on heritage assets is established by combing judgements about the value of the receptors affected with the magnitude of change, in order to identify the likely significant effects. For the purposes of EIA, major and moderate effects are considered to be significant effects (as per **Table 10-6**).

10.8.10 Once the significance of the likely significant effect has been classified, consideration is given to whether the qualitative nature of the resultant effect is, therefore, 'significant beneficial,' 'significant adverse' or 'not significant.'

10.8.11 Beneficial effects occur when the Proposed Development would enhance the value (including contribution of the setting to value) of heritage assets. In line with NPS EN-1 (5.9.15) this can include taking opportunities, where possible, for proposals to make a positive contribution to an understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets affected by the Proposed Development. For example, this could include enhancements to value or setting through sensitive design, to access, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of the assets in question.

10.8.12 Adverse effects occur when the Proposed Development would harm the value (including contribution of the setting to value) of heritage assets. As per NPS EN-1 (5.9.28 - 5.9.37) and the NPPF (212-215), impacts affecting the value of heritage assets are considered in terms of harm. There is a requirement to determine whether the level of harm to designated heritage assets amounts to 'substantial harm' or 'less than substantial harm.' There is no direct correlation between the classification of effect and the level of harm caused to heritage value. However, in general terms, major adverse may equate to substantial harm and moderate or minor adverse may equate to different levels on the spectrum of less-than-substantial harm. As per NPS EN-1 (5.9.28), the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.

10.8.13 For any harm to non-designated heritage assets, NPS EN-1 (5.9.34) and NPPF (216) require balanced judgement with regard to scale of harm or loss, and value.

10.8.14 Neutral effects occur when the Proposed Development would preserve (or not materially affect) the value (including contribution of setting to value) of heritage assets. Neutral effects can also occur where there is considered to be an equal balance between beneficial and adverse heritage effects. The approach to balancing heritage harms and heritage benefits to reach a 'net' position is established in recent case law[203].

10.8.15 When considering any likely significant effects, it should be described how any likely significant adverse effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated for, as per the mitigation hierarchy (NPS EN-1 5.9.11, 5.9.18, and 4.3). Mitigation measures embedded in the design will be described in the Environmental Measures (**Section 10.6**).

10.8.16 Pursuant to NPS EN-1 (5.9.19-5.9.21 and 5.9.32) and NPPF (213-215), any harmful impact on the value (including the contribution of setting to value) of a designated heritage asset, requires

[203] City & Country Bramshill Ltd v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities And Local Government & Ors [2021] EWCA Civ 320 (09 March 2021)

clear and convincing justification, and should be weighed against the public benefits of the Proposed Development. The greater the negative impact to value, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval. NPS EN-3 2.3.8 places this requirement in the context of renewable energy infrastructure. It states that, when considering whether public benefits would outweigh loss or harm to the value of designated heritage assets, 'the positive role that large-scale renewable projects play in the mitigation of climate change, the delivery of energy security, and the urgency of meeting the Clean Power 2030 mission and net zero target' should be taken into account by the Secretary of State.

10.8.17 The same methodology will be used for all stages of the Proposed Development, including construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning, in order to assess potential effects. In summary, this encompasses the identification of (i) the value (significance) of relevant heritage assets, (ii) the nature and extent of potential effects on the value, and settings, of assets, and (iii) the impact of the proposals of heritage value and setting. The only difference between the stages will be the nature and extent of effects to be assessed.

Table 10-6: Overall Effect

| | Magnitude of Change | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sensitivity or Importance | High | Medium | Low | Negligible |
| High | Major | Moderate | Moderate/Minor | Minor |
| Medium | Moderate | Moderate | Minor | Minor/Negligible |
| Low | Moderate/Minor | Minor | Minor/Negligible | Negligible |
| Negligible | Minor | Minor/Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

### *Cumulative Assessments*

10.8.18 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

10.8.19 It is assumed that, if it is required, there will be some level of access to all identified heritage assets to fully understand their value and setting, particularly if not visible from publicly accessible vantage points. In the event that access is not available, such as when heritage assets are in use as private residences, professional judgements will be used, based on available research and data. This includes various primary and secondary research resources, such as cartographic studies, archival research, topographical studies, and ZTV analysis.

The assessment has drawn on a desk-based review of information derived from a variety of secondary sources, including the LPA's datasets. This information is assumed to be accurate.

# 11 Landscape and Visual

## 11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for Landscape and Visual. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

11.1.2 Landscape effects relate to changes to the landscape as a resource, including physical changes to the fabric or individual elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities, and landscape character.

11.1.3 Visual effects relate to changes to existing views of identified visual receptors (people), from the loss or addition of features within their view due to the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. For example, this may be residents, people at work, or people travelling on Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

11.1.4 Landscape effects and visual effects will be reported separately within this Chapter.

## 11.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

11.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Landscape and Visual, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- European Landscape Convention (2022)[204];
- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012[7];
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000[205];
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006[206]; and
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997[207].

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[208]

204 Council of Europe (2000) Landscape Convention as amended by the 2016 Protocol (Council of Europe Treaty Series No. 176). Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape [Accessed May 2026]
205 UK Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents [Accessed May 2026]
206 UK Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents [Accessed May 2026]
207 UK Government (1997) The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made [Accessed May 2026]
208 UK Government (2012) The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605 [Accessed May 2026]

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[209] with particular regard to Paragraphs 2.10.85 to 2.10.93;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[210]; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[211] and Draft NPPF (December 2025)[212].

### Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039: Strategy and Allocations Documents (adopted April 2025)[213].

### National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance: The Natural Environment (2024)[214];
- Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution (2019)[215]; and
- Planning Practice Guidance: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2023)[216].

### Local Guidance

- East Riding Design Code, April 2025[217]

## 11.3 Existing Baseline

### Study Area

11.3.1 The LVIA Study Area identifies the geographic area across which significant landscape or visual effects may occur as a result of the Proposed Development and has been developed with reference to Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GVLIA3)[218].

11.3.2 GLVIA3 paragraph 5.2 states:

209 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf [Accessed May 2026]
210 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025 [Accessed May 2026]
211 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024, updated February 2025). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf [Accessed May 2026]
212 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/697b71c52ff8d10a830d5d4a/Draft_NPPF_December_2025.pdf [Accessed May 2026]
213 East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039: Strategy Document Update. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/ [Accessed May 2026]

214 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2016, updated 2025) Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment [Accessed May 2026]
215 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2014) Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution [Accessed May 2026]
216 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023) Planning Practice Guidance: Renewable and low carbon energy. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy [Accessed May 2026]
217 East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025) East Riding Design Code. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/east-riding-design-code/ [Accessed May 2026]
218 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3). Available at: https://landscapeinstitute.org/policy-practice/technical/assessments-standards/glvia3-panel/ [Accessed May 2026]

*"The study area should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner. This will usually be based on the extent of Landscape Character Areas likely to be significantly affected either directly or indirectly. However, it may also be based on the extent of the area from which the development is potentially visible, defined as the Zone of Theoretical Visibility, or a combination of the two".*

11.3.3 GLVIA3 also sets out at paragraph 6.2 that, at the scoping stage, the LVIA Study Area will only be defined in a preliminary way and may change as more detailed analysis is undertaken, discussion with the host authority is progressed, and the design of the Proposed Development is developed.

11.3.4 At this stage, the LVIA Study Area is proposed to be a 2km radius from the Site Boundary, as shown on **Figure 11-1**.

11.3.5 The preliminary LVIA Study Area has been informed by an initial understanding of the landscape within a wider area of search of 5km from the Site Boundary, which was first investigated via a desk-based review, principally noting prevailing patterns of landform, settlement and vegetation, and the likely viewing opportunities of the Proposed Development. This 5km area of search was based on professional judgement and experience with schemes of similar scale and in similar landscape and visual contexts, and their resultant likely extent of significant effects, indicating that 5km was an appropriate initial spatial boundary to use as a starting point to determine the LVIA Study Area.

11.3.6 The extent of the LVIA Study Area will be reviewed throughout the iterative design process, and agreed with the host authorities, informed by ongoing desk-based research and field-based analysis during winter and summer conditions. This will include the preparation of a series of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps to indicate where in the local landscape the different components of the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible from.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

11.3.7 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, landscape and visual baseline conditions have been established through a desk-based review of published information, including the following sources of data:

- National Character Areas
- East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment Update (2018)[219]
- East Riding of Yorkshire Important Landscape Areas Boundary Review (2014)[220]
- Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial imagery;
- Public Right of Way Map for East Riding of Yorkshire[221];
- MAGIC environmental mapping[222]; and

219 East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2018) East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/landscape-character-assessment/ [Accessed May 2026]

220 East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2014) East Riding of Yorkshire Important Landscape Areas Boundary Review (2014).Available at: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/landscape-character-assessment/Important%20Landscape%20Areas%20(2014).pdf [Accessed May 2026]

221 East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2026) Definitive map of public rights of way. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/leisure/countryside-and-walks/public-rights-of-way/definitive-map/ [Accessed May 2026]

222 Natural England (2026) MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside). Available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/ [Accessed May 2026]

- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Tranquillity and Night Sky Mapping: England (2019)

11.3.8 An initial site walkover was undertaken in March 2026 which has informed this Scoping Report. This included walking sections of the Northern and Southern Land Parcels as well as driving in and around the cable search area and the LVIA Study Area.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

11.3.9 This section provides an overview of the existing baseline in terms of landscape and visual amenity with the Site Boundary and across the LVIA Study Area.

11.3.10 To aid with reporting of the landscape and visual baseline, the Site Boundary have been divided into three components: the northern land parcel, the southern land parcel and the cable search area.

### *Landscape Context*

#### Landform and Hydrology

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.11 Landform within the northern land parcel is flat and low-lying, with a subtle gradient falling from west to east. The elevation within the northern land parcel ranges between 0 and 5m AOD with little variation. By way of exception, Barf Hill forms a local high point, adjacent to the Site Boundary, rising to 10m AOD.

11.3.12 The flat, low-lying landform is also a defining characteristic of the land around the northern land parcel. The land only begins to rise on the northern and western fringes of this part of the LVIA Study Area, for example at Beswick where it reaches 15-20m AOD.

11.3.13 There is a network of drains, becks and dikes crossing the northern land parcel and local area that connects with the River Hull, approximately 1km east of the Site Boundary. Geometric-shaped reservoirs and wetlands are also found in Tophill Low Nature Reserve alongside the River Hull.

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.14 The southern land parcel lies at the southern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds so is in part defined by the elevated, rolling landform typical of the Wolds dip slope. The topography varies across the southern land parcel and ranges from 20m AOD in the east to 85m AOD in the west.

11.3.15 The landform becomes more undulating and more elevated to the west of the southern land parcel, conversely it becomes flatter and lower to the east, closer to the River Hull. Owing to the flatter and lower-lying landform, streams and becks are more common in this part of the LVIA Study Area. A series of ornamental lakes of the former Risby Hall can be found bordering the centre of southern land parcel.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.16 The land within the cable search area and this part of the LVIA Study Area rises from east to west reflecting the transition between the River Hull and the Yorkshire Wolds. This general incline remains gradual from Beswick in the north to Cherry Burton in the south. From Cherry Burton, the land rises more quickly and becomes more undulating to the west and south. The increase in elevation within the cable search area and this part of the LVIA Study Area also results in generally dryer land and fewer waterbodies and watercourses being present.

### Land Use, Infrastructure and Settlement

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.17 Land use within the northern land parcel is intensively managed arable farmland with associated farmsteads located adjacent or within close proximity. Several wind turbines are also present in and around the northern land parcel. The arable land use is common surrounding the Northern Land Parcel, with the exception being the nature reserves such as Tophill Low within the River Hull corridor to the east.

11.3.18 Major transport corridors are limited to the west of the northern land parcel. These include the A164 as well as the Hull to Scarborough Railway Line which passes along the western edge of the northern land parcel. Otherwise, a number of rural lanes stem from A164 and serve the farms and residential properties around the northern land parcel.

11.3.19 The settlement pattern surrounding the northern land parcel is one of scattered villages and farmsteads. The main settlements within this part of LVIA Study Area include Watton, Beswick and Aike, all of which typically comprise large, detached properties arranged along a single developed street.

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.20 Land use of the Southern Land Parcel and surrounding area is predominantly arable farmland. There are also pockets of parkland and estate land including Risby Park which borders the Southern Land Parcel, as well as Beverley Westwood slightly further to the north. To the south-east of the Southern Land Parcel, there is a concentration of greenhouses and plant nurseries.

11.3.21 Land surrounding the Southern Land Parcel is crossed by a network of roads including the A164 and A1079, and the associated junction improvement scheme at Jock's Lodge, close to the Site Boundary. High voltage transmission lines are also common in this part of the LVIA Study Area, converging at Creyke Beck Substation in the south-east where energy infrastructure has a notable influence.

11.3.22 Beverley and Cottingham provide the largest population centres on the fringes of this part of the LVIA Study Area, otherwise the pattern of settlement is defined by small, nucleated villages and isolated, hill-top farmsteads. These include Walkington, Bentley and Little Weighton which all border the Southern Land Parcel.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.23 The prevailing land use across the cable search area and this part of the LVIA Study Area is very similar to the northern and Southern Land Parcels. This mostly comprises arable farmland and small settlements in a dispersed pattern, but also, to a lesser extent, parkland, horticulture and infrastructure. There is also a concentration of military land uses at Normandy Barracks, to the east of Leconfield.

11.3.24 Notable settlements in the cable search area include Lockington, Scorborough, Leconfield, Cherry Burton, and Bishop Burton.

### Vegetation Patterns

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.25 The northern land parcel is predominantly characterised by intensively managed arable fields bounded by a network of hedgerows, many of which are low and fragmented, occasionally with

hedgerow trees. Woodland cover is sparse and mostly limited to small copses, shelterbelts and scattered tree groups. Riparian trees, scrub and grassland vegetation is also common along drainage ditches and watercourses.

11.3.26 Notable woodland features in and around the northern land parcel include:

- Rotsea Carr;
- Decoy Wood;
- Tophill Low;
- Barfhill Covert;
- Old Rush; and
- Beswick Rush Plantation.

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.27 Vegetation within the southern land parcel is characteristic of the intensively farmed agricultural landscape south of Beverley with sparse tree cover. The Southern Land Parcel comprises large arable fields generally enclosed by intact hedgerows. Beyond the southern land parcel, shelterbelts are commonly found around hilltop farmsteads whilst small pockets of woodland are typically concentrated within remnant parkland areas. To the east of the southern land parcel, riparian vegetation is also present in and around drainage features.

11.3.28 Notable woodland features in and around the southern land parcel include:

- Bentley Moor Wood;
- Briarpit Plantation;
- Eleven Acre Plantation;
- Sodwall Plantation;
- Cupola Hill Plantation;
- Gorse Plantation;
- Yewtree Plantation;
- Silver Fir Plantation;
- Wallkington Plantation;
- Fishpond Wood;
- Folly Wood;
- Platwoods Plantation; and
- Birkhill Wood.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.29 Vegetation within the cable search area is mainly confined to field boundaries, farmsteads, small plantation and watercourses. Localised variation also occurs in small areas of parkland such as at Beverley Westwood where mature field trees and estate woodland are present.

### Public Rights of Way

11.3.30 A network of public rights of way crosses the Site Boundary and wider LVIA Study Area including promoted recreational routes. This includes Minster Way, Hudson Way, High Hunsley Circuit and Beverley 20 and Long-Distance Walking Paths, as well as the National Cycle Network Route 1 and Route 164.

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.31 The PRoW that pass through or adjacent to the northern land parcel include:

- Beswick BW1, BW21, BW23;
- Watton FP14, FP15, FP18, BW13; and
- Hutton Cranswick FP10;

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.32 The PRoW that pass through or adjacent to the southern land parcel include:

- Walkington FP8, FP9, BW10;
- Rowley FP9, FP12, FP15, BW6 (High Hunsley Circuit), BW7, BW13;
- Skidby FP10, FP17, FP16, BW4, BW7; and
- Woodmansey BW6.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.33 The PRoW that pass through or adjacent to the cable search area include:

- Leconfield FP1, FP3, FP11, BW2;
- Cherry Burton FP1, FP2, FP3;
- Bishop Burton BW2; and
- Walkington FP4, FP9, BW5.

### Tranquillity

11.3.34 With reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Map[223], infrastructure corridors and settlements across the LVIA Study Area typically reduce the level of tranquillity, as shown as red coloured banding. More remote areas are shown to be the most tranquil, identifiable by green coloured banding.

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.35 In the northern land parcel, tranquillity is locally reduced by the presence of the A164 corridor to the west, and wind turbines in various directions and distances. However, the generally dispersed settlement pattern and separation from larger built up areas contribute to higher levels of tranquillity.

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.36 In the southern land parcel, the presence of the A1079 and A164, and concentration of electricity transmission infrastructure contributes to lower levels of tranquillity. Parts of the southern land parcel and surrounding area within the Yorkshire Wolds demonstrate higher levels of tranquillity as a result of the rolling landform limiting the influence of detracting features.

223 Campaign to Protect Rural England (2007), Tranquillity Map: England, Available at: https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/tranquillity_map_england_regional_boundaries_1.pdf [Accessed May 2026]

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.37 Tranquillity within the cable search area and surrounding area varies along its length. There are localised detracting influences resulting from urban fringe land uses and a number of major roads. Away from these sources of noise and movement, the cable search area transitions to areas of greater tranquillity such as in and around the Yorkshire Wolds.

## Landscape Designations

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.38 Neither the northern land parcel or land within 2km of it is covered by any statutory landscape designations or local landscape designations.

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.39 The southern land parcel coincides with the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area, which is locally recognised as an area of high quality landscape character.

11.3.40 The key attributes of the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area within this part of the LVIA Study Area, as noted within the East Riding of Yorkshire Important Landscape Areas Boundary Review (2014), include:

- "Elevated rolling landform of the Yorkshire Wolds.
- Large scale open landscape with long distance views and dominated by the sky.
- Sparsely populated area with villages scattered villages and Farmsteads.
- Open landscape with large and very large rectilinear regular arable fields and fragmented hedgerows
- Pockets of parkland and estate land to the east on the lower slopes."

11.3.41 The Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area was reviewed as part of the pre-assessment for the Yorkshire Wolds Proposed AONB Designation Project, whilst the Yorkshire Wolds National Character Area formed the initial area of search associated with the designation project. However, the southern land parcel and surrounding area did not form part of the Candidate Area for designation, and the proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape boundary published in February 2026 is located approximately 10km at its closest point to the Site Boundary.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.42 The northern section of the cable search area between Scorborough and Bishop Burton is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. The southern section of the cable search area falls within the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area where it crosses the A1079 to the west of Beverley Westwood.

11.3.43 In the wider cable search area and around the southern land parcel, the Important Landscape Area boundary is defined by Cherry Burton Road, Eton Road, Bishop Burton Road, Beverley Westwood, the A1079, and the A164.

### Other relevant landscape designations

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.44 Other relevant designations in and around the northern land parcel that contribute to landscape value include:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest:
  - River Hull Headwaters;
  - Tophill Low;
  - Leven Canal;
  - Bryan Mills Field; and
  - Pulfin Bog.
- Listed Buildings within surrounding towns and villages (refer to **Chapter 10: Built Heritage**)
- Scheduled Monuments:
  - Rotsea medieval settlement and field system south-east of Rotsea Manor; and
  - Barf Hill moated site.
  - Beswick Conservation Area

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.45 Other relevant designations in and around the southern land parcel that contribute to landscape value include:

- Beverley Park Local Nature Reserve;
- Risby Hall Registered Park and Garden;
- Listed Buildings within surrounding towns and villages (refer to **Chapter 10: Built Heritage**), including:
  - Folly in Fishpond Wood; and
  - Listed Buildings in Walkington.
- Scheduled Monuments:
  - The Reins, Medieval Deer Park Boundary with Park Ends and Oaktree Wood;
  - Moated Site of Leconfield Castle;
  - Moated Site 100m N of Parkhouse Farm;
  - Moated Site and Two Fishponds 80m SW of Parkhouse Farm;
  - Churchyard Cross 4m N of All Saints Church;

- Beverley Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bishop Burton Cross;
- Cellar Heads' Moated Site and Related Ridge & Furrow;
- Earthworks at Risby Park;
- Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gunsite, 350m W of Butt Farm;
- Sanctuary Limit Stone, Bentley Cross;
- Sanctuary Limit Stone, Walkington Cross;
- Baynard Castle; and
- Risby Jacobean Gardens, Hall, and Medieval Settlement.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.46 Other relevant designations in and around the cable search area that contribute to landscape value include:

- Barton Bushes SSSI
- Listed Buildings within surrounding towns and villages (refer to **Chapter 10: Built Heritage**)
  - Scheduled Monuments:
  - Bowl Barrow 400m N of Highfield House;
  - Romano-British Enclosure in Burton Bushes;
  - Romano-British Enclosure on Westwood Common;
  - Group of Four Square Barrows on Westwood Common;
  - Square Barrow on Westwood Common;
  - Oval Barrow on Westwood Common;
  - Bowl Barrow on Westwood Common;
  - Iron Age Barrow 400m SE of Station Farm;
  - Iron Age barrow north-east of Scorborough church;
  - Moated site south-east of Scorborough Hall; and
  - Gilbertine Priory, two possible medieval archery butts and Civil War Earthworks.
  - Lockington Conservation Area

## Extent of Visibility

*Northern Land Parcel*

11.3.47 The intervisibility with the northern land parcel is generally limited to within or adjacent to the Site Boundary where gappy hedgerows or drainage ditches defining field boundaries allow.

There is little topographical variation which means that the small woods, shelterbelts and tree-lined watercourse in and around this part of the LVIA Study Area often curtail longer distance views across the Site Boundary. This is particularly the case in views from the north and south.

11.3.48 From the east, the concentration of woodland in and around Tophill Low further provides a dense visual screen in views towards the northern land parcel from beyond the River Hull.

11.3.49 In the west, the land rises gently up to around Beswick which allows for longer distance views across this part of the LVIA Study Area and parts of the northern land parcel adjacent to the Hull to Scarborough Railway. Small-wooded areas, including Beswick Rush Plantation, within the Site Boundary otherwise prevent views across the wider northern land parcel.

*Southern Land Parcel*

11.3.50 The extent of visibility across the southern land parcel and surrounding area is largely influenced by the elevated and rolling landform, sparse built form, and the limited woodland and tree cover.

11.3.51 From the north, the clearest views of the southern land parcel can be achieved from adjacent roads and public rights of way, including the Beverley 20 Long Distance Walking Route. Views from Walkington are however greatly restricted by woodland and trees along the settlement edge.

11.3.52 From the east, views are largely curtailed by roadside vegetated earthworks lining the A164 which runs along the Site Boundary. Nearby blocks of woodland and tree cover serve to further restrict the extent of visibility from the east. The part of the Site Boundary adjacent to Skidby Lakes Golf Club has a more open eastern boundary which allows for views from Park Lane and around Creyke Beck Substation.

11.3.53 The southern boundary of the southern land parcel runs along a local ridge which means that intervisibility further south is largely curtailed by the landform. Some close distance views can be achieved from the western end of Little Weighton Road but otherwise the lie of the land prevents views in the direction of the southern land parcel, including from Skidby.

11.3.54 Despite the landform continuing to rise in the west, the extent of visibility is reduced by intact hedgerows defining field boundaries, sporadic shelterbelts, and the twisting and folding landform. Some close and mid-distance views of the Southern Land Parcel can be achieved from different stretches of Walkington Road, otherwise viewing opportunities are limited.

*Cable Search Area*

11.3.55 The extent of visibility of the cable search area is a combination of the northern and southern land parcel noting the overlapping landscape character. For example, the flatter landform and scattered tree cover in the northern section, means that intervisibility is generally limited to areas within close distance. Whereas, where the landform is more rolling in the southern section there are greater viewing opportunities from the more elevated areas, albeit restricted in places by occasional shelterbelts and high-sided hedgerows.

## 11.4 Predicted Future Baseline

11.4.1 The approach to describing future baseline will focus on committed developments currently under construction, together with the published landscape management guidance. Whilst it is acknowledged that there are a number of other energy infrastructure projects proposed in the region, and that there is support in national policy for critical national infrastructure, these projects will be considered within the cumulative assessment, rather than a part of the future

baseline, either because the outcome of the planning process remains outstanding or their construction has not yet commenced. This is in accordance with GLVIA3, which seeks to avoid overly speculative assumptions about the outcome of individual applications.

## 11.5 Important Receptors Identified

### Landscape

11.5.1 Landscape receptors have been identified via a review of published landscape character assessments, maps and aerial photography, relevant planning policy and initial fieldwork.

11.5.2 The LVIA Study Area is covered by a number of landscape character areas and types as classified by published Landscape Character Assessments. The relevant studies and character areas are set out below:

- The Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area
- National Character Areas[224]
    - 27: Yorkshire Wolds
    - 40: Holderness
- East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment[225]
    - LCT 13 Open High Rolling Farmland
    - LCA 13B Bishop Burton Estate Farmland
    - LCA 13C South Wolds Rolling Farmland
    - LCT 16 Sloping Farmland
    - LCA 16B Kilnwick Percy Woodland Farmland
    - LCA 16C Beverley Westwood
    - LCA 16E Lund Sloping Farmland
    - LCA 16F Beverley Parks Farmland
    - LCT 17 Farmed Urban Fringe
    - LCA 17B North Cottingham Farmland
    - LCA 17C South Cottingham Farmland
    - LCT 18 Low Lying Drained Farmland
    - LCA 18A River Hull Corridor

11.5.3 LCA 18B Quarry Farmland The landscape effects of the Proposed Development would be reported at Site level with regard to the landscape character across the Site Boundary. Individual

224 Natural England, National Character Area Profiles, Available at: https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/ [Accessed May 2026]

225 AECOM (2018), East Rising of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment, Available at: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/landscape-character-assessment/Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20Update%202018%20Sections%201-3.pdf [Accessed May 2026]

features, specifically trees, hedgerows and watercourses within the Site Boundary would also be assessed in terms of their landscape resource.

11.5.4 The requirement for a local scale of assessment of landscape character effects and definition of Local Landscape Character Areas will also be explored through consultation with the host authorities and confirmed prior to the preparation of any preliminary environmental information as required.

### Visual Amenity

11.5.5 A range of visual receptors and representative viewpoints likely to experience views of the Proposed Development would be identified using the ZTV mapping and further field work. The number and distribution of these will be agreed though consultation with the host authorities but are likely to include:

- People living in Watton, Beswick, Aike, Leconfield, Cherry Burton, Bishop Burton, Walkington, Beverley, Little Weighton, Skidby, and Cottingham, as well as people living in isolated properties beyond the settlements;
- People working at Manor Farm, Low Farm, Carr House Farm, Risby Park Farm, as well as the number of farms at Bentley;
- People using the Minster Way, Hudson Way, High Hunsley Circuit and Beverley 20 and Long-Distance Walking Paths, National Cycle Network Route 1 and Route 164, as well as local public rights of way;
- People travelling on the A164, A1035, and A1079, as well as the local road network; and
- People travelling along the Hull to Scarborough Railway Line between Hutton Cranswick and Arram.

11.5.6 Photographs taken during fieldwork surveys will be provided and reported upon in the ES to help demonstrate the nature of baseline views including the extent of existing screening. These photos would be presented as annotated photographs.

11.5.7 Photomontages will also be provided from a selection of viewpoints to illustrate the likely extent and nature of changes in baseline views in winter and summer.

11.5.8 All photographs and photomontages will be prepared in accordance with relevant guidance, namely the Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals[226].

## 11.6 Environmental Measures

11.6.1 The LVIA will inform the iterative design process of the Proposed Development. Embedded design measures will be included to reduce and, where achievable, avoid significant adverse effects. Such mitigation will include the sensitive siting of solar panels and associated structures in response to the prevailing landscape pattern and existing views experienced by sensitive receptors. New planting would be proposed to complement and enhance the existing green infrastructure network and will also be designed to reduce visibility of the proposed above ground elements.

226 Landscape Institute (2019), Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Available at: https://landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation-1.pdf [Accessed May 2026]

11.6.2 Consideration will be given to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regulations, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects.

11.6.3 Specific environmental measures relevant to Landscape and Visual will be identified and would be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). A suite of management plans will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application, as identified within the **Chapter 5: Description of Development** and the Scoping Commitments Register (**Appendix B**). These will incorporate environmental mitigation measures identified through the EIA process. Of particular relevance to Landscape and Visual, the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ('oLEMP') will define the location, extent and type of habitat creation, along with establishment periods, maintenance regimes, monitoring requirements, and the maximum extents of vegetation removal. Further, an Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP) will be produced, which will outline how PRoW will be managed for the Proposed Development to ensure they have been considered fully and are able to operate during construction, operation and decommissioning.

11.6.4 At this stage of the Proposed Development, the environmental measures listed below have been implemented and included within the Proposed Development. These have been derived from policy, good practice, or professional judgement, and will be agreed with the relevant consultation bodies.

## Construction

11.6.5 During construction, environmental measures will focus on the protection of existing landscape features and minimising temporary disturbance. These will be captured in secure documents such as the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, the outline Lighting Strategy or the oLEMP, and would include:

- Retention and protection of existing trees, hedgerows and vegetation, where practicable, in accordance with best practice (BS 5837);
- The establishment of buffer zones to avoid encroachment into key landscape features, including:
  - Hedgerows: 5m;
  - Watercourses, drainage ditches and waterbodies: 10m;
  - Trees and woodlands: 25m;
- Existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Bridle Paths within the Site Boundary will be retained. Sensitive management of PRoW, with temporary closures, diversions, or managed crossings implemented where required; and
- Control of temporary lighting, ensuring that any construction lighting is used only where necessary and designed to minimise light spill.

## Operation and Maintenance

11.6.6 During operation and maintenance, environmental measures will focus on embedded mitigation and landscape integration. These will be captured in secure documents such as the outline Operations Environmental Management Plan or the oLEMP, and would include:

- The implementation of a comprehensive landscape design and mitigation strategy, including fencing and new planting to integrate the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape and reduce visibility of above ground infrastructure;
- Delivery of environmental enhancements in line with the Proposed Development's Design Principles, including:
  - Strengthening the local green infrastructure network through habitat creation and improved connectivity; and
  - Creation of multifunctional green infrastructure, including areas of ecological and amenity value.
- Sensitive siting and design of solar panels and associated infrastructure which takes account of landscape character and visual receptors;
- Control of operational lighting, including:
  - No permanent lighting at the substation, with lighting only used in the case of emergency works;
  - Use of Passive Infra-Red controlled and task-specific lighting outside daylight hours; and
  - Infrared CCTV lighting directed within the Site Boundary to minimise light spill.
- Implementation of an oLEMP, which will set out the establishment, management, maintenance and monitoring of landscape and ecological mitigation, including details of habitat creation, planting, and vegetation management.

## Decommissioning

11.6.7 During decommissioning, environmental measures will focus on the restoration of the Site Boundary and management of temporary effects, with areas of established mitigation left in-situ where possible and in agreement with the landowners. These will be captured in secure documents such as the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan or the oLEMP, and would include:

- Temporary management of PRoW, including closures or diversions where required during decommissioning works;
- Control of lighting and construction-related disturbance, consistent with measures applied during the construction phase; and
- Implementation of relevant measures set out within the oLEMP (or updated management plans).

## 11.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

11.7.1 To date, a series of introductory meetings have been held with various interested parties including the host authorities. A summary of these meetings is provided at **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA** of this Scoping Report but have generally focussed on high-level information about the Proposed Development, rather than specific Landscape and Visual matters.

11.7.2 As the design of the Proposed Development evolves, the Applicant will engage with the relevant host authorities and other key stakeholders, as appropriate, to agree the approach to, and scope of Landscape and Visual.

11.7.3 Consultation is anticipated to comprise a combination of meetings (including virtual and in-person), site visits, and written correspondence. These discussions will seek agreement on key aspects of Landscape and Visual, including the assessment methodology, LVIA Study Area, identification of landscape and visual receptors, and selection of representative viewpoints.

11.7.4 The scope of the assessment will remain iterative and may evolve as the design of the Proposed Development progresses. Where changes to the Proposed Development or emerging assessment findings alter the potential for significant landscape or visual effects, receptors may be scoped into or out of the assessment. Any such changes will be supported by appropriate justification and informed through engagement with the relevant authorities and consultees.

11.7.5 The outcomes of consultation, including responses relevant to landscape and visual matters, will be taken into account in refining the assessment approach and, where appropriate, the design of the Proposed Development. This will be reported on in the ES.

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

11.7.6 **Table 11-1** presents the Landscape and Visual matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 11-1: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Changes to Special Qualities of proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape | The proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape is located approximately 10km from the Site Boundary at its closest point. The intervening area comprises rolling farmland and wooded shelterbelts around scattered farmsteads and villages, which restricts long distance viewing opportunities towards the Site Boundary.<br>Where visible from the proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape, the Proposed Development would be perceived as very small elements in the far distance such that it would be barely perceptible and unlikely to give rise to significant effects on its Special Qualities. Effects on this receptor are therefore proposed to be scoped out. |
| Changes to character of National Character Areas | The geographical extent of National Character Areas is generally very large such that changes arising from the Proposed Development would be very localised and unlikely to give rise to significant effects on their key characteristics.<br>As explained in paragraph 5.14 of GLVIA3, “broad-scale assessments at national or regional level can be helpful in setting the landscape |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | context but are unlikely to be helpful on their own as the basis for LVIA".<br>LCAs defined at the national scale will therefore be included to provide context but effects on these receptors are proposed to be scoped out.<br>This same approach was agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in reaching its Scoping Opinion for South Brooks Solar Farm [EN0110027] (reference: ID 3.6.3). |
| Lighting during construction and decommissioning | With reference to the oCEMP and oDEMP, and outline Lighting Strategy, task specific lighting would be used during construction and decommissioning to enable works within sheltered parts of the Site Boundary and works during hours of darkness within the agreed typical working hours, or otherwise in exceptional circumstances.<br>Because of its temporary and specific nature, construction and decommissioning lighting is considered unlikely to give rise to significant landscape or visual effects.<br>The impact of temporary and occasional lighting as detailed above will be considered as part of the wider assessment of landscape and visual impacts, but a standalone lighting assessment is proposed to be scoped out. |
| Lighting during operation | The BESS and substation compounds will not be permanently lit; external lighting will be mounted on columns up to 10m high; task specific lighting will be used in the case of emergency works; passive Infra-Red controlled lighting will be used where access is required outside of working hours; where internal lighting is used within control buildings, light spillage will be controlled; and CCTV installed along the perimeter of the Solar PV area will not require visible lighting.<br>Because of its temporary and specific nature, operational lighting is considered unlikely to give rise to significant landscape or visual effects.<br>The impact of the temporary and occasional lighting as detailed above will be considered as part of the wider assessment of landscape and visual impacts but a standalone lighting assessment is proposed to be scoped out. |
| Changes to views and visual amenity of people engaged in outdoor recreation which does not depend upon the appreciation of views of the landscape | This receptor group is acknowledged in GLVIA3 as being less sensitive to change in views and visual amenity such that for them to experience significant effects would require a high magnitude of change.<br>Besides from visitors to Risby Park Fishing Ponds which border the Site, no people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which do not depend upon the appreciation of views of the landscape have been identified within or immediately adjacent to the Site Boundary. With regard to visitors to Risby Park Fishing Ponds, the ponds are situated within a valley and surrounded by dense woodland such that they do not experience views of the Site Boundary and so unlikely to experience any significant changes in their views as a result of the Proposed Development. Effects on these receptors are therefore proposed to be scoped out. |

11.7.7 Should it become apparent, through the on-going design and assessment process, that there would be no potential for significant adverse landscape or visual effects on a receptor, the receptor will be scoped out, with accompanying justification and through consultation with the relevant host authority and landscape consultees.

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

11.7.8 The construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment.

11.7.9 The Proposed Development has the potential to result in temporary significant adverse landscape and visual effects during the construction phase. There are likely to be significant changes to the landscape character as well as views and visual amenity due to alterations to surface landform and vegetation, the presence and movement of construction machinery, introduction of construction compounds and access routes, and associated reduction in tranquillity. This applies to the northern and southern land parcels as well as the cable search area.

11.7.10 Throughout operation, significant adverse landscape and visual effects are also likely. This is due to the changes to the landscape character as well as views and visual amenity resulting from the change in land use through the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, plus their routine servicing and maintenance of the infrastructure. Although most of the impacts will be reversible, they would be long term. The Proposed Development will include areas of new planting, which once established, has the potential to result in a reduction of the level of landscape and visual effects. It is anticipated that this will apply primarily to the northern and Southern Land Parcels, as following construction, the cable would be buried and the land above it restored to its former condition.

11.7.11 The decommissioning phase has the potential to result in significant adverse landscape and visual effects, similar to but of no greater magnitude than the construction phase.

11.7.12 **Table 11-2** presents the landscape matters that are likely to give rise to significant adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Development and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped into the detailed assessment.

Table 11-2: Likely Significant Landscape Effects to be Scoped In

| Potential Effect | Receptor |
|---|---|
| Changes to valued attributes of Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area at all phases of the Proposed Development | Valued attributes of LCTs 13, as identified within the Important Landscape Areas Boundary Refinement (2014) document |
| Changes to District Landscape Character at all phases of the Proposed Development | LCT 13 Open High Rolling Farmland<br>LCA 13B Bishop Burton Estate Farmland<br>LCA 13C South Wolds Rolling Farmland<br>LCT 16 Sloping Farmland<br>LCA 16B Kilnwick Percy Woodland Farmland<br>LCA 16C Beverley Westwood<br>LCA 16E Lund Sloping Farmland<br>LCA 16F Beverley Parks Farmland<br>LCT 17 Farmed Urban Fringe<br>LCA 17B North Cottingham Farmland<br>LCA 17C South Cottingham Farmland<br>LCT 18 Low Lying Drained Farmland<br>LCA 18A River Hull Corridor<br>LCA 18B Quarry Farmland |
| Changes to Site Landscape Character at all phases of the Proposed Development | Landscape character of the Site boundary |

| Potential Effect | Receptor |
|---|---|
| Changes to Landscape Features at all phases of the Proposed Development | Trees, hedgerows and watercourses within the Site Boundary |

11.7.13 **Table 11-3** presents the visual matters that are likely to give rise to significant adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Development and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped into the detailed assessment.

Table 11-3: Likely Significant Visual Effects to be Scoped In

| Potential Effect | Receptor |
|---|---|
| Changes to views and visual amenity of residents at all phases of the Proposed Development | People living in Watton, Beswick, Aike, Leconfield, Cherry Burton, Bishop Burton, Walkington, Beverley, Little Weighton, Skidby, and Cottingham, as well as people living in isolated properties beyond the settlements |
| Changes to views and visual amenity of people engaged in recreation which depends upon the appreciation of views of the landscape at all phases of the Proposed Development | People using the Minster Way, Hudson Way, High Hunsley Circuit and Beverley 20 and Long-Distance Walking Paths, National Cycle Network Route 1 and Route 164, as well as local public rights of way |
| Changes to views and visual amenity of motorists at all phases of the Proposed Development | People travelling on the A164, A1035, and A1079, as well as the local road network |
| Changes to views and visual amenity of rail passengers at all phases of the Proposed Development | People travelling along the Hull to Scarborough Railway Line between Hutton Cranswick and Arram |
| Changes to views and visual amenity of people at their place of work at all phases of the Proposed Development | People working at Manor Farm, Low Farm, Carr House Farm, Risby Park Farm, as well as the number of farms at Bentley |

## 11.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

11.8.1 Further fieldwork will be undertaken across the LVIA Study Area in winter and summer conditions throughout the design and assessment process. The fieldwork will be informed by ZTV mapping, which will model the emerging design layout in the context of the prevailing landform and existing surface features such as buildings and vegetation.

11.8.2 Photography will be captured from each representative viewpoint in both summer and winter conditions, showing the effect of seasonality on the potential visibility of the Proposed Development.

#### *Construction, Operation and Maintenance, Decommissioning*

11.8.3 The LVIA will be undertaken in accordance with the following best practice guidance which apply to development proposals in the UK:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3)[227];
- Technical Guidance Note 2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on GLVIA3[228];
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations, 2021[229]; and
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, 2019[230].
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment[231];
- Technical Guidance Note 04/2020: Infrastructure[232];
- Technical Guidance Note 01/2017: Tranquillity[233]; and
- Technical Guidance Note 02/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment'[234].

11.8.4 The methodology will reflect the process set out in Figure 3.5 of GLVIA3 as shown in **Plate 11-1** below:

227 Landscape Institute and IEMA (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA3). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/glvia3-panel-and-download/ [Accessed May 2026]

228 Landscape Institute (2024), Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3), Available at: https://landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf [Accessed May 2026]

229 Landscape Institute (2021) Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value/ [Accessed May 2026]

230 Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/technical-guidance-note-06-19-visual-representation-of-development-proposals/ [Accessed May 2026]

231 Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-character-assessment [Accessed May 2026]

232 Landscape Institute (2020) Technical Guidance Note 04/20: Infrastructure. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/tgn-04-20-infrastructure/ [Accessed May 2026]

233 Landscape Institute (2017) Technical Guidance Note: Tranquillity. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/tranquillity-guidance/ [Accessed May 2026]

234 Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/tgn-02-19-residential-visual-amenity-assessment/ [Accessed May 2026]

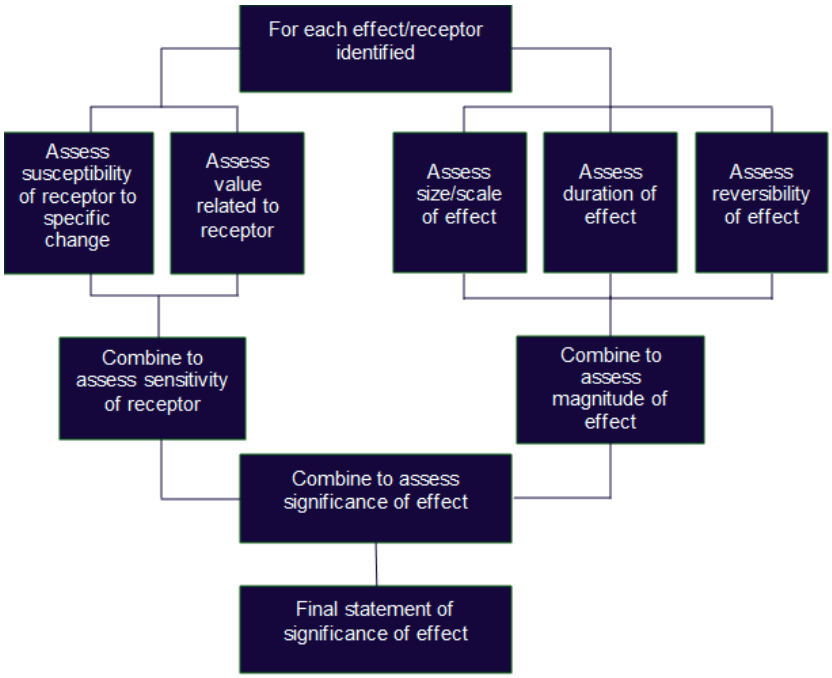


Plate 11-1: Overview of LVIA Methodology

11.8.5 In accordance with the GLVIA3 process, the LVIA methodology will include the following key stages:

- A baseline review of published landscape assessments, studies, relevant supporting evidence base documents, aerial photography, mapping and fieldwork to identify the landscape and visual baseline and receptors. These shall be presented to the host authorities to seek their agreement of the scope of the LVIA, including the extent of the LVIA Study Area;
- An assessment of the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, based on an assessment of their respective value and susceptibility to change;
- An assessment of the magnitude of impact resulting from the Proposed Development during construction, Year 1, Year 15 (to determine the likely significance effects of landscaping, taking account of vegetation maturity), and decommissioning. The assessment of magnitude of impact will consider the scale, geographic extent, duration, and reversibility of the impact. Short term durations are considered to be two years or less; medium term durations are considered to be between two and five years; and long-term durations are considered to be more than five years;
- The combination of the receptor's sensitivity and the magnitude of impact experienced at each assessment scenario to determine the resultant level of effect and effectiveness of landscape mitigation;
- An assessment of the significance of the effect to the landscape and visual receptors identified. It is proposed that effects judged to be moderate and major will be considered to be significant;
- The LVIA will review the Glint and Glare Assessment to include consideration of how glint and / or glare impacts might contribute to landscape or visual effects; and

- The LVIA will assess the potential visual effects to different types of visual receptor, including residential receptors, i.e. private views (albeit assessed from publicly accessible locations). In the event that the visual assessment identifies major adverse effects on residents at year 15 of operation (i.e. major adverse visual effects that have not been mitigated), a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will be undertaken in line with the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment[235].

### *Cumulative Assessments*

11.8.6 The general approach to assessing cumulative and in-combination effects is detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA.** With regard to the assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects, this will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance on cumulative assessment contained within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA** and GLVIA3.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

11.8.7 All fieldwork will be undertaken from publicly accessible locations. Professional judgement will be used to assess residents' views, aided by aerial photography and fieldwork observations.

11.8.8 For the construction phase assessment, a reasonable worst case approach will be undertaken, which is assumed construction activity will occur in winter and will be undertaken across the Site Boundary at the same time.

11.8.9 For the year 1 operational assessment, the assumption is that the Proposed Development will be operational in winter conditions. This represents a reasonable worst case assessment. The year 15 assessment will assume summer conditions and the establishment of planting included in the landscape design. This represents an assessment of the completed and operational development.

11.8.10 For the decommissioning assessment, the assumptions are the Proposed Development is no longer operational, and the solar panels and associated structures and equipment are being removed in a manner similar to the construction phase, requiring machinery and localised excavation.

Design work on the layout and heights of the individual components within the Proposed Development is still on-going at this stage. Where it is desirable for certain design aspects to retain flexibility, a reasonable worst case scenario will be assessed in line with the Rochdale Envelope approach.

235 Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). Available at: tgn-02-2019-rvaa.pdf [Accessed May 2026]

# 12 Transport and Access

## 12.1 Introduction

12.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for Transport and Access. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

## 12.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

12.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Transport and Access, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- Planning Act (2008); and
- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017).

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025) (Section 5.14)[236];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[237](Paragraph 2.10.112 – 2.10.118); and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[238] and Draft NPPF (December 2025)[239].

### Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[240]; and
- East Riding of Yorkshire Sustainable Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)[241].

[236] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[237] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[238] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[239] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)
[240] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
241 East Riding of Yorkshire Sustainable Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2024) Available: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-library/local-plan-library-item/?entry=sustainable_transport_supplementary_planning_document_spd

### National Guidance

- The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) 2014 – Travel Plans. Transport Assessments and Statements;
- The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) 2020 – Environmental Impact Assessments;
- National Highways (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges; and
- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) Guidelines: Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (2023).

## 12.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

12.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for Transport and Access sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 12.4**).

### Study Area

12.3.2 The Study Area for the Proposed Development includes the transport networks surrounding the Site Boundary which comprises the northern land parcel, and the southern land parcel as well as the cable search area. The ISEP guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (2023) suggest that a relevant Study Area for a Transport Assessment (TA) within an ES should include highway links where traffic flows will increase by more than 30% or a sensitive area where traffic flows have increased by more than 10%.

12.3.3 A plan showing the roads included within the Study Area and therefore considered to potentially cross these thresholds is shown in **Figure 12-1 – 12.4** in **Appendix A**.

12.3.4 As list of the roads to be included within the Study Area is then provided below. This extent is considered suitable as it covers all potential routes to and from the Site Boundary back to the M62. These are, therefore, the routes where, based on professional judgement, it is anticipated that there may be potential effects:

- A63;
- Boothferry Road;
- Petuaria Way;
- A164;
- Dunflat Road;
- Park Lane;
- Dunflat Lane;
- Coppleflat Lane;
- Coppleflat Lane;
- Little Weighton Road;
- Lincoln Way;
- Victoria Road;
- Queensgate;
- Admiral Walker Road;
- Molescroft Road;
- Driffield Road;
- Station Road;
- Wilfholme Road;

- Carr Lane;
- Unnamed Road;
- Cross Lane;
- Main Street;
- Sheepman Lane;
- Hedon Road;
- Roger Millward Way;
- Castle Street;
- Hessle Road;
- A1079;
- Beverley Road.
- Dunswell Lane
- Dunswell Road;
- Park Lane; and
- Clive Sullivan Way.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

12.3.5 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, the baseline conditions have been established by carrying out a review of East Riding of Yorkshire Council's website relating to existing transport infrastructure and a review of current geographical information.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

12.3.6 The baseline transport environment surrounding the Clean Air Solar Farm comprises a combination of strategic highway links, local road infrastructure and established active travel routes which together provide connectivity to and from the Site Boundary. The primary connection to the wider transport network is via the A63, which links to the M62 corridor and functions as the main east–west strategic route in the area. These routes are expected to accommodate the majority of longer-distance traffic movements associated with the development, including construction traffic accessing the Site Boundary from the wider region.

12.3.7 The Site Boundary is also served by an extensive network of local roads, including the A164 and a range of rural lanes and minor routes that serve the Site off these strategic routes. These routes provide direct access to the Site and link surrounding settlements, forming the key local traffic routes for development traffic. The character of these roads is typically rural, with a mix of single carriageway A-roads and narrower local roads.

12.3.8 In terms of active travel, the Study Area includes a well-established network of public rights of way and recreational routes that facilitate walking and cycling. These include long-distance paths such as the Minster Way (between Beverley and York), Hudson Way (Beverley to Market Weighton) and the High Hunsley Circuit (circular walk through Walkington and Skidby), alongside National Cycle Network Routes 1 (passing through Driffield, Hutton Cranswick and Beverley) and 164 (Driffield to Bridlington). These routes all pass through the Study Area and provide strategic connections for pedestrians and cycles, although it is acknowledged with the distances involved it is mostly for cyclists.

12.3.9 Construction, operational and decommissioning access is anticipated to be achieved via the strategic road network, with vehicles travelling from the M62 and A63 before routing onto the A164 and associated local roads to reach the Site Boundary. The routes identified within the Study Area represent those considered most suitable for all traffic based on their connectivity and capacity for large vehicles.

## 12.4 Predicted Future Baseline

12.4.1 Future baseline traffic flows within the Study Area will be derived through the application of TEMPRO growth factors to the established baseline traffic data. This approach enables the representation of forecast changes in travel demand over time, accounting for background growth associated with population, employment and development trends.

12.4.2 TEMPRO (Trip End Model Presentation Program) data will be obtained for the relevant geographic output areas across the Study Area. Growth factors will be extracted for the appropriate forecast years aligned with each assessment scenario, including the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. These factors will reflect forecast changes in traffic flows within the surrounding area over time. The resulting factors will then be applied to the surveyed traffic flows on a link-by-link basis across the Study Area.

12.4.3 This methodology ensures that the future baseline reflects both existing traffic conditions and anticipated changes in background traffic levels over time, providing an appropriate basis against which to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning.

12.4.4 Proposed Development traffic flows will be added to the Future Baseline in order to carry out any assessment. As part of this scoping exercise, an estimation of decommissioning and construction traffic flows associated with the decommissioning and construction activities of the Proposed Development has been undertaken by Iceni in conjunction with the rest of the applicant team. Both these scenarios are anticipated to cover a two to three-year period.

12.4.5 During the peak of this period, there are anticipated to be 80 daily two way HGV trips (40 arrivals + 40 departures) from the Site Boundary. This is mostly to be made up of HGVs bringing materials (including Solar Panels) to the Site Boundary. In addition, there are also anticipated to be 130 two-way staff trips (65 arrivals + 65 departures) per day. The ability of the highway network to accommodate any additional trips during this scenario will also be assessed within a Transport Assessment within the ES. Operational traffic is not considered to be significant and has been scoped out of the ES.

## 12.5 Important Receptors Identified

12.5.1 The proposed Study Area is described in **Section 12.3** above as and sets out the roads which may be subject to potential effects. The types of receptors within the Study Area that are likely to be identified in the TA are described in **Table 12-4** below.

## 12.6 Environmental Measures

12.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that would help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Transport and Access will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures would form part of the Proposed Development). At this phase of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

12.6.2 An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO application and developed to reduce the impact of construction vehicles on the surrounding area. A construction worker travel plan will also be provided to reduce the impacts of staff travel to and from the construction site.

### Operation and Maintenance

12.6.3 The operational phase is to be scoped out of this assessment as there are not considered to be any environmental impacts. Traffic flows associated with the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible; they are also considered to be less than for the existing uses at The Site Boundary. The Site Boundary is confirmed to be agricultural uses and therefore operational traffic will likely be the same or less than generated by the current uses.

### Decommissioning

12.6.4 The decommissioning phase will also be subject to a traffic management plan and worker travel plan as per the construction phase, although these documents will be different in terms of the phase they relate to, the impacts are anticipated to be the same.

## 12.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

12.7.1 An overview of other consultation undertaken to date for Transport and Access, and how this has informed the scope to the assessment is provided in **Table 12-1**.

Table 12-1: Consultation Undertaken To Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| 17/06/2026 | East Riding of Yorkshire Council | Introductory / scoping meeting to set out proposals and early scope of works. |

12.7.2 Scoping with National Highways will take place as soon as possible with regard to scoping proposals.

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

12.7.3 **Table 12-2** presents the Transport and Access matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 12-2: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Traffic Impacts with Hazardous Loads | No hazardous loads are anticipated as part of the project, albeit the assessment of AIL will be included. |
| Operational Traffic Impact | To be scoped out, as agreed with the ERCC Highways team, due to insignificant levels of traffic to be generated on the network which are unlikely to trigger any assessment thresholds. |

### Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

12.7.4 The construction and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment. These are provided in the table below.

Table 12-3: Likely Significant Effects during Construction and Demolition Works

| Receptor | Effects |
|---|---|
| People at home / work: | Changes in traffic flows;<br>Public Transport impact;<br>Severance of communities;<br>Road vehicle driver and passenger delay;<br>Non-motorised user delay / amenity;<br>Fear and intimidation on and by road users;<br>Road user safety; and<br>Hazardous / large loads. |
| Sensitive and or vulnerable groups / locations | |
| Collision clusters and routes with road safety concerns | |
| Junctions and highway links at (or over) capacity (drivers) | |

## 12.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

12.8.1 Traffic Surveys are to be collected over a 7-day period, as is standard practice, to inform data collection for the baseline. The survey scope is set out earlier in the chapter within the "Study Area" section.

#### *Construction, Operation and Maintenance and Decommissioning*

12.8.2 This section presents the methodology set to be used to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development for all scenarios in relation to Transport and Access.

#### Study Area and Scope

12.8.3 The ISEP guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (2023) suggest that a relevant Study Area for a Transport Assessment (TA) within an ES should include highway links where traffic flows will increase by more than 30% or a sensitive area where traffic flows have increased by more than 10%. The scope of this assessment will consider these thresholds for the construction and decommissioning phases. There is not anticipated to be enough vehicle trips in the operational phase of the Proposed Development to generate a significant impact and this has therefore been scoped out, as agreed with the LPA.

12.8.4 The links set out within the "Study Area" section, i.e. those surrounding the Site Boundary have been identified for assessment to determine whether they will reach the thresholds set out in the paragraph above.

12.8.5 The ISEP Guidelines distinguish between the time of the greatest environmental impact and the greatest highway impact. Greatest environmental impact occurs at a period of greatest change i.e. highest percentage increase. To maintain consistency with the vehicle movement data to be utilised within the noise and air quality assessments also included within the future ES, daily flows will be considered to assess the impact from a transport perspective. This approach is also considered appropriate due to the varying anticipated peak hours of different uses on the Site

and the different directions of travel of these at peak times as well; utilising daily flows captures all traffic throughout the day providing an overall picture of the traffic associated with the Site Boundary.

### Scope

12.8.6 The temporal scope of the chapter is the entire lifetime of the Proposed Development, which therefore covers construction and decommissioning works. The Proposed Development once completed and operational is scoped out of this ES. The duration of the effects has been reviewed based on the following:

- Temporary: Short term – 0-5 years;
- Temporary: Medium term – 5-25 years; and
- Permanent: Long term – more than 25 years.

12.8.7 The following aspects will be considered in the chapter as a significant effect is considered likely:

- Changes in Traffic Flows – the difference in traffic flow on select links as a result of the Proposed Development.
- Severance – the actual or perceived separation of people from places, services and amenities.
- Pedestrian delay – the additional time pedestrians experience as a result of the Proposed Development.
- Pedestrian amenity – the overall quality of the pedestrian environment and how it is impacted by the Proposed Development.
- Driver delay – the additional time experienced by drivers on the surrounding highway network as a result of the Proposed Development.
- Fear and intimidation – the degree to which the presence, speed or behaviour of traffic makes pedestrian and cyclists feel uncomfortable when adjacent to the highway network.
- Accidents and road safety – the extent to which the Proposed Development will impact the number and severity of road traffic collisions.
- Public transport capacity – the impact of the Proposed Development on public transport capacity surrounding the Site Boundary.

12.8.8 The following aspects will not be considered in the ES because potential effects on these receptors are not likely to be significant:

- Traffic movements with hazardous loads – albeit the impacts of any Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) will be considered.

### Assessment Methodology

Identify Sensitive Receptors and Highway Links

12.8.9 The sensitivity of each receptor will be evaluated as being high, medium, low or negligible based on a review of the baseline position of each receptor and its performance against benchmark areas. The receptors and the definition of sensitivity of a receptor (high, medium, low) is based on a scale set out in **Table 12-4**. All these receptors have been chosen as they are located on links

deemed to meet the thresholds set out in the ISEP guidance as set out in "Study Area and Scope" above.

Table 12-4: Receptor Sensitivity Description

| Value (Sensitivity) | Description |
|---|---|
| High | Hospitals, surgeries and clinics; Schools, colleges and other education institutions; Retirement / care homes for the elderly or infirm; Roads with no footway that may be used by pedestrians; and Collison 'clusters'; |
| Medium | Parks and recreation areas; Shopping areas; and Roads with narrow footways that may be used by pedestrians. |
| Low | Open spaces; Tourist / visitor attractions; Historical buildings; Churches and other places of worship; and Roads with generous footways that are used by pedestrians. |
| Very Low | N/A |

### Determining Magnitude of Impact

12.8.10 The magnitude of impact to a receptor will be determined by considering the estimated deviation from baseline conditions both before and, if required, after mitigation. The scale used for determining the magnitude of an impact has been based on **Table 12-5**.

Table 12-5: Magnitude of Impact Description

| Impact Magnitude | Description |
|---|---|
| High | Long lasting impacts observed with a high frequency over a large area with no reversibility. |
| Medium | Medium lasting impacts observed with a medium frequency of a medium sized area with an element of reversibility. |
| Low | Short-lasting impacts observed with a low frequency in a small area that are mostly reversable. |
| Very Low | Very short-lasting impacts observed with a very low frequency in a small area that are reversable. |

### Determine Significance Criteria

12.8.11 The magnitude and significance of effects are to be determined using the criteria set out in the ISEP Guidelines. The ISEP Guidelines suggest that the assessment should:

- Rule 1 – include any highway links where the traffic flows or the number of HGVs will increase by more than 30%; or
- Rule 2 – include any other specifically sensitive areas where traffic flows have increased by 10% or more.

12.8.12 This chapter has been prepared based upon the significance criteria as set out below. Likely significant effects are to be assessed as follows:

- Beneficial: Effects that produce benefits in terms of transport and access;

- Adverse: Effects that produce a negative effect in terms of transport and access; and
- Negligible: Effects that produce insignificant change (no measurable change from existing mode share or habits to walking, cycling, public transport and private vehicular traffic or daily construction traffic fewer than 25 vehicles on all roads). ISEP Guidelines indicate that increases in traffic flow of less than 30% generally result in imperceptible changes in the environmental impacts of traffic and traffic flow changes of less than 10% create no discernible impact. For construction vehicles, this is also the case whereby the traffic only affects strategic routes or local roads immediately within the Site's proximity.

12.8.13 An assessment will be carried out for each of the identified impacts to determine the extent of any potential change in relevant factor compared to the baseline scenarios. The scale of change will be evaluated using the former Department of Transport's Manual of Environmental Appraisal, as suggested by the ISEP Guidelines. According to this approach, changes in traffic levels of 30%, 60% and 90% are categorised as 'slight', 'moderate' and 'substantial' impacts, respectively. However, the 'minor' (<10%), 'moderate' (10-30%) and 'major' (>30%) impacts outlined in the standard assessment criteria within the ISEP Guidelines will be used for the purposes of this assessment, as lower thresholds are considered to be more robust as is standard practice in a Transport and Access ES assessment i.e. it represents worst case scenario for assessment.

12.8.14 The significance of adverse or beneficial effects will be defined as either negligible, minor, moderate or major:

- Negligible: Very slight, very short or highly localised impact of no significant consequence (up to +/- 1%) change to walking and cycling, public transport and private vehicular traffic, daily construction traffic flow less than 25 on major roads or 2-5 on minor roads, therefore the impact is considered to be 'negligible';
- Minor: Slight, very short or highly localised impact of no significant consequence (up to +/- 10%) change to walking and cycling, public transport and private vehicular traffic, daily construction traffic flow less than 100 on major roads or 25-50 on minor roads, therefore the impact is considered to be 'insignificant';
- Moderate: Limited impact, (by extent, duration or magnitude) which may be considered locally significant (between 10% and 30% change to walking and cycling, public transport and private vehicular traffic, or daily construction traffic flow greater than 100 on major roads or 50 on minor roads). Additionally, for walking and cycling this may mean that some people change their travel habits. For public transport this is where patronage increases without exceeding existing capacity and for private vehicles this is where changes to flows would occur but within the design capacity of roads/junctions. With regards to construction this would also mean that some traffic passes through residential areas; and
- Major: Considerable impact, (by extent, duration and magnitude) of more than local significance or in breach of recognised acceptability, legislation, policy or standards, (greater than +/- 30% change to existing levels of walking and cycling, public transport and private vehicular traffic or daily construction traffic flow greater than daily development flow). For walking and cycling this may mean the majority of people in the area change their habits. For public transport this is where patronage will exceed the capacity of existing services and for private vehicles this is where changes will lead to a perceived impact on delay and congestion. With regards to construction this would also mean that most traffic passes through residential areas.

### Assessing Significance

12.8.15 **Table 12-6** provides a matrix for determining the significance of an effect based on the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact.

Table 12-6: Magnitude of Impact Description

| Receptor Sensitivity | Magnitude of Impact | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | High | Medium | Low | Very Low |
| High | Major Beneficial / Adverse | Major Beneficial / Adverse | Moderate Beneficial / Adverse | Minor Beneficial / Adverse |
| Medium | Major Beneficial / Adverse | Moderate Beneficial / Adverse | Minor Beneficial / Adverse | Negligible |
| Low | Moderate Beneficial / Adverse | Minor Beneficial / Adverse | Negligible | Negligible |
| Very Low | Minor Beneficial / Adverse | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

12.8.16 Effects classified as major or moderate are considered 'significant'. Effects classified as minor or negligible in scale are considered 'not significant'.

#### *Construction and Decommissioning Assessment Methodology*

12.8.17 The baseline environment will be determined by a number of traffic surveys to identify existing traffic flows across the network. The geographical extent of these surveys was set out in the Study Area section above. Baseline flows will be collected over a 7-day period, as per standard practice, using Automated Traffic Counts (ATCs). The location of these links to be surveyed has been determined via a desktop survey and agreed with the LPA.

12.8.18 As detailed previously, TEMPRO growth factors would then be applied to each link to determine a future baseline. Following this, a Cumulative Assessment will take place to consider all other development traffic in the study area. Finally, an assessment will consider the uplift development traffic would cause in the construction and decommissioning phases.

#### *Operation and Maintenance*

12.8.19 An estimation of Proposed Development traffic flows associated with the completed and operational activities of the Proposed Development has been undertaken, with the duration of this scenario anticipated to be up to 60 years.

12.8.20 During the peak of this period, there are anticipated to be 4 daily two-way trips (2 arrivals + 2 departures) from the Site Boundary. This is mostly to be made up of staff / maintenance trips.

12.8.21 As per previous comments, this level of traffic is not considered significant and no more than the existing agricultural uses generate and therefore operation and maintenance has been scoped out of the assessment.

### *Cumulative Assessments*

12.8.22 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**. However, in summary, the cumulative assessment will include the addition of committed development traffic flows to the future baseline.

12.8.23 The list of committed developments to be included, at this point, is provided below:

- Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm (Zone 4);
- Dogger Bank D Wind Farm;
- Doggerbank South; and
- Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

12.8.24 These have been included due to their potential for construction programme crossovers within the Study Area.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

12.8.25 In forecasting the trips associated with the Proposed Development, it has been assumed that the current national trends observed in both everyday trips and delivery trips will continue based on forecasts for growth. There will, however, be a continued unknown change in the way people travel and materials are transported, meaning that ultimately it is difficult to assess the impacts of a development in future years. This predominantly applies to the decommission phase, which is at the furthest point of the programme; however, it remains pertinent to all phases with changes to travel trends possible between the time of writing and beginning of construction. In addition, it is considered that any future estimations of development traffic will be both accurate and robust, based on standard techniques and knowledge from other projects. There is also the potential that technology will improve significantly between now and then, perhaps influencing the way people travel or materials are transported.

# 13 Carbon and Climate Change

## 13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of the detailed environmental assessment for Carbon and Climate Change. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

13.1.2 There are two components of the climate change topic that will be included in the EIA. Therefore, this Chapter will present the assessment scope in two parts:

- Part A: The **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment** is an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on climate change. The GHG Assessment will provide a quantification of the GHG emissions resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and resultant effects.
- Part B: The **Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (CCRA) Assessment** is an assessment of the impact of future climate change on the Proposed Development. It will assess the ability of the Proposed Development to adapt to and be resilient to potential future changes in climate, such as hotter dryer summers, warmer wetter winters and increased frequency and severity of storms.

13.1.3 Within this Chapter, the terms 'GHGs' and 'carbon' are used interchangeably to describe all GHG emissions, i.e. all emissions which might contribute to climate change, the predominant contributor of which is carbon dioxide ($CO_2$). The term $CO_2e$ is also used, which refers to carbon dioxide equivalents, which is the main metric for quantifying GHGs.

## 13.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

13.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Climate Change, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- Climate Change Act 2008[242] and 2050 Target Amendment Order 2019[243];
- Carbon Budget Order 2021[244];
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017[245];
- Energy Act 2023[246];

242 HMSO (2008) Climate Change Act 2008. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents
243 HMSO (2019) The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654/data.pdf
244 HMSO (2021) The Carbon Budget Order 2021. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654
245 HMSO (2017) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents
246 HMSO (2023) Energy Act 2023. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/52/contents

## National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[247];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[248];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[249]; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[250], specifically Paragraphs 8, 20 and 161 in relation to adaptation, mitigation and climate change resilience; and Paragraphs 164 to 168 in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions through design and reduced energy consumption.

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan 2025[251], specifically Policy S2 on Addressing Climate Change, and Policy EC5 on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.

## National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance for Climate Change[252];
- Institute of Sustainability & Environment Professionals (ISEP, formerly IEMA) Guide: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance[253];
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (GHG Protocol)[254];
- PAS 2080:2023 Carbon Management in Buildings and Infrastructure[255];
- Climate Change Committee (CCC) Net Zero Technical Report[256];
- Seventh Carbon Budget: Advice for the UK Government[257];
- ISEP EIA Guide: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation[258];

247 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
248 DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
249 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
250 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf
251 East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025), East Riding Local Plan, Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/east-riding-local-plan-update/
252 HM Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance for Climate Change. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change
253 ISEP (2022) Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance. 2nd Edition. Available at: https://www.iema.net/media/xmgpoopk/2022_iema_greenhouse_gas_guidance_eia.pdf
254 World Resources Institute, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (2001) The Greenhouse Gas Protocol, A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard. World Resource Institute, Revised Edition. Available at: https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/ghg-protocol-revised.pdf
255 BSI (2023) PAS 2080: 2023 Carbon Management in Buildings and Infrastructure. Available at: https://www.bsigroup.com/siteassets/pdf/en/insights-and-media/insights/brochures/pas_2080.pdf
256 CCC (2019) Net Zero, Technical Report. Available at: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-technical-report/
257 CCC (2025) Seventh Carbon Budget: Advice for the UK Government. Available at: https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/The-Seventh-Carbon-Budget.pdf
258 ISEP (2020) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Climate Change Resilience & Adaptation. Available at: https://www.iema.net/media/mabhqino/iema-eia-climate-change-resilience-june-2020.pdf

- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Whole Life Carbon Assessment for the Built Environment[259];
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022[260]; and
- The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting[261].
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener[262];
- The Clean Growth Strategy[263];
- Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain[264];
- The Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future[265];

## 13.3 GHG Assessment (PART A)

**Section 13.7** of this Chapter outlines the proposed methodology to be used for the GHG component of the EIA.

## 13.4 Existing Baseline Conditions

13.4.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development.

### Study Area

13.4.2 The study area for the GHG assessment is defined by the likely location of emissions sources that contribute to the Proposed Development's lifecycle footprint. These include all emission within and outside of the site boundary, directly and indirectly caused by the Proposed Development throughout its lifecycle. Specifically:

- Direct emissions from construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning (i.e. emissions occurring within the Site Boundary);
- Emissions that arise throughout the supply chains of the energy, materials and components that make up the Proposed Development;
- Emissions from transportation of materials, staff and contractors; and

259 RICS (2023) Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment, 2nd edition. Available at: https://www.rics.org/content/dam/ricsglobal/documents/standards/Whole_life_carbon_assessment_PS_Sept23.pdf
260 HMSO (2022) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61e54d8f8fa8f505985ef3c7/climate-change-risk-assessment-2022.pdf
261 DEFRA (2023) The Third National Adaptation Programme and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ba74102059dc00125d27a7/The_Third_National_Adaptation_Programme.pdf
262 HM Government (2021) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6194dfa4d3bf7f0555071b1b/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf
263 HM Government (2017) The Clean Growth Strategy. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ad5f11ded915d32a3a70c03/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf
264 DfT (2021) Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/610d63ffe90e0706d92fa282/decarbonising-transport-a-better-greener-britain.pdf
265 HMSO (2020) The Energy White Paper. Powering our Net Zero Future. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future

- Emissions from the end-of-life handling of decommissioned materials and waste.

13.4.3 These emissions will occur both in the UK and overseas. The considered emissions sources are detailed further in Section 13.5 below.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

13.4.4 The baseline information to inform the scoping process has been established primarily through a comprehensive desktop study. The data and results of the baseline study are set below.

13.4.5 The desktop study involved a review of publicly available information, relevant legislation, planning policy, guidance and technical datasets to establish the baseline conditions for the GHG assessment. The search criteria focused on identifying existing sources of GHG emissions associated with the Site Boundary and the wider energy baseline, together with relevant national decarbonisation trends and climate policy relevant to the Proposed Development. Sources reviewed have been stated in paragraphs 13.4.8 to 13.4.17 of this report.

13.4.6 The desktop review identified that the Site Boundary predominantly contains agricultural land, and therefore the baseline emissions will be associated with agricultural activities. The review also highlighted the progressive decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid which will be used to assess the GHG emissions and carbon benefits of the Proposed Development.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

13.4.7 As the Proposed Development generates electricity, it is appropriate to define two baseline scenarios when assessing GHGs:

1) The 'Site Boundary' baseline: the GHG emissions of the physical site; and

2) The 'Energy' baseline: the GHG emissions of the UK's energy supply.

### *Site Boundary baseline*

13.4.8 The existing land use within the Site Boundary (consisting of the southern and northern parcels and the cable search area) Is predominantly agricultural land. These agricultural activities contribute to GHG emissions, due to standard agricultural practices including the use of farm machinery, soil erosion and application of fertilisers and pesticides. Natural England estimates average net GHG emissions from land under arable agricultural to be 0.29 $tCO_2e/ha/yr$[266]. The Site Boundary is approximately 3,167.54 hectares and contains the southern and northern land parcels as well as the cable search area. Annual GHG emissions from agricultural activities within the Site Boundary are therefore estimated at 918.6 $tCO_2e/yr$.

13.4.9 The Site Boundary also stores carbon in soil and organic matter. This carbon storage is assumed to be at an equilibrium level (i.e. carbon storage does not increase or decline over time), and is also assumed to remain largely unchanged, regardless of whether the Proposed Development is constructed or not. As such, no carbon sequestration is quantified in the Site Boundary baseline.

13.4.10 The *additional* carbon sequestration through biodiversity net gain from the Proposed Development will be quantified in the ES.

266 Natural England (2021) Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat: a review of the evidence (second edition). Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5419124441481216

### *Energy baseline*

13.4.11 The UK's energy use contributes to global GHG emissions predominantly through the combustion of fossil fuels in the generation of electricity, and directly in the use of fuels in internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, boilers, and other uses. As a greater number of renewable energy projects have come online, the carbon emissions associated with the UK's energy use have declined and are anticipated to continue to decrease into the future. The change in the emissions profile of the energy mix is driven by three main factors:

1) Fossil fuel electricity power stations are directly replaced by renewable stations;

2) Fossil-fuel vehicles (ICE vehicles) are replaced by electric vehicles and fossil-fuel heating (natural gas) is replaced by electric heat sources, increasing total electricity demand; and

3) Energy demand is increasing in general, due in part to our increasing need for electricity for data storage and transfer in our increasingly digital world.

13.4.12 Therefore, the Proposed Development can be compared to a UK energy baseline where the Proposed Development is not built and does not increase the UK's total available renewable electricity supply.

13.4.13 While the overall UK electricity grid mix is decarbonising over time, the addition of the Proposed Development to the grid will replace fossil electricity, rather than average electricity, whether by allowing the phase-out of an existing fossil fuel power station, or by avoiding the need for a (likely natural gas fuelled) power source to meet increasing demand.

13.4.14 The current energy baseline assumes that energy from the Proposed Development will allow the phase out of existing natural gas power generation in the UK and the energy generated by the Proposed Development will therefore displace electricity generated by use of natural gas.

## Predicted Future Baseline

13.4.15 The future baseline has been developed to take account of anticipated decarbonisation of the UK electricity system over the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development, including relevant national energy scenarios. For the future energy baseline, it is assumed that natural gas power generation is retained in operation in the absence of the Proposed Development and is retrofitted with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology in line with the UK's industrial decarbonisation strategy. This assumption is founded from the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, which outlines the continuing "strategic back-up" role for unabated gas in the UK's energy mix to 2030 and beyond[267]

13.4.16 It is assumed that the electricity generated in the Energy baseline is from an unabated natural gas-fired CCGT power station to 2035, and from then until the decommissioning of the Proposed Development, the CCGT power station would have a Carbon Capture and Storage system (CCS) installed (see paragraph 4.9.25 of NPS EN-1). It is assumed that this CCS system would reduce direct GHG emissions by 90%[268]. This approach has been adopted as it is part of the UK's industrial decarbonisation strategy to use CCS technology, which may apply to fossil-fuel power stations.

13.4.17 The direct operational emissions from unabated natural gas fired CCGT power stations are assumed to be 382 $gCO_2e/kWh$, which is taken from the Government's 2024/2025 fuel mix

267 UK Government (2024), Clean Power Action Plan, Available at: Clean Power 2030: Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity

268 Environment Agency (2025) Decarbonisation Readiness (DR) Guidance. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/670d4cdd92bb81fcdbe7b7db/decarbonisation-readiness-consultation-government-response.pdf

disclosure data[269]. From 2035, this is assumed to reduce to 38.2 $gCO_2e$/kWh to account for CCS. **Table 13-1** below outlines the approach taken to calculate the predicted future energy baseline.

Table 13-1: Energy Baseline Emissions per 1kWh of electricity

| Baseline | Indirect (WTT) emissions | Direct (combustion) emissions | Total Baseline emissions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Current Baseline | 63 $gCO_2e$/kWh | 382 $gCO_2e$/kWh | 445 $gCO_2e$/kWh |
| Future Baseline (with CCS) | 63 $gCO_2e$/kWh | 38 $gCO_2e$/kWh | 101 $gCO_2e$/kWh |

### Important Receptors Identified

13.4.18 The assessment of GHGs does not include identification of sensitive receptors, as GHG emissions do not directly affect specific locations or receptors but lead to indirect effects by contributing to global climate change. Identification of sensitive areas for climate change has been undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[270]. Impacts on specific areas will not be included within the GHG assessment, since the impacts of GHG emissions will affect the global atmosphere and therefore need to be considered in a total context, rather than focus on localised areas. This approach is recognised by ISEP as the standard methodology for completing the GHG assessment[271]

## 13.5 Environmental Measures

13.5.1 Environmental measures can help avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regs[272], the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to this topic will be identified and considered as part of the GHG assessment (i.e. the GHG assessment will be undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development).

13.5.2 It is anticipated that measures to minimise GHG emissions will be included either as embedded design measures or within relevant management plans such as an oCEMP, submitted alongside the DCO application. The mitigation measures which are assumed within the assessment will be identified and detailed in the ES.

13.5.3 Environmental measures could include:

### Construction

- Sourcing materials with lower embodied energy, by using information, for example, from Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs);
- Using energy efficient machinery in construction operations;

270 IPCC (2022) Sixth Assessment Report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/

271 ISEP Global, Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance, 2022, Available at: 2022_iema_greenhouse_gas_guidance_eia.pdf

272 Gov.uk, The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, Available at: The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- Encouraging active staff travel during the construction phase;
- Procedures to separate and recover construction waste, to increase recycling rates; and
- Use of existing roads and tracks to locate access routes as much as practicable to minimise land take for access.

### Operation and Maintenance

- Designing the Proposed Development and selecting construction materials designed for durability in order to reduce repair, maintenance and refurbishment emissions;
- Switchgear and other electrical equipment requiring electrical insulation will be assessed, with components not requiring the use of SF6 prioritised over other models, where practicable; and
- A planting scheme will be developed as part of the Proposed Development to provide landscape mitigation, ecological enhancement, and biodiversity net gain.

### Decommissioning

- Using energy efficient machinery in decommissioning operations;
- Encouraging active staff travel during decommissioning; and
- Procedures to separate and recover materials and components, to increase recycling rates.

13.5.4 The full list of Environmental Measures will be developed as part of the GHG Assessment.

## 13.6 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

13.6.1 No consultation has been completed for this Scoping Report, the ES Chapter will be informed by the Scoping Opinion and no further consultation will take place for the carbon chapter, as is standard for this topic.

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

13.6.2 In accordance with ISEP guidance, minor GHG emissions sources may be excluded from the assessment, provided they would contribute less than 1% of the Proposed Development's lifetime GHG emissions. Any such exclusions will be clearly presented and justified in the ES Chapter.

### Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

13.6.3 The construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment. All GHG emissions across the lifetime of the Proposed Development, throughout the construction works, operation, and decommissioning, are scoped into the assessment, with the provision that minor emission sources that contribute less than 1% of lifetime GHG emissions may be scoped out (with justification).

## 13.7 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

13.7.1 No further baseline data is required to undertake the ES assessment.

#### *Construction*

13.7.2 The embodied carbon from construction will be calculated to account for carbon emissions arising from the manufacture and production of construction materials. The assessment of embodied carbon covers "cradle to gate" emissions (i.e. carbon emissions from the extraction of raw materials through to finished construction products). Embodied carbon emissions will be calculated using a range of sources including University of Bath Inventory of Carbon and Energy (ICE)[273], product Environmental Performance Declarations (EPDs), and published lifecycle assessment reports and research where relevant.

13.7.3 Carbon emissions from electricity and fuel use during construction will be estimated based on predicted construction phase electricity consumption and fuel usage (from plant, machinery and on-site offices), using the latest available carbon emissions factors published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)[274].

13.7.4 Carbon emissions from transport during construction will be calculated using carbon factors for transport modes derived from the Department for Transport's (DfT's) WebTAG data book[275] and DESNZ.

13.7.5 Emissions from waste generated and water consumed during construction of the Proposed Development will be calculated where data is available, using published emissions factors from a recognised database (e.g. DESNZ, Climatiq, EcoInvent, etc.). Note that emissions from these sources are expected to be minimal, and exclusion ISEP guidelines described in Paragraph 13.6.2 above will not materially influence the results of the GHG assessment.

#### *Operation and Maintenance*

13.7.6 Carbon emissions from transport during operation will be calculated using carbon factors for transport modes derived from DfT's WebTAG data book[275] and DESNZ

13.7.7 Carbon emissions associated with the use, repair, maintenance and replacement of components of the Proposed Development during its operational lifetime will be calculated using available data, using assumptions where appropriate in accordance with RICS guidance[259], taking account of the anticipated lifetime and replacement frequency of key components of the Proposed Development.

13.7.8 Carbon emissions savings from the renewable electricity generated by the Proposed Development will be calculated through comparison to the current carbon intensity of fossil fuel power generation (see Paragraphs 13.4.14 to 13.4.17 above).

273 Circular Ecology (2024) ICE Database Advanced V4.0 – Dec 2024 Available at: https://circularecology.com/embodied-carbon-footprint-database.html (accessed 1 October 2025)

274 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2026) Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2026- June 2026. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting

275 DfT (2025) TAG data book May 2025 v2.01. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tag-data-book (accessed 1 October 2025)

*Decommissioning*

13.7.9 Carbon emissions from deconstruction of the Proposed Development will be calculated for deconstruction activities (fuel and energy use), decommissioning transport (including export of waste and staff travel), and waste recycling, treatment and disposal.

13.7.10 Emissions will be calculated using data on the duration of decommissioning works, estimated staff numbers and energy and fuel requirements, and mass of materials and components exported from the Proposed Development.

13.7.11 Given the Proposed Development is anticipated to be decommissioned over 60 years in the future, the assessment of emissions from decommissioning will take account of expected decarbonisation in the UK economy during the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

## Determining Effect Significance

13.7.12 The approach to defining likely significant effects will be carried out in three steps, in accordance with ISEP guidance:

1) The first step is to compare the Proposed Development's GHG emissions to the baseline emissions to determine whether there is a net increase or decrease in emissions as a result of the Proposed Development. This comparison will cover both the Site Boundary baseline and Energy baseline defined in Section 13.4 above.

2) The second step is to contextualise the Proposed Development's GHG emissions. This will be done by comparing the calculated emissions to local and national carbon budgets (net-zero aligned carbon budgets for the UK and for the East Riding of Yorkshire Unitary Authority Where UK Carbon budgets have not yet been legislated beyond 2037, Climate Change Committee projections will be used.

3) The third step applies expert judgement on the significance of those emissions taking into account the changes in emissions, their contribution to relevant carbon budgets, their consistency with relevant policy, and an evaluation of the environmental measures proposed to avoid, reduce and compensate carbon emissions.

13.7.13 The level of significance will be taken using the criteria as defined in ISEP guidance in combination with professional judgement.

13.7.14 As all carbon emissions have the potential to affect climate change, it is important to assess the effect of the Proposed Development on climate change as a result of carbon emissions from the construction, operational and decommissioning phases together. The GHG assessment will therefore be primarily based on the net effects of all construction, operational and decommissioning phase emissions. The significance of effects for individual emissions sources will not be considered.

## Cumulative Assessment

13.7.15 Cumulative impacts are not applicable to climate change. This is because: a) for the greenhouse gas assessment: the receptor for the greenhouse gas assessment is the global climate and its associated effects. Given the scale of the receptor, the whole assessment is intrinsically cumulative (i.e. any single project would not cause significant effects in isolation without the baseline of cumulative global GHG emissions) and as such the approach does not need to consider emissions from a specific project list; and b) for the climate change resilience and adaptation assessment: the assessment considers the impact of climate change on the

Proposed Development (as opposed to the impact of the Proposed Development on climate change), and therefore an inter-project assessment is not applicable.

*Assumptions and Limitations*

13.7.16 It is necessary to make a number of assumptions when carrying out a GHG assessment. Assumptions made will reflect a 'realistic worst-case' scenario and will be fully documented and justified in the ES Chapter. Key assumptions are likely to include:

- The quantity and type of materials used in the (PV) panels and mounting structures, inverters, transformers, switchgear, the onsite substation, associated infrastructure, access roads and temporary construction compounds;
- Transport distances and means to transport materials and workers to the site;
- The number and activity of Site plant and equipment during construction;
- The rate of future decarbonisation of transport (assumptions will be made in line with the Department for Transport's (DfT's) WebTAG data book);
- Repair and replacement rates;
- Annual electricity production;
- Decommissioning vehicles and staff transport volumes, distances and means, and on-Site machinery use; and
- End of Life treatment of decommissioned materials.

## 13.8 CCRA Assessment (PART B)

13.8.1 Section 13.12 of this Chapter outlines the proposed methodology to be used for the Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (CCRA) assessment of the EIA.

## 13.9 Existing Baseline Conditions

13.9.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development.

### Study Area

13.9.2 The study area for the CCRA assessment, unlike other disciplines, focuses on the impact that climate change will have on the Proposed Development (as opposed to the impact of the Proposed Development on the environment). The study area is, therefore, the Proposed Development, split into its constituent parts (receptors, as identified in Paragraph 13.10 below).

### Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

13.9.3 Existing baseline conditions for the CCRA assessment relate to current, and recent historic (1981-2024), climate and meteorological conditions withinthe Site Boundary. The baseline assessment

will include data gathered from the Met Office to describe the existing frequency and severity of climate hazards such as flooding, heatwaves and drought[276][277].

13.9.4 The future baseline climate is expected to differ from the present-day baseline. The United Kingdom Climate Change Projections 2018 (UKCP18), developed by the Met Office, is the most up-to-date climate projections model for the UK, which is Government-endorsed and has been peer reviewed by an international panel of climate experts. The dataset provides probabilistic climate change projections for predefined 30-year periods for annual, seasonal and monthly changes to mean climatic conditions over land areas. For the purpose of the assessment, UKCP18 probabilistic projections for the following climate variables have been obtained:

- Mean annual temperature;
- Mean summer temperature;
- Mean winter temperature;
- Mean annual rainfall;
- Mean summer rainfall;
- Mean winter rainfall; and
- Sea level rise.

13.9.5 UKCP18 probabilistic projections have been analysed for the Yorkshire and Humber region, which is where the Proposed Development is located. These figures are expressed as temperature/rainfall anomalies in relation to the 1981-2000 baseline.

13.9.6 UKCP18 uses a range of possible scenarios, classified as Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs), to inform differing future emission trends. These RCPs *"... specify the concentrations of greenhouse gases that will result in total radiative forcing increasing by a target amount by 2100, relative to preindustrial levels."* RCP8.5 has been used as a worst-case scenario for this assessment.

13.9.7 As the design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be 60 years, in adopting RCP8.5 the CCRA assessment has considered a scenario that reflects the potential change in climate resulting from the highest predicted level of global warming (4 degree increase in global average temperatures) in the time horizon of 2080-2099 to assess the impact of climate change over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

13.9.8 The current baseline for the CCRA assessment is the current climate within the Site Boundary. Historic climate data has been obtained from the Met Office website, recorded by the closest Met Office station to the Site Boundary which is the Whitby, approximately 64km north of the Site Boundary. The current flood risk climate hazards for the land within the Site Boundary will be identified based on a Flood Risk Assessment (Described in **Chapter 7 Hydrology).**

13.9.9 Historic climate data for the 30-year periods of 1981-2010 and 1991-2020 (the standard baseline for climate data), are summarised in **Table 13-2.**

276 Defra, BEIS, Met Office & Environment Agency (2022) UK Climate Projections Key Results Spreadsheet. Available: KeyResults_2022.xlsx .

277 Defra, BEIS, Met Office & Environment Agency (2022) UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings. Available: ukcp18_headline_findings_V4_aug22.pdf

Table 13-2: Historic Climate Data Summary

| Climate Factor | Month (1981-2010) | Value | Month (1991-2020) | Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warmest month on average (Average daily mean temp °C) | Jul | 15.62 | Jul | 16.07 |
| Coldest month on average (Average daily mean temp °C) | Jan | 4.46 | Jan | 4.72 |
| Mean annual rainfall levels (mm) | - | 51.02 | - | 53.75 |
| Wettest month on average (Average monthly rainfall) (mm) | Dec | 66.30 | Nov | 71.11 |
| Driest month on average (Average monthly rainfall) (mm) | May | 37.11 | May | 38.76 |

13.9.10 When comparing the 30-year climate averages between 1981-2010 and 1991-2020, there has been a slight increase in temperature for the warmest month, and a slight increase for the coldest month. There has been an increase in mean annual rainfall, an increase for the wettest month, and a decrease for the driest month.

13.9.11 The Met Office historic 10-year averages for the Whitby station identify gradual warming in winter, and gradual warming in summer months between 1955 and 2024, with monthly rainfall data trends showing an increase in winter, and an increase in summer. Information on average daily mean temperatures (°C) and mean monthly rainfall (mm) is summarised in **Table 13-3**.

Table 13-3: Historic 10-year Averages for Temperature and Rainfall at Whitby Station

| | Mean Daily Average Temperatures (°C) | | Mean Monthly Rainfall (mm) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Decade | Winter (Oct-Mar) | Summer (Apr-Sep) | Winter (Oct-Mar) | Summer (Apr-Sep) |
| 1955-1964 | 5.03 | 11.69 | 37.88 | 40.51 |
| 1965-1974 | 5.67 | 11.49 | 41.85 | 44.29 |
| 1975-1984 | 5.61 | 11.80 | 53.00 | 48.80 |
| 1985-1994 | 6.18 | 12.20 | 47.73 | 41.29 |
| 1995-2004 | 6.68 | 13.10 | 54.58 | 52.38 |
| 2005-2014 | 6.56 | 13.31 | 60.89 | 53.74 |
| 2015-2024 | 7.07 | 13.88 | 63.23 | 52.13 |

## Predicted Future Baseline

13.9.12 The future baseline conditions have been defined by potential climate risks identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment[278], National Adaptation Programme[279], and the Key Climate

278 HMSO (2022) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022

279 Defra (2018) The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting

Projections: Headline Findings produced by the Met Office UK[280]. These are based on the UKCP18 dataset[281].

13.9.13 **Table 13-4** shows projected changes in temperature (expected to increase) and rainfall (expected to increase in winter and decrease in summer) for Yorkshire and Humber, with the 50% probability level as the core value in the centre, with the 10%-90% probability range on either side.

Table 13-4: Projected Changes in Climate Variables for Yorkshire and Humber, relative to 1981-2000 baseline

| Variable | Projected change in period 2080-2099 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10th percentile | 50th percentile | 90th percentile |
| Mean annual temperature (°C) | +2.4 | +4.0 | +5.7 |
| Mean winter temperature (°C) | +1.4 | +3.4 | +5.6 |
| Mean summer temperature (°C) | +2.6 | +4.9 | +7.4 |
| Mean winter precipitation (%) | -2 | +15 | +36 |
| Mean summer precipitation (%) | -57 | -30 | +2 |

13.9.14 In addition, Sea Level Rise in the decade 2080-2099 is projected to be between 21cm (5th percentile) and 62cm (95th percentile), relative to the 1981-2000 average.

13.9.15 The projected changes indicate increasingly erratic weather patterns that are likely to lead to greater numbers of extreme weather events that may affect the Proposed Development.

13.9.16 This includes heatwaves (precursor to droughts) and increase in localised intense precipitation events (precursor to flooding), with some climate models predicting an increase in frequency and intensity of winter storms. Increases in the frequency and intensity of these extremes can put further pressure on resources and increase the risks posed to infrastructure and public health and safety.

13.9.17 Winds associated with major storm events can be some of the most damaging and disruptive events for the UK with implications for property, power networks, road and rail transport and aviation[282].

13.9.18 Annual mean wind speed in the UK shows a downward trend from 1969 to 2024, and there have been fewer occurrences of high maximum gust speeds in the last two decades, relative to the 1980s and 1990s[283].

280 Defra, BEIS, Met Office & Environment Agency (2022) UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings. Available: ukcp18_headline_findings_v4_aug22.pdf

281 Defra, BEIS, Met Office & Environment Agency (2022) UK Climate Projections Key Results Spreadsheet. Defra, BEIS, Met Office & Environment Agency (2022) UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings.

282 Met Office (2019) UKCP18 Factsheet: Wind.

283 Met Office (2025) International Journal of Climatology; State of the UK Climate 2024. Available at: https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.70010

## 13.10 Environmental Measures

13.10.1 Consideration would be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that would help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES would be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to this topic will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures would form part of the Proposed Development).

13.10.2 A comprehensive list of mitigation measures will be developed, and evaluated in terms of risk to receptors, as part of the climate resilience assessment. Example mitigation measures include:

### Construction

- Covering construction materials and excavated earth to preserve and prevent damage during storms, periods of high rainfall, and high winds;
- Locating construction compounds and materials storage areas within Flood Zone 1, or providing temporary drainage to reduce flood risk; and
- Providing adequate rest, shade and personal protective equipment for construction workers.

### Operation and Maintenance

- Designing the Proposed Development to avoid areas of highest flood risk;
- Ensuring sufficient site drainage and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);
- Regular inspection and maintenance of drainage systems; and
- Specifying components and materials that can withstand heatwaves and higher future average temperatures.

### Decommissioning

- Covering materials and excavated earth to preserve and prevent damage during storms, periods of high rainfall, and high winds;
- Locating compounds and materials storage areas within Flood Zone 1, or providing temporary drainage to reduce flood risk; and
- Providing adequate rest, shade and personal protective equipment for decommissioning workers.

## 13.11 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

13.11.1 No consultation has been completed for this Scoping Report, the ES Chapter will be informed by the Scoping Opinion, and no further consultation will take place for the carbon chapter, as is standard for this topic.

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

13.11.2 According to UKCP18 projections, a decrease in both falling and lying snow across the UK relative to the 1981 – 2010 baseline is expected by the end of the century. As such, increased snow and ice is not considered a relevant climate hazard for the Proposed Development and is scoped out of the CCRA.

### Likely Significant Effects Scoped Into the Detailed Assessment

13.11.3 The CCRA assessment will assess the potential impact of the climate hazards identified in Paragraph 13.12.3 on the receptors (find and add ref) during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases and identify any significant effects from these hazards on the Proposed Development

## 13.12 Proposed Approach to the ES

13.12.1 The ES chapter will assess:

- the potential for climate change to impact the Proposed Development throughout the construction works, as a result of the completed development and through decommissioning;
- the significance of the identified impacts of climate change on the Proposed Development;
- any required mitigation or monitoring to address any likely significant adverse effects; and
- the potential for in-combination effects in relation to climate change with other environmental topics (In-Combination Climate Change Impact assessment).

13.12.2 The assessment of significance takes environmental measures adopted by the Proposed Development into account.

13.12.3 The climate hazards relevant to and considered in the assessment are as follows:

- Flooding;
- Extreme weather (wind and storms);
- Heat waves (inc. temperature increases);
- Drought (inc. reduced summer rainfall), and
- Increased precipitation.

### Assessment Methodology

13.12.4 The assessment of CCRA of the Proposed Development to future changes in climate will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology described in ISEP guidance.

13.12.5 The CCRA assessment will establish potential climate risks and consider the significance of that risk through an assessment of likelihood and consequence, taking into account design measures adopted by the Proposed Development.

### *Further Baseline Data*

13.12.6 Note that the baseline current and future climate conditions remain unchanged, regardless of whether the Proposed Development is built. Baseline conditions are therefore as established in **Section 13.9** above.

### *Determining Effect Significance*

13.12.7 A systematic risk assessment of climate risks listed in **Section 13.10** above will be undertaken during the design of the Proposed Development to identify the impact of expected extreme weather conditions arising from climate change on the Proposed Development, during construction and operation of the Proposed Development. This involves the identification of potential impacts of each climate risk on identified receptors. This is undertaken using professional judgement, with reference to relevant technical assessments and other reports to be submitted in support of the DCO application as appropriate (e.g. Flood Risk Assessment, Transport Assessment, land and work plan and landscape strategy etc.), and identifies the design measures to mitigate the impacts.

13.12.8 The significance of each hazard (using definitions in **Table 13-5** below) will be evaluated based on scoring the likely consequence and likelihood of that hazard arising, using a five-point scale described in **Table 13-6** and **Table 13-7**.The assessment of significance and scoring of likelihood and consequence are based on ISEP Guidance.

**Table 13-5: Qualitative Description of Consequence**

| Measure of Consequence | Description |
|---|---|
| Negligible | No damage to the Proposed Development, minimal adverse effects on health, safety and the environment or financial loss. Little change to service and disruption lasting less than one day. |
| Minor Adverse | Localised disruption or loss of service. No permanent damage, minor restoration work required: disruption lasting less than one day. Small financial losses and/or slight adverse health or environmental effects. |
| Moderate Adverse | Limited damage and loss of service with damage recoverable by maintenance or minor repair. Disruption lasting more than one day but less than one week. Moderate financial losses. Adverse effects on health or the environment. |
| Large Adverse | Extensive damage and severe loss of service. Disruption lasting more than one week. Early renewal of 50-90% of the Proposed Development. Permanent physical injuries and/or fatalities. Major financial loss. Significant effect on the environment, requiring remediation. |
| Very Large Adverse | Permanent damage and complete loss of service. Disruption lasting more than one week. Early renewal of the Proposed Development >90%. Severe health effects or fatalities. Extreme financial loss. Very significant loss to the environment requiring remediation and restoration. |

Table 13-6: Qualitative Description of Likelihood

| Measure of Likelihood | Description |
|---|---|
| Very High | The event occurs multiple times during the lifetime of the Proposed Development, i.e. 60 times or approximately annually. |
| High | The event occurs several times (approximately every five years or twelve events) during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. |
| Medium | The event occurs limited times (approximately every fifteen years or four events) during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. |
| Low | The event occurs once during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. |
| Very Low | The event may occur once during the lifetime of the Proposed Development or may not occur at all. |

13.12.9 These determinants are combined to assess the magnitude of effects on receptors, as shown in **Table 13-7** below. The assessment is qualitative and will use expert judgement based on knowledge of similar schemes, engagement with the Aspect Leads, and a review of relevant literature.

Table 13-7: Magnitude of Effects Matrix

| Likelihood of Hazard Occurring | Consequence of Hazard Occurring | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Negligible | Minor Adverse | Moderate Adverse | Large Adverse | Very Large Adverse |
| Very High | Not significant | Significant | Significant | Significant | Significant |
| High | Not significant | Significant | Significant | Significant | Significant |
| Medium | Not significant | Not significant | Significant | Significant | Significant |
| Low | Not significant | Not significant | Not significant | Significant | Significant |
| Very Low | Not significant | Not significant | Not significant | Not Significant | Not Significant |

13.12.10 Significant effects are determined as follows: major and moderate effects are considered to be significant and negligible and minor effects are considered not significant.

13.12.11 The assessment of significance follows the approach outlined in ISEP Guidance and takes environmental mitigation / adaptation into account. Environmental mitigation / adaptation will be identified through consultation with the Project Team.

### *In-Combination Climate Change Impact Assessment*

13.12.12 As part of the CCRA assessment piece, an In-Combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment will also be undertaken and presented within the ES. This will assess the extent to

which potential future climate change alters the environmental effects assessed by other EIA disciplines such as (but not limited to) flood risk, air quality, and noise and vibration.

### *Cumulative Assessment*

13.12.13 The assessment considers the impact of climate change on the Proposed Development (as opposed to the impact of the Proposed Development on climate change), and therefore an inter-project cumulative assessment is not applicable.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

13.12.14 The CCRA assessment will outline the potential impacts of climate change on the Proposed Development based on a qualitative assessment and professional judgement using knowledge of similar schemes.

13.12.15 The UKCP18 projections are the most up-to-date projections of climate change for the UK, and provide probabilistic projections of future climate for a range of emissions scenarios. Future GHGs emissions, and the resulting pathway, is uncertain. A precautionary approach, consistent with ISEP guidance will therefore be adopted by selecting a high emissions scenario (RCP8.5) for the 2060-2079 period, which offers the longest-term projections into the Proposed Development's operational lifetime.

The determination of significance will be undertaken under the assumption that industry design standards will be adhered to where detailed design information is unavailable.

# 14 Noise and Vibration

## 14.1 Introduction

14.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for Noise and Vibration. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

## 14.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

14.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Noise and Vibration, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- Control of Pollution Act 1974[284]; and
- Environmental Protection Act 1990[285].

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[286];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[287];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[288];
- Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) (2010)[289]; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[290] and Draft NPPF (December 2025)[291]

[284] UK Parliament, Control of Pollution Act 1974, Available: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40
[285] UK Parliament, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Part III, Available: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43
[286] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[287] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[288] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[289] Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2010. Noise Policy Statement for England. (last updated March 2010), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7956e0ed915d0422067947/pb13750-noise-policy.pdf
[290] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[291] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)

### Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[292]

### National Guidance

- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA[293]) Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment, 2014;
- BS 7445-1:2003, 'Description and measurement of environmental noise. Guide to quantities and procedures' (BS 7445-1, 2003)[294];
- BS 5228:2009+A1:2014, 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites', parts 1 and 2 (BS 5228, 2014)[295];
- ISO 9613-2:2024, 'Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: Engineering method for the production of sound pressure levels outdoors' (ISO 9613-2, 2024)[296];
- BS 4142:2014+A1:2019, 'Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound' (BS 4142, 2019)[297];
- BS 8233:2014, 'Guidance on Sound Insulation and Noise Reduction for Buildings' (BS 8233, 2014)[298];
- Calculation of Road Traffic Noise, Department for Transport Welsh Office, 1988 (CRTN)[299]; and
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, LA 111: Noise and Vibration (LA 111, Highways England, 2020)[300].

## 14.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

14.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for Noise and Vibration sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 14.4**).

### Study Area

14.3.2 The spatial extents of the construction noise and vibration and operational noise assessments are informed by pertinent standards and guidance, including *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Sustainability & Environmental Appraisal LA 111 Noise and Vibration* (LA 111, 2020), BS

[292] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[293] Rebranded as the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP), 17 July 2025.
294 British Standards Institution (BSI), 2003. BS 7445-1:2003, Description and measurement of environmental noise. Guide to quantities and procedures. London: BSI.
295 British Standards Institution (BSI), 2014. BS 5228:2009+A1:2014, Code of practise for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites, parts 1 and 2. London: BSI.
296 International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 2024, ISO 9613-2:2024 Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors — Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors.
297 British Standards Institution (BSI), 2019. BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound. London: BSI.
298 British Standards Institution (BSI), 2014. BS 8233:2014, Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings. London: BSI.
[299] Department for Transport Welsh Office (DFT), 1998, CRTN, Calculation of Road Traffic Noise.
300 Highways England, 2020, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, LA111: Noise and Vibration, Available: https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/cc8cfcf7-c235-4052-8d32-d5398796b364

5228:2009+A1:2014 '*Code of practice for noise and vibration control for construction and open sites*' Part 1 (BS 5228-1, 2014) and Part 2 (BS 5228-2, 2014), and ISO 9613-2:2024 '*Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors*' (ISO 9613-2, 2024).

### *Construction*

#### Construction Traffic Noise

14.3.3 The construction traffic Study Area for noise effects from construction vehicle movements to and from the construction site is within 50m of any road link likely to experience a change of 1 dB $L_{A10,18h}$ or greater as a result of construction traffic (routes presented in **Chapter 12**), and where the noise level is forecasted to exceed the relevant Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL).

#### Construction Noise

14.3.4 The Study Area for the construction noise assessment has been defined as 300m from the proposed construction works. As the location of the proposed construction works is not confirmed at this stage, a Construction Noise Study Area of 300m from the Site Boundary is proposed for the Construction Noise Assessment. The Construction Noise Study Area is presented in **Figure 14-1**.

#### Construction Vibration

14.3.5 The Study Area for the Construction Vibration Assessment has been defined as 100m from high energy construction activities, including road construction and piling. As the location of the proposed construction works is not confirmed at this stage, a Construction Vibration Study Area of 100m from the access road routes, and Site Boundary is proposed for the Construction Vibration Assessment. The Construction Vibration Study Area is presented in **Figure 14-2**.

### *Operation*

14.3.6 The Study Area for the operational noise assessment has been defined as 500m from proposed BESS and Substation equipment and 300m from inverters and Transformers. As the location of proposed plant is not known at the scoping stage, the Study Area has been set to 500m from the northern land parcel and the southern land parcels within the Site Boundary and is presented in **Figure 14-3**. Once the location of the proposed plant is known at the ES stage, the operational noise Study Area will be revised.

### *Decommissioning*

14.3.7 The activities undertaken during the decommissioning phase are not known at this stage, but they are likely to be similar to those proposed during the construction phase. Therefore, the Study Area for the Decommissioning Noise Assessment is 300m and the Study Area for the Decommissioning Vibration Assessment is 100m, the same as the Construction Noise & Vibration Assessment Study Areas, and are presented in **Figure 14-1** and **Figure 14-2**, respectively.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

14.3.8 Baseline data was collected using the following sources of data, and will be collected through project specific surveys:

- Available strategic noise mapping data in the vicinity of the Site Boundary. This dataset provides modelled levels of noise from transportation sources (in the vicinity of the Site,

this relates to road[301] and rail[302] traffic sources) and includes long-term average noise levels for both the day and night.

- Baseline noise survey data will be collected at selected locations around the Site Boundary. The baseline measurement locations will be selected to be representative of the range of background noise levels experienced at residential receptors in the vicinity of the Site, rather than attempting to measure baseline noise conditions at every residential property in the area. These locations will be discussed and agreed with the LPA.

14.3.9 At this stage, the baseline survey work is not complete. Therefore, this Scoping Chapter has taken a qualitative view of baseline conditions, rather than by reference to measured baseline noise levels. Information on the approach to the baseline assessment is provided later in the chapter in the Assessment Methodology section.

### Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

14.3.10 For the purposes of the Scoping Report, baseline noise levels have been established by reference to strategic noise mapping for the local area. The data is available online[301,302] and provides information relating to the likely levels of noise from roads and railway lines. The strategic noise mapping only presents transportation noise sources; therefore, baseline noise surveys need to be undertaken as part of the assessment to determine the contribution from any other existing sources of noise.

14.3.11 An initial review has been undertaken of the currently available information (see **Figure 14-4** and **Figure 14-5**). Noise associated with surrounding agricultural uses may be audible; however, these operations are likely restricted to daytime only.

14.3.12 The main sources of transportation noise that are likely to affect the Site Boundary and the surrounding area are the A164 and Hull to Scarborough Railway Line east of the northern land parcel, and A1079, A164, and B1230 surrounding the southern land parcel.

14.3.13 It is noted that the A164 south of the Beverely bypass is currently undergoing construction works and is likely to be undergoing construction works when the baseline noise survey is undertaken. However, once the completed A164 is open and traffic restrictions are lifted, noise levels across the southern land parcel are expected to increase. Therefore, background sound levels captured during the baseline noise survey are likely to be conservative.

## 14.4 Predicted Future Baseline

14.4.1 Future baseline ambient noise levels are likely to experience a gradual increase over time, primarily due to grow in road traffic. On low-speed roads (e.g. <30 mph), changes in car technology may partially offset some of the expected noise level increases that arise from aforementioned traffic growth. However, noise generated from tyre-road interaction dominates on higher speed roads and therefore, expected growth in road traffic on major roads (i.e., A164, and A1079) is likely to lead to a slight, but not significant increase in ambient ($L_{Aeq}$) noise levels regardless of changes in technology. Importantly, the assessment methodology for some aspects of the Proposed Development relies upon the quantification of background ($L_{A90}$) sound

[301] Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), Road Noise – All Metrics – England Round 4, Available: https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/562c9d56-7c2d-4d42-83bb-578d6e97a517
[302] Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), Rail Noise – All Metrics – England Round 4, Available: https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/562c9d56-7c2d-4d42-83bb-578d6e97a517

levels. Background sound levels (BSLs) at existing receptors around the Site are not considered to experience a material change in the future baseline compared to existing.

## 14.5 Important Receptors Identified

14.5.1 A number of residential receptors have been identified surrounding the Site, **Table 14-1** below presents these Receptor Groups and which Study Area (SA) they fall within. Any future decommissioning would be managed using the same controls as construction; receptors and pathways are therefore considered within the construction context rather than as a separate phase. The following key receptors have been identified and are shown in **Figure 14-6**.

14.5.2 The exact location of the grid connection route has not yet been determined, and it remains a cable search area. Therefore, the construction noise and construction vibration Study Areas and relevant Receptor Groups have not been presented in **Figure 14-6**. Upon receipt of a refined cable corridor within the broad cable search area, the construction noise Study Area will be defined in line with Paragraph 14.3.4.

Table 14-1: Identified Receptor Groups

| Group Ref | Receptor Group Name/Description | Use and Sensitivity | Construction Noise SA | Construction Vibration SA | Operational Noise SA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Walkington East End | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 2 | Walkington West End | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 3 | Bentley Hall | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 4 | Risby Grange | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 5 | Rectory Farm | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 6 | Bluestone Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 7 | Risby Park Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 8 | Lake Farm, Manor Farm, and West End Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 9 | Low Farm, Walkington Road | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 10 | Walk House | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 11 | Induna | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 12 | Plattwood Farm | Residential / High | No | No | No |

| Group Ref | Receptor Group Name/Description | Use and Sensitivity | Construction Noise SA | Construction Vibration SA | Operational Noise SA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | Eastwood Road | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 14 | Butt Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 15 | Bentley Lodge / Spring Mount | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 16 | Mouse Hill | Residential / High | No | No | No |
| 17 | Oaklands | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 18 | Coxwold / Glen Avon / Greenacres / Swallow Croft | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 19 | Spring Park Farm | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 20 | Burn Park Cottages | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 21 | Burn Park Farm | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 22 | Halfpenny Gate Cottages / Keepers Cottage | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 23 | Rotsea | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 24 | Whinnyforth | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 25 | Scurf Dyke Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 26 | Throstle Nest Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 27 | Decoy House Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 28 | Struncheon Hill Farm | Residential / High | No | No | No |
| 29 | Beck House / Bridge Farm / Bridge House | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 30 | Sleight's Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 31 | Angram Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |

| Group Ref | Receptor Group Name/Description | Use and Sensitivity | Construction Noise SA | Construction Vibration SA | Operational Noise SA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Manor Bungalow / Manor Farm / Rose Cottage / Soberhil Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 33 | Low Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 34 | Barff Hill Farm | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 35 | Aike | Residential / High | No | No | No |
| 36 | Carr House | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 37 | Station Farm | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 38 | Decoy Farm | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 39 | Railway Cottage | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 40 | Wilfholme Farm | Residential / High | Yes | No | Yes |
| 41 | Easingwold Farm | Residential / High | No | No | No |
| 42 | Rid Yat | Residential / High | Yes | Yes | Yes |

## 14.6 Environmental Measures

14.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Noise and Vibration will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

14.6.2 The DCO application will be supported by a series of outline management plan documents which will be secured through DCO Requirements to avoid and/or minimise effects during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. The management plans of relevance to the control of Construction Noise and Vibration include the:

- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP); and
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP).

14.6.3 The above management plans are detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**).

14.6.4 The nature of construction activities means that individual receptors can experience high noise levels for very short periods of time, for example during specific construction activities that need to take place close to a particular receptor. Whilst this short-term activity would typically not be sufficient to constitute a significant effect, it is good practice to minimise the noise and vibration that residents are exposed to during these activities. As such, and as discussed above, noise and vibration during construction will be controlled via a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP will include measures for the control of Noise and Vibration and is likely to include controls such as:

- Restrictions on times during which construction activities can take place;
- Selection of quiet/low vibration equipment where reasonably practicable to do so;
- Location of plant and equipment as far as reasonably practicable from sensitive receptors; and
- Use of noise reduction measures such as attenuators/noise screening.

14.6.5 The construction works will be carried out following Best Practicable Means (BPM) measures as per the code of practice in BS 5228-1 for Noise and BS 5228-2 for Vibration.

### Operation and Maintenance

14.6.6 The DCO application will be supported by a series of outline management plan documents which will be secured through DCO Requirements to avoid and/or minimise effects during the operation and maintenance stage of the Proposed Development. The management plan of relevance to the control of operational noise is:

- Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP).

14.6.7 The oOEMP will include measures such as:

- Locating potentially noise generating equipment as far as reasonably practicable from noise sensitive receptors;
- Selection of quieter equipment where practicable;
- Inclusion of manufacturer's noise attenuation where required; and
- Inclusion of noise barriers where necessary.

14.6.8 Details on the commitments during the operation and maintenance phase are included within the Scoping Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**).

14.6.9 The BESS, substation and inverter equipment have the potential to be main sources of operational noise associated with the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development design process will seek to locate these sources of potentially higher operational noise away from sensitive receptors in order to minimise potential impacts. This equipment will therefore be located further than 300m from the nearest noise-sensitive receptor in all cases.

### Decommissioning

14.6.10 The DCO application will be supported by a series of outline management plan documents which will be secured through DCO Requirement to avoid and/or minimise effects during the decommissioning stage of the project. The management plans of relevance to control of Decommissioning Noise and Vibration include:

- Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP); and
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).

14.6.11 At this stage of the assessment, detailed information regarding the plant and activities likely to be required during decommissioning is unavailable. As such, specific embedded mitigation measures cannot yet be defined. However, it is anticipated that mitigation measures adopted during decommissioning will broadly follow those proposed for managing Noise and Vibration impacts during construction, which are detailed within the Scoping Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**).

## 14.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

14.7.1 An overview of other consultation undertaken to date for Noise and Vibration, and how this has informed the scope to the assessment is provided in **Table 14-2**.

Table 14-2: Consultation Undertaken to Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| 26/05/26 | East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) | An email has been sent to ERYC detailing aspects of the assessment proposed to be scoped in/out of the assessment. At the time of writing, a response from ERYC has not yet been received. |

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

14.7.2 **Table 14-3** presents the Noise and Vibration matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 14-3: Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Construction Traffic Noise | Based on traffic generation during the construction phase it is anticipated that there will be approximately 80 HGV and 130 Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) daily traffic movements during the construction phase. A detailed assessment is required where a change in Basic Noise Level (BNL) of 1 dB or more is predicted on any road on the local road network, which corresponds to approximately 25% increase in traffic. Baseline traffic information is not available at the scoping stage, however, given the relatively small number of construction traffic movements anticipated, it is unlikely that construction traffic will increase traffic on the local road network enough to result |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | in a 1 dB change. On this basis, a detailed construction traffic noise assessment is scoped out at this stage.<br>This assumption will be reviewed once baseline and final construction traffic data are available. Should subsequent information indicate that the 1 dB threshold may be exceeded on any link, a detailed assessment will be undertaken as part of the ES. |
| Construction Traffic Vibration | The proposed construction traffic route is likely to already carry HGVs, so any additional construction movements are unlikely to generate levels of vibration that are different from those already experienced. Roads are assumed to have a well-maintained surface and would not be a significant source of vibration from construction road traffic. It is therefore proposed that the effects of vibration from construction traffic. |
| Operational Traffic Noise and Vibration | The maintenance of the Proposed Development is likely to require minimal presence of operatives on Site Boundary. Vehicle movements generated during the operational and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development will comprise of activities associated with inspection, equipment replacement, monitoring, and general Site up-keep. |
| Operational Noise – Tracking Panel Motors | Noise from tracking panel motors are expected to be negligible due to the extremely slow rate at which they operate. Operational noise from tracking panels is therefore proposed to be scoped out of the detailed assessment. |
| Operational Noise – Underground Power Transmission Cable | The underground power transmission cable will be wrapped in insulation and dampened by the soil. Therefore, will produce negligible levels of airborne noise. |
| Operational Noise - Maintenance | The potential noise levels arising from the maintenance of the Proposed Development is equivalent to any agricultural works present in the area and activities would occur very occasionally. |
| Operational Vibration | Solar and BESS developments do not make use of any plant or equipment that generates significant vibration levels during operation. |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped In to the Detailed Assessment

14.7.3 The construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment, which include:

- Construction Noise and Vibration – Potential sources of on-site noise from construction plant and equipment include piling, earthworks, concreting, access road construction, highways works etc. At this stage, the precise locations and durations of work, and the precise works required are not yet known, but on-site construction activities have the potential to cause impacts at sensitive receptors.
- Operational Noise – There is the potential for operational noise from inverters, transformers, BESS containers and ancillary equipment to cause impacts at sensitive receptors.

- Decommissioning Noise and Vibration – It is not possible to undertake a detailed assessment of decommissioning noise and vibration at this stage, but it is expected that potential impacts associated with decommissioning will be similar to that of the construction of the Proposed Development.

## 14.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

14.8.1 A baseline noise survey will be undertaken to characterise the existing ambient noise environment at nearby residential receptors within the study area. This will include unattended measurements of the existing ambient noise levels at locations representative of noise sensitive receptors. The monitoring locations will be discussed and agreed in principle with representatives of ERYC prior to the survey taking place, but will be subject to variation depending on local site conditions.

14.8.2 It is currently anticipated that up to ten monitoring locations will be required in order to adequately capture baseline noise conditions in the vicinity of the northern and southern parcels of the Site Boundary. The baseline noise survey will be undertaken in accordance with BS 7445-1. Unattended measurements will be undertaken for a period of 4-7 days, inclusive of typical weekday and weekend periods. Monitoring locations will include positions that are representative of baseline conditions at noise sensitive receptor positions that have the potential to experience noise from fixed plant and equipment associated with the Proposed Development.

14.8.3 These areas will be identified at appropriate locations within the northern and southern land parcels, based on receptor sensitivity and proximity to potential sources, and confirmed following further design development.

#### *Construction Noise*

14.8.4 The assessment of noise from on-site construction activities will be carried out with reference to the criteria set out in BS 5228-1:2014. The criteria that will be adopted for the assessment will be based upon methodologies presented within Annex E of BS 5228-1:2014, for example the 'ABC Method', as summarised in **Table 14-4**.

Table 14-4: Construction Noise (Fixed and Mobile Plant) – 'ABC Method' Noise Thresholds

| Noise Source | Receptor | Period | Threshold Value (dB $L_{Aeq,T}$) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Category A | Category B | Category C |
| Construction Noise | Residential | Daytime | 65 dB $L_{Aeq,12h}$ | 70 dB $L_{Aeq,12h}$ | 75 dB $L_{Aeq,12h}$ |
| | Residential | Evening | 55 dB $L_{Aeq,4h}$ | 60 dB $L_{Aeq,4h}$ | 65 dB $L_{Aeq,4h}$ |
| | Residential | Night-time | 45 dB $L_{Aeq,8h}$ | 50 dB $L_{Aeq,8h}$ | 55 dB $L_{Aeq,8h}$ |
| Clarifications, notes, and threshold periods:<br>Daytime: Weekdays (07:00-19:00) and Saturdays (07:00-13:00)<br>Evening: Weekdays (19:00-23:00), Saturdays (13:00-23:00), Sundays and Bank Holidays (07:00-23:00)<br>Night-time: Weekdays, Weekends and Bank Holidays (23:00-07:00) | | | | | |

### *Construction Vibration*

14.8.5 The consideration of ground borne vibration effects, for instance those associated with high-impact activities such as piling, shall be considered using criteria advocated in BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014, and other vibration standards and guidance reference in this Standard (e.g., BS 6472-1:2008 and BS 7385-2:1993).

14.8.6 The effect of human exposure to vibration from sources other than blasting is covered in BS 6472. The Standard provides guidance for predicting human response to vibration in buildings over the frequency range of 0.5 Hz to 80 Hz. It presents frequency-weighting curves for humans exposed to whole-body vibration, advice on measurement methods and methods for assessing continuous, intermittent and impulsive vibrations.

14.8.7 BS 6472:2008 uses the vibration dose value (VDV $ms^{-1.75}$) to determine the effect of vibration on human receptors within the buildings, as "*[p]resent knowledge shows that this type of vibration is best evaluated with the vibration dose value (VDV).*" As noted in BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014, for construction it is considered more appropriate to consider effects of vibration levels in terms of Peak Particle Velocity (PPV $mms^{-1}$).

14.8.8 The use of the PPV metric is also consistent within BS 7385:1993, which presents assessment criteria to be applied for the likelihood of cosmetic damage to buildings.

14.8.9 The assessment of noise from on-site construction activities will be carried out with reference to the criteria set out in BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014 and BS 7385:1993 as presented in **Table 14-5**.

Table 14-5: Vibration Limits for Human Response and Building (Cosmetic) Damage

| Vibration Limit (PPV $mms^{-1}$) | Effect |
|---|---|
| <0.14 | Vibration unlikely to be perceptible |
| 0.14 | Vibration might be just perceptible in the most sensitive situations for most vibration frequencies associated with construction. At lower frequencies, people are less sensitive to vibration. |
| 0.30 | Vibration might be just perceptible in residential environments. |
| 1.00 | It is likely that vibration of this level in residential environments will cause complaint but can be tolerated if prior warning and explanation has been given to the residents. |
| 7.50 | Guide value for cosmetic damage of residential buildings where dynamic loading has been given the residents. |
| 10.00 | Vibration is likely to be intolerable for any more than a very brief exposure to these levels in most building environments. |

### *Operation and Maintenance*

14.8.10 BS 4142:2019 is used to rate and assess sound of an industrial nature including but not limited to assessing sound from proposed, new, modified, or additional sources of industrial sound. It contains guidance on the monitoring and assessment of industrial and commercial sound

sources (including fixed installations comprising mechanical and electrical plant and equipment) affecting sensitive receptors.

14.8.11 The methodology relies on comparing the operational rating level $L_{Ar,Tr}$, with the background sound level, $L_{A90,T}$ (i.e. the level that would be present without the development) over a representative time period. BS 4142 provides guidance on the measurement of background sound, the determination for specific sound and calculation of the rating level.

14.8.12 Certain acoustic features can increase the significance of impact over that expected from a basic comparison between the specific sound level and the background sound level. A character correction should be added to the specific sound level to obtain the rating level, where such features are present at the assessment location. It states that the specific sound level should be corrected if a tone, impulse or other characteristic occurs, or is expected to be present for new sound sources. This can be approached in three ways, however the subjective method is considered to be appropriate for this assessment. This states that the specific sound level should be corrected if a tone, impulse or other characteristic occurs, or is expected to be present for new sound sources.

14.8.13 The BS 4142 assessment methodology also states that:

*"Typically, the higher the rating level is above the background sound level the greater the magnitude of impact;*

*A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of significant adverse impact, depending on the context;*

*A difference of around +5 dB or more is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context;*

*The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or a significant adverse impact. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context."*

14.8.14 In order to determine the impact threshold levels for the assessment of operational industrial sound, the difference between the rating level and background sound level is considered, as advocated by the methodology within BS 4142.

### *Decommissioning*

14.8.15 As discussed above, it is unlikely that sufficient information will be available to carry out detailed calculations of likely significant effects of noise during decommissioning, due to advances in technology and accurate information in relation to plant and machinery that will be used for decommissioning. An outline assessment of the potential impacts of noise and vibration during decommissioning will be provided based on the outcome of the construction noise and vibration assessment, which is likely to involve similar types of activities to decommissioning and is therefore expected result in similar noise and vibration impacts.

### *Cumulative Assessments*

14.8.16 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

14.8.17 At this stage, limitations and uncertainties related to noise are due to details of precise design of the Proposed Development and the quantities, locations and specifications of potentially noise generating plant and equipment being currently unavailable. As the design develops, this information will become available, however it is likely that further uncertainties and limitations will be identified as more information becomes available. These will be identified in the assessment wherever necessary and reported in the ES.

## Significance of Effect

14.8.18 The identification of likely significant effects requires consideration of the following:

- Significant adverse effects on health and quality of life, as identified through Government noise policy set out by the NPSE;
- Environmental likely significant effects (adverse and beneficial) required by the EIA regulations; and
- Cumulative noise effects (inter-project effects).

14.8.19 Government policy (NPSE) and guidance (PPG-N) establish effect levels relating to the likelihood of significant adverse effects on health and quality of life. Notably:

- LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level;
- SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level; and
- UAEL – Unacceptable Adverse Effect Level.

14.8.20 The NPSE states that a 'single objective' noise based measure applicable to all sources and receptors that defines the onset of LOAEL and SOAEL is not possible. However, thresholds can be defined based upon relevant policy, available standards and technical guidance.

14.8.21 Likely significant effects on health and quality of life are considered to have occurred should noise exposure from the proposed development result in a noise-sensitive receptor newly exceeding the SOAEL, taking into account any mitigation or compensation measures that are part of the Proposed Development.

14.8.22 A significant effect is not deemed to occur where noise exposure from the Proposed Development is below LOAEL.

14.8.23 Where noise exposure from the Proposed Development falls between LOAEL and SOAEL, Government policy requires that the Proposed Development should include measures, where it is sustainable to do so, to 'mitigate and minimise' adverse effects.

14.8.24 In EIA terms, determining whether a significant effect occurs where noise exposure lies between the LOAEL and SOAEL thresholds requires consideration of quantitative and qualitative factors, including:

- Noise exposure;
- Change in noise level;
- Type and magnitude of impact;

- Existing ambient acoustic environment;
- Additional metrics such as (LAmax);
- How effective the measures employed to mitigate the effect are likely to be, based on professional judgement (including best practicable means (BPM)); and
- The duration of effect.

14.8.25 The final assessment of significance for a specific source of noise is a combination of receptor sensitivity, magnitude of impact (either in terms of noise exposure or change in noise exposure, or a combination of the two), and consideration of context based on the remaining factors described above.

# 15 Human Health

## 15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for Human Health. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

## 15.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

15.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Human Health, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
- Health and Care Act 2022; and
- Other legislation found in other aspect chapters, such as the Environmental Act 2021, Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Control of Pollution Act 1974, will be considered where necessary.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[303] – Section 4.4 sets out the assessment principles for health;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[304], including section 2.10 on solar photovoltaic generation, notably paragraphs 2.10.2 on green jobs, 2.10.32 to 2.10.37 on public rights of ways and 2.10.123 screening of visual impacts;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[305], including at paragraph 2.9.56 relevant provisions of the adoption of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidance on electro-magnetic fields;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 (updated February 2025)[306] and Draft NPPF 2025[307] – Paragraph 96c of the NPPF 2024 states that decisions should aim to enable

[303] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[304] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[305] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[306] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[307] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/697b71c52ff8d10a830d5d4a/Draft_NPPF_December_2025.pdf

and support healthy lives, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs; Paragraph 98b of the NPPF 2024 states that decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community; and Policy HC1: Planning for healthy communities in the Draft NPPF 2025 promotes the creation of healthy and inclusive places and engagement with local communities and service providers in public service infrastructure planning decisions.

- Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England (published July 2025). A key policy focus is on prevention, making the healthy choice the easy choice.

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039 (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[308], including policy C3: Providing public open space for leisure and recreation;
- East Riding Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2023-2028)[309]; and
- East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2026)[310].

## National Guidance

- Planning practice guidance (2024)[311] – provides further guidance on promoting health and safe communities and mentions health impact assessments as a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts[312]. Several Guidance are relevant for this assessment, namely: Air Quality, Climate Change, Environmental Impact Assessment, Flood Risk and Coastal Change, Healthy and Safe Communities, Land affected by Contamination, Natural Environment, Noise, Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, and Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements;
- Institute of Sustainability & Environmental Professionals (ISEP - formerly IEMA) Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)[313] – provides guidance on proportionate scoping of Human Health within an EIA; and
- ISEP (formerly IEMA) Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)[314] – provides guidance on consideration of health as a topic within an EIA.

[308] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents), Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[309] East Riding Health and Wellbeing Board (2023) East Riding Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Available: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/plans-and-policies/all-plans-policies-and-strategies/Joint%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy%202023-2028.pdf
[310] East Riding Health and Wellbeing Board (2026). East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Available: https://eastridingjsna.com/
[311] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024) Planning Practice Guidance, Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
[312] Ministry and Housing, Communities & Local Government (2022) Health and safe communities, Available: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing
[313] Pyper, R., Lamming, M., Beard, C., Waples, H., Birley, M., Buroni, A., Douglas, M., Turton, P., Hardy, K., Netherton, A., McClenaghan, R., Barratt, T., Bhatt, A., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Gibson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available: https://www.iema.net/media/s35fughe/iema-eia-guide-to-effective-scoping-of-human-health-nov-2022.pdf
[314] Pyper, R., Waples, H., Beard, C., Barratt, T., Hardy, K., Turton, P., Netherton, A., McDonald, J., Buroni, A., Bhatt, A., Phelan, E., Scott, I., Fisher, T., Christian, G., Ekermawi, R., Devine, K., McClenaghan, R., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Determining Significance for Human Health in

### Local Guidance

- The Proposed Development falls within East Riding of Yorkshire Council area, which in turn lies within the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority area. East Riding of Yorkshire Council does not have specific local Health Impact Assessment (HIA) guidance and instead rely on national guidance and internal public-health practice.
- Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Emerging Local Growth Plan (2026)[315].

## 15.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

15.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for Human Health sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (ES) (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 15.4**).

### Study Area

15.3.2 Two types of study areas are used in the health assessment. Firstly, the Human Health Study Areas will be determined by reference to the study areas for other key disciplines: **Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual**, **Chapter 12: Transport and Access** and **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration.** Socioeconomic effects relevant to health area considered through the local and regional level study areas outlined in Paragraph 15.3.5.

15.3.3 The health assessment will also use its own study areas based on public health data for geographical areas that define representative population groups in a consistent way across a range of health determinants. Site-specific, local, regional and national Human Health Study Areas are defined, the approach recommended by ISEP guidance. These allow a focus on localised effects, including health inequalities, as well as consideration of wider influences on population health. The Human Health Study Areas are visualised in **Figure 15-1** and **Figure 15-2** which shows the geographic extent of the Study Area.

15.3.4 **Chapter 5: Description of the Proposed Development** provides a description of the Proposed Development including design flexibility within the evolving layout and technical parameters of the Proposed Development. The Human Health site-specific study areas will be refined as appropriate in relation to the cable search area and other Proposed Development infrastructure once the design details of those elements are further developed.

15.3.5 The Human Health Study Areas relate to:

- **The Site (plus 300m buffer)**: comprising the land and infrastructure within the Site plus a 300m radius (in alignment with the radius proposed in **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration** for construction noise effects) indicative of localised population effects (shown in **Figure 15-1**).
- **Three Human Health site-specific study areas** comprising relevant Middle-layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) for the following three project elements, the population health effects of which require distinguishing within the health assessment. The Human Health site-specific study areas are shown in **Figure 15-1**.

Environmental Impact Assessment, Available: https://www.iema.net/media/yljb2nbs/iema-eia-guide-to-determining-significance-for-human-health-nov-2022.pdf
[315] Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (2025) Local Growth Plan, Available: https://www.hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk/lgp

- **Site-specific study area indicative of the cable search area** comprising the cable search area, illustrating the area for cabling running between the northern and southern land parcels that link to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extensions, Wanlass Beck, and export the electricity to the National Grid:
    - This site-specific study area comprises the MSOAs of East Riding of Yorkshire 013, East Riding of Yorkshire 016, East Riding of Yorkshire 017, East Riding of Yorkshire 019, East Riding of Yorkshire 020 and East Riding of Yorkshire 024.
    - There are a number of villages and civil parishes located in proximity to the grid connection cable corridor: Scorborough, Leconfield, Cherry Burton, Bishop Burton and Walkington. Although these areas represent Lower-level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with low levels of deprivation, there are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) footpaths that intersect with the cable search area.
- **Site-specific study area indicative of the northern land parcel** comprising solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, interconnecting cabling and associated power conversion stations units incorporating inverters, transformers and switchgear that are required to manage electricity generated by the solar PV modules:
    - This site-specific study area comprises the MSOAs of East Riding of Yorkshire 008 and East Riding of Yorkshire 013.
    - East Riding of Yorkshire 008 is relevant to the village of Hutton Cranswick and Watton located in proximity to the Northern Land Parcel. East Riding of Yorkshire 013 includes the villages of Aike, Kilnwick, Beswick and Scorborough. The LSOAs covering these villages are among those with average to moderately low deprivation nationally.
- **Site-specific study area indicative of the southern land parcel** comprising solar PV arrays, interconnecting cabling and associated power conversion stations units, as well as BESS infrastructure compounds including electrochemical components and associated equipment and the existing electrical infrastructure associated with the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck:
    - This site-specific study area comprises the MSOAs of East Riding of Yorkshire 017, East Riding of Yorkshire 019, East Riding of Yorkshire 020, East Riding of Yorkshire 022, East Riding of Yorkshire 023 and East Riding of Yorkshire 024.
    - Little Weighton, Skidby and Cottingham are located south of the Site Boundary and Beverley is located to the north east. The LSOAs covering the southern land parcel fall within the 30-50% least deprived neighbourhoods nationally, indicating relatively low to average levels of deprivation. However, there are areas of deprivation nearby, including to the south in Cottingham and Kingston upon Hull, and to the north east in Beverley.
- **Local level study area**: representative of the district level councils of East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull City Council and North Lincolnshire (shown in **Figure 15-2**). These councils operate as unitary authorities, performing the function of both district and county councils.
    - Although most health effects are expected to be concentrated in East Riding of Yorkshire and the neighbouring Kingston upon Hull City Council, the local level study area has been aligned with the Labour Market Focus Area presented in **Chapter 16:**

**Socioeconomics.** This reflects the interrelationship between socioeconomic characteristics (i.e. income, employment, skills) and health outcomes, and enables a consistent assessment of employment, income, education and training effects across both disciplines.

- **Regional level study area**: encompassing the wider population of Yorkshire and the Humber including North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire (including Kingston Upon Hull), West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire (shown in **Figure 15-2**). This includes the cities of Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, York, Wakefield, Ripon, Kingston upon Hull, and Doncaster.
    - The regional level study area has been aligned with the Labour Market Area presented in **Chapter 16: Socioeconomics**.
- **National level study area**: The national population of England, in relation to public benefits of renewable energy security.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

15.3.6 For the purposes of the Scoping Report, baseline health conditions have been established by referencing public health data issued by the Department of Health and Social Care Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)[316], Office for National Statistics (ONS) and supported by the following site-specific sources:

- East Riding of Yorkshire Council Intelligence Hub[317];
- East Riding Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy[318];
- East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)[319];
- Kingston upon Hull Data Observatory[320];
- Kingston upon Hull City Council JSNA[321]; and
- North Lincolnshire Health Intelligence Hub[322].

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

15.3.7 The Proposed Development is located within the jurisdiction of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and borders Kingston upon Hull at the southernmost boundary. The Proposed Development comprises a single Site, which includes two principal land parcels; the northern land parcel and the southern land parcel, and a cable search area between the two separate parcels of land.

[316] Department of Health & Social Care (2025). Local Authority Health Profiles. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000003/ati/302/are/E06000011/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0
[317] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2024). Intelligence Hub. Available at: https://intel-hub.eastriding.gov.uk/
[318] East Riding Health and Wellbeing Board (2023) East Riding Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Available: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/plans-and-policies/all-plans-policies-and-strategies/Joint%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy%202023-2028.pdf
[319] East Riding Health and Wellbeing Board (2026). East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Available: https://eastridingjsna.com/
[320] Kingston upon Hull City Council (2026). Kingston upon Hull Data Observatory. Available at: https://data.hull.gov.uk/
[321] Kingston upon Hull City Council (2026). Hull Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Available at: https://www.hulljsna.com/
[322]

15.3.8 As outlined in **Chapter 2: Description of the Site and Surrounding Area**, the nearest villages in proximity to the northern land parcel include Aike, Hutton Cranswick, Watton and Beswick as well as a number of isolated properties and hamlets across the landscape. In terms of the southern land parcel, the nearest villages include Risby, Walkington, Little Weighton, Skidby and Cottingham. The nearest town to the Proposed Development is Beverley, located approximately 900m north of the southern land parcel.

15.3.9 The Site Boundary is predominantly arable agricultural land and consists of a mixture of Grade 2 (Very Good) and Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) land. This classification is based on publicly available data from Natural England[323].

15.3.10 Relevant health indicators for the local level study area, regional level study area and England are set out in **Table 15-1** below using the latest OHID public health data[324] and the 2021 Census[325]. The assessment stage would set out a more detailed baseline, including indicators for at MSOA level and relevant community profiles.

15.3.11 Life expectancy in East Riding of Yorkshire is similar to England overall and the highest within the local level study area. The greatest variation from the national average is recorded for men in Kingston upon Hull, where life expectancy is 4.1 years lower than the national average.

15.3.12 The East Riding of Yorkshire JSNA states that there are wide variations within the area with respect to life expectancy (in 2022-24), highlighting that the gap in life-expectancy between the most and least deprived areas is more than 10 years for men, and 7.1 years for women[326]. For Kingston upon Hull life expectancy (in 2022-24) differs by 11 years for men and by 9.5 years for women[327].

15.3.13 East Riding of Yorkshire has lower-than-national-average mortality rates across the indicators, whereas Kingston upon Hull and North Lincolnshire have higher-than-national average rates. In particular, the under 75 all-cause mortality rate is substantially higher in Kingston upon Hull, exceeding the England average by over 170 deaths per 100,000 population and East Riding of Yorkshire by over 200 deaths per 100,000. No data is available via OHID for indicators on mortality rate due to respiratory disease.

15.3.14 In terms of mental health, the East Riding of Yorkshire JSNA states that common mental health disorders are most prevalent among young adults, affecting around 1 in 4 aged 16–24 (25-26% of the population)[328]. This prevalence declines steadily with age but affects around 1 in 6 adults overall (17-18% of the population). The prevalence of common mental health disorders in adults broadly aligns with the wider region and England.

[323] Natural England Open Data, Defra group ArcGIS Online organisation (2017, last updated, 2024). Provisional Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) (England). Available at: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::provisional-agricultural-land-classification-alc-england/explore?location=53.799638%2C-0.504209%2C12
[324] Department of Health & Social Care (2025). Local Authority Health Profiles. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000003/ati/302/are/E06000011/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0
[325] Office for National Statistics (2021). Census 2021: Topic Summaries. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?opt=3&theme=&subgrp=
[326] East Riding Health and Wellbeing Board (2026). East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Available: https://eastridingjsna.com/
[327] Kingston upon Hull City Council (2026). Hull Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Available at: https://www.hulljsna.com/
[328] East Riding of Yorkshire (n-d). East Riding JSNA: Mental Health and Wellbeing. Available at: https://eastridingjsna.com/mental-health-and-wellbeing/

15.3.15 Relevant demographic and behavioural indicators for the local level study area, regional level study area and England are provided in **Table 15-2** using the latest OHID public health data[329]. This highlights that East Riding of Yorkshire has an ageing population, particularly in comparison to Kingston upon Hull which has a younger population.

15.3.16 Behavioural indicators for ill-health like obesity, overweight adults and levels of physical activity indicate a comparatively healthier population in East Riding to Yorkshire than in Kingston upon Hull and North Lincolnshire. While indicators for unhealthy weight (overweight and obese) in the local level study area are all above the national average, Kingston upon Hull has a notably larger proportion of obese Year 6 pupils, particularly compared to East Riding of Yorkshire. This difference is narrower when looking at the prevalence of overweight adults, while North Lincolnshire has a higher proportion of overweight adults overall. In terms of physical activity, adults in East Riding of Yorkshire at 9-10% more active than those in Kingston upon Hull and North Lincolnshire.

15.3.17 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025[330] indicates that East Riding of Yorkshire is the least deprived unitary authority within the local study area, with an average IMD score[331] of 15.8 compared to 37.5 in Kingston upon Hull and 23.5 in North Lincolnshire. **Figure 15-3** provides an overview of overall deprivation across the site-specific study areas.

15.3.18 While the Human Health site-specific study areas are mostly less deprived, it sits alongside pockets of greater deprivation in the surrounding area.

- The Human Health site-specific study area indicative of the northern land parcel has neighbouring LSOAs to the north and north-west with higher levels of deprivation, including areas within the 30% and 40% most deprived nationally, including pockets of high deprivation in Driffield and Bridlington.
- Kingston upon Hull represents the most deprived areas relevant to the Proposed Development. The LSOAs located south east of substation (in proximity to the Human Health site-specific study area indicative of the southern land parcel) in Kingston upon Hull 003A, Kingston upon Hull 003B, Kingston upon Hull 003C, Kingston upon Hull 003D, Kingston upon Hull 003E (shown in **Figure 15-4**).

15.3.19 Only a summary baseline is provided at this scoping stage. Additional baseline indicators, including at the MSOA site-specific level will be presented in the ES Human Health chapter.

[329] Department of Health & Social Care (2025). Local Authority Health Profiles. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000003/ati/302/are/E06000011/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0
[330] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025). English indices of deprivation 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025
[331] The IMD score is a composite measure of relative deprivation showing how deprived an area is across multiple dimensions. A higher score represents more deprivation.

Table 15-1: Health indicators

| Indicator | Period | East Riding of Yorkshire | Kingston upon Hull | North Lincolnshire | Yorkshire and the Humber | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Life expectancy at birth (Male, years) | 2023-25 | 80.1 | 75.5 | 77.5 | 78.5 | 79.7 |
| Life expectancy at birth (Female, years) | 2023-25 | 83.7 | 81.5 | 82.0 | 82.5 | 83.5 |
| General health (% very good or good) | 2021 | 80.3 | 78.2 | 78.8 | 80.5 | 82.2 |
| General health (% very bad and bad) | 2021 | 5.4 | 6.8 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (per 100,000) | 2025 | 289.1 | 494.3 | 411.9 | 362.8 | 321.0 |
| Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases (per 100,000) | 2025 | 61.9 | 127.5 | 80.1 | 83.2 | 71.5 |
| Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (per 100,000) | 2025 | 111.8 | 152.1 | 139.2 | 125.1 | 114.6 |
| Emergency hospital admissions: intentional self-harm (per 100,000) | 2023-24 | 90.7 | 149.4 | 83.0 | 114.2 | 117.0 |
| Employment (%) | 2024-25 | 79.3 | 72.9 | 66.6 | 73.5 | 75.7 |

Table 15-2: Behavioural indicators

| Indicator | Period | East Riding of Yorkshire | Kingston upon Hull | North Lincolnshire | Yorkshire and the Humber | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population aged under 18 (%) | 2024 | 17.7 | 22.7 | 20.2 | 20.8 | 20.8 |
| Population aged 65+ (%) | 2024 | 27.1 | 15.5 | 22.9 | 19.3 | 18.7 |
| Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) in Year 6 (% 10-11 years) | 2024-25 | 22.7 | 27.8 | 26.2 | 24.1 | 22.2 |
| Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) in adults (% 18+ years) | 2024-25 | 68.3 | 69.6 | 74.2 | 68.2 | 64.6 |
| Physically active adults (% 19+ years) | 2024-25 | 70.1 | 60.0 | 61.0 | 67.0 | 68.0 |

## 15.4 Predicted Future Baseline

15.4.1 Public health data presents a snapshot at a particular time. However, population health is subject to continuing influences at the individual and community level. This includes seasonal variation in communicable illness and physical activity, as well as macro-economic trends in incomes and cost of living affecting spend on health promoting resources and activities.

15.4.2 The 2025 Chief Medical Officer report[332] sets out the key trends for the population health baseline, including in relation to inequalities. The report summaries that the population has gone through a major demographic change over a century and the proportion of older adults is projected to increase. Rural areas have a higher proportion of older people than urban areas. Most areas are ageing, but by 2043 the largest proportions of the population aged 85 and over will remain predominantly in rural areas. The number of older adults will increase more rapidly than the number of people of working age, with changes to the old age dependency ratio. The increase in older adults compared with working age adults will affect most areas. Disease burden increases with age. Multimorbidity (multiple conditions at once) increases with age but is more prevalent in more deprived areas, especially in younger age groups.

15.4.3 Climate change may also exacerbate physical and mental health risk factors, particularly around flooding and extremes of temperature. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has undertaken a detailed review of the health effects of climate change[333].

15.4.4 The trends discussed in these publications have been reviewed and will be taken into account by the health assessment. The trends primarily affect the proportion of the population who are vulnerable, notably due to older age, rurality, deprivation and associated morbidity and mortality risks.

## 15.5 Important Receptors Identified

15.5.1 As confirmed in the ISEP Effective Scoping guidance[334] "for health in EIA, population groups are the sensitive receptors, the health outcomes of which are considered" and that "relevant population groups for each scoped in wider determinant of health should consider both geographic populations and vulnerable sub-populations".

15.5.2 Key sensitive receptors to be considered in the assessment would be the vulnerable or priority groups identified through the more detailed baseline analysis that follows after the scoping stage.

- The 'general population' are defined as including residents, visitors, workers, service providers and service users.

[332] UK Government, Department of Health and Social Care. Research and analysis. Health trends and variation in England 2025: a Chief Medical Officer report. 25 September 2025. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-trends-and-variation-in-england-2025-a-chief-medical-officer-report
[333] UK Government, UK Health Security Agency. Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) in the UK. December 2024. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-effects-of-climate-change-hecc-repor
[334] Pyper, R., Lamming, M., Beard, C., Waples, H., Birley, M., Buroni, A., Douglas, M., Turton, P., Hardy, K., Netherton, A., McClenaghan, R., Barratt, T., Bhatt, A., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Gibson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available: https://www.iema.net/media/s35fughe/iema-eia-guide-to-effective-scoping-of-human-health-nov-2022.pdf

- The 'vulnerable sub-population groups' are defined as follows; people falling into more than one group may be especially sensitive:
    - Young age: Children and young people (including pregnant women and unborn children).
    - Old age: Older people (particularly frail elderly).
    - Low income: People on low income, who are economically inactive or unemployed/workless.
    - Health status: People with existing poor health; those with existing long-term physical or mental health conditions or disability that substantially affects their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities; people who identify as neurodivergent.
    - Social disadvantage: People who suffer discrimination or other social disadvantage, including relevant protected characteristics or groups who may experience low social status or social isolation for other reasons.
    - Access and geographical factors: People experiencing barriers in access to services, amenities and facilities and people living in areas known to exhibit high deprivation or poor economic and/or health indicators

15.5.3 For each determinant of health, the health assessment will identify relevant inequalities through consideration of the differential effect to the 'general population' of the relevant study area and effects to the 'vulnerable population sub-group' of that study area. The vulnerable population group being comprised of relevant sensitivities for that determinant of health. The differentiation of the general population from the vulnerable group population allows a discussion of any likely significant health inequalities and the targeting of any mitigation.

15.5.4 In addition, PRoW users will be considered – there are a number of local footpaths that either run through or are in direct proximity to the Human Health site-specific study areas as follows:

- The site-specific study area indicative of the cable search area:
    - The main PRoW for Scorborough – Leconfield Footpath No.1 (LECOFO1) – extends across the breadth of the cable search area.
    - Situated north west of Leconfield, Leconfield Footpath No. 7 (LECOF07) intersects with the outer boundary of the cable search area alongside a series of bridleways, while Leconfield Footpath No. 10 (LECOF10) and Leconfield Footpath No. 11 (LECOF11) extents sit within the cable search area.
    - Cherry Burton Footpath No. 1 (CBURF01), Cherry Burton Footpath No. 2 (CBURF02) and Cherry Burton Footpath No. 3 (CBURF03) are situated east of Cherry Burton across the extent of the cable search area.
    - There are seven PRoW that have contact with the grid connection cable corridor: Walkington Footpath No. 3 (WALKF03), Walkington Footpath No. 4 (WALF04), Walkington Footpath No. 6 (WALKF06), Walkington Footpath No. 7 (WALKF07), Walkington Footpath No. 9 (WALKF09) intersect with the outer boundary of the proposed cable search area, while Walkington Footpath No. 8 (WALKF08) and Rowley Footpath No.9 (ROWLF09) reach across the cable search area.

- The site-specific study area indicative of the northern land parcel:
    - In the northernmost section of the study area, a number of PRoW run along the Site Boundary: Watton Footpath No.14 (WATTF14), Watton Footpath No.15 (WATTF15), Watton Footpath No.17 (WATTF17), Watton Footpath No.18 (WATTF18) and Hutton Cranswick Footpath No. 10 (HCRAF 10).
- The site-specific study area indicative of the southern land parcel:
    - Rowley Footpath No.8 (ROWLF08) and Rowley Footpath No.9 (ROWLF09) run along Risby Hall, and Walkington Footpath No.8 (WALKF08) and Rowley Bridleway and Footpath No.6 (ROWLS06) link walkers into Walkington to the north.
    - Walkington Footpath No.3 (WALKF04) and Walkington Footpath No.9 (WALKF09) are located north of Bentley.
    - Rowley Footpath No. 12 (ROWLF12), Woodmansey Footpath No. 7 (WOODF07), Skidby Footpath No. 16 (SKIDF16), Skidby Footpath No. 17 (SKIDF17) and located north of Skidby Lakes Golf Club.
    - Skidby Footpath No. 10 (SKIDF10), Skidby Footpath No. 11 (SKIDF11), Skidby Footpath No. 12 (SKIDF12) and part of Woodmansey Footpath No. 4 (WOODF04) surround National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck.

15.5.5 The assessment will also draw on receptors identified in the technical assessments of other ES chapters as appropriate. For example, buildings, dwellings or amenities that are indicative of the presence of vulnerable groups, such as schools or healthcare facilities.

## 15.6 Environmental Measures

15.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Human Health will be identified and would be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

15.6.2 Measures to minimise impact from the Proposed Development are already being embedded into the design. These include:

- The BESS would comprise an enclosure for electrochemical components and associated equipment, containers or enclosures for housing any of the equipment, necessary heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and fire safety infrastructure such as water storage tanks, and hard standing areas to allow access for emergency vehicles. These measures reduce electrical, chemical spill and fire risks relevant to public health.
- Access tracks would typically be constructed using trackpad covered ground, compacted earth, hardcore, trackpad covered ground, gravel over a levelling layer of subbase, or existing

metalled surfaces, depending on ground conditions and archaeological constraints, reducing dust within the construction phase.

15.6.3 Management plans will be submitted as part of the DCO application, outlining environmental measures to minimise impacts from the Proposed Development, including those relevant to human health. These management plans include:

- An outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) would set out site-specific procedures and mitigation measures to monitor and control environmental impacts, including those relevant to health (i.e. minimising air quality, visual and noise impacts) throughout the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
- An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) would propose how construction traffic, including Site boundary personnel movements, would be controlled safely by the Applicant and its sub- contractors. It would document how risks from construction traffic would be minimised (including environmental risks) which in turn would reduce health effects from traffic.
- An outline Employment Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan (oESSMP) setting out measures to maximise opportunities to promote economic benefits in relation to skills, supply chains, and employment in the local region, which is required to deliver the entirety of the Proposed Development. This would include measures tailored to increase the accessibility of the training and employment opportunities for local vulnerable groups, supporting a beneficial population health effect in reducing health inequalities.
- An outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP) would consider how to operate the PRoW, in terms of managing both user safety and accessibility on PRoW and any diversions, during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This would include considerations in relation to maintaining or improving equitable access by vulnerable groups, as well as promoting use of the PRoW network for the site-specific populations.

## Operation and Maintenance

15.6.4 The operational phase would be managed by:

- For electromagnetic field (EMF) effects, adoption and compliance by design with the relevant provisions of the ICNIRP 1998 and 2010 guidelines following the approaches set out in the Government publication 'Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines, A voluntary Code of Practice 2012'[335]. This embedded measure addresses the EN-5 paragraph 2.9.56 requirement, ensuring that public EMF exposures are within health protection standards adopted by national policy.
- An outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) would set out clear communication protocols to reduce public health risks associated with project related concerns such as the provision of a community liaison officer, and workforce management measures including health promotion initiatives.
- An outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) setting out short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented to establish, monitor, and manage

[335] Department for Energy and Climate Change (2012). Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines A voluntary Code of Practice. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a796799ed915d07d35b5397/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf

landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design of the Proposed Development. These measures would contribute towards a reduction in operational adverse effects and enhance beneficial effects where appropriate and proportionate, including for population health.

- An oPRoWMP considering PRoW accessibility during the operational phase.
- An outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) identifying how fire risk associated with BESS will be identified, managed, mitigated and responded to throughout all stages of development.

### Decommissioning

15.6.5 Best practice measures to minimise impact from the Proposed Development and management plans secured as part of the DCO include:

- The Site Boundary would be returned to its original use as far as possible and practical, with areas of established mitigation left in-situ where possible and in agreement with the landowners.
- Concrete, hardstanding areas, foundations for the infrastructure and any internal tracks will be removed to a depth of up to 1m, and will be dismantled and recycled or disposed of in accordance with best practice policy and requirements at that time.
- The use of decommissioned materials would follow the waste hierarchy such that they would be reused where possible before recycling and disposal were considered.
- The decommissioning phase would be managed by a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP). An outline DEMP (oDEMP) would be submitted with the DCO application.
- The oPRoWMP would also address accessibility and Permissive Paths during the decommissioning phase.

## 15.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

15.7.1 No consultation has been undertaken to date for Human Health. Following issue of the Scoping Report, consultation with local health stakeholders including the Public Health Teams in East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council would be offered. A further meeting to follow-up on receipt of the Scoping Opinion will be offered if appropriate. In addition, consultation will be undertaken with national stakeholders the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and OHID[336].

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

15.7.2 Health is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants, from an individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments and global ecosystem trends.

[336] UKHSA and OHID were collectively previously Public Health England

15.7.3 The best-known definition of health was produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"[337]. This definition would be used as the basis for the assessment.

15.7.4 Table 5.1 of the ISEP Effective Scoping guidance[338] includes a non-exhaustive list of 21 wider determinants of health associated with the WHO definition, which has been used in identifying the determinants of health to be scoped in and out of the detailed assessment.

15.7.5 The ISEP Effective Scoping guidance is clear that the EIA Human Health requirement relates to considering population health effects, including potential inequalities for vulnerable groups. It is the case that several other EIA chapters also include discussion of health in relation to individual, effects, rather that population level effects. These can include occupational exposures as well as impacts to specific buildings, services or amenities used by the people. Relevant chapters include Noise and Vibration, Landscape and Visual, Air Quality, Agricultural Soils, Socioeconomics, Transport and Access, Carbon and Climate Change and Hydrology. The scoping and assessment in relation to these other EIA topic chapters is therefore a relevant input to the Human Health scoping and assessment. The Human Health EIA requirement extends the analysis to consider and report on the public health implications.

15.7.6 **Table 15-3** presents the Human Health matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 15-3: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Health related behaviours – Physical activity | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The potential impact of opportunities physical activity, will be considered through the 'Open space, leisure and play' determinant scoped into the assessment in Table 15-4. Hence, this determinant is scoped out of detailed assessment to avoid duplication. |
| Health related behaviours – Risk taking behaviour | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: People based on the site throughout all phases of development would be professional workers, contractors and operators with strict health and safety protocols enforced. These policies and practices can cover health promotion issues including alcohol, cigarettes, non-prescribed drugs, gambling and communicable illnesses. Consequently, for communities, no likely significant population health effects are anticipated and this health determinant is therefore scoped out of detailed assessment. |
| Health related behaviours – Diet and nutrition (including access to healthy affordable food) | *Construction, operation and decommissioning:* Although the Proposed Development would result in a direct loss of agricultural land, the land affected has not been identified as having a key role in local affordable health food markets (e.g. produce underpins the viability of local farmers markets). |

[337] World Health Organization (1948). WHO Constitution. Available at: https://www.who.int/about/governance/constitution
[338] Pyper, R., Lamming, M., Beard, C., Waples, H., Birley, M., Buroni, A., Douglas, M., Turton, P., Hardy, K., Netherton, A., McClenaghan, R., Barratt, T., Bhatt, A., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Gibson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available: https://www.iema.net/media/s35fughe/iema-eia-guide-to-effective-scoping-of-human-health-nov-2022.pdf

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | At a national level, this loss of land is not expected to present a discernible effect on the UK's Utilised Agricultural Area (comprising 16.8 million hectares[339] compared to the Site at 575 hectares) and national food markets and agricultural land availability. Therefore, this change is considered unlikely to be on a scale significant to public health outcomes through the price or availability of food and is there scoped out of detailed assessment. |
| Social environment - Housing and access to good quality affordable housing | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The Proposed Development would not result in the loss of provision of housing, and no significant or widespread effects on housing availability and affordability are expected.<br>The potential for housing need created by the construction and decommissioning workforce would be assessed in Chapter 16: Socioeconomics in relation to tourism. This demand for accommodation is not expected to impact home ownership, short-term let or rental markets to an extent that is significant to public health in terms of lack of quality or quantity of housing for existing communities or key workers. The potential housing demand from the operational workforce is not expected to be on a scale that results in significant public health effects.<br>Therefore, health outcomes relating to housing effects are scoped out across all stages of development. |
| Social environment - Relocation | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The Proposed Development does not require population displacement or relocation and consequently would not require compulsory purchase of homes or community facilities. Any individual level effects associated with the land acquisition required to facilitate the Proposed Development, would not be on a scale that has public health implications.<br>Therefore, the effects of relocation have been scoped out of detailed assessment across construction, operation and decommissioning. |
| Social environment – Transport modes, access and connections, as well as links | *Operation:* The Proposed Development is expected to generate minimal additional traffic flows to local roads during operation (in agreement with ERCC Highways as outlined in Chapter 12: Transport and Access) and should not directly reduce access to local public services and facilities. Therefore, this determinant has been scoped out for the operation phase. Transport modes, access and connections has been scoped into detailed assessment for construction and decommissioning in Table 15-4. |
| Social environment - Community safety | Construction, operation and maintenance: As required by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, contractors and operators working at the site would enforce strict health and safety protocols and modern slavery and discrimination policies. Working practices that minimise risk of injury for the workforce and general public would also be enforces, typically |

[339] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2025). Agricultural Land Use in United Kingdom at 1 June 2025. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/agricultural-land-use-in-the-united-kingdom/agricultural-land-use-in-united-kingdom-at-1-june-2025

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | including appropriate use of security and boundary installation including fencing and gates.<br>These safe working practices will be secured through the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP submitted as part of the DCO application.<br>The potential for widespread actual or perceived crime or influence on community safety that could affect population health are therefore considered unlikely. Hence, this determinant is scoped out of detailed assessment.<br>A specific issue of potential community safety concerns may arise through the use of BESS units. These units would include appropriate design, mitigation and management measures to minimise population health risks, including fire risk, chemical spill risk and electrical hazards. These are typically set out in an oBSMP that would be submitted with the DCO application.<br>Therefore, BESS related actual community safety risks are scoped out of further assessment on the basis that the design of the Proposed Development and associated oBSMP will provide:<br>• Appropriate buffer zones and fencing between infrastructure and communities;<br>• Sufficient separation between any modular elements of the battery storage (fire breaks);<br>• Appropriate provision for fire management and chemical leak containment;<br>• Undertaking of a fire risk assessment; appropriate occupational health and safety training; and<br>• Resilience measures in relation to accidents and disasters.<br>With these measures in place, BESS risks are unlikely to be of a scale that could pose a risk to public health.<br>Public understanding of these risks (including BESS related concern) is acknowledged and will be considered within the 'Public understanding of risk' determinant scoped into further assessment in Table 15-4. |
| Social environment - Community identity, culture, resilience and influence | *Construction, operation and decommissioning* (partially scoped out): The Proposed Development will not result in demographic changes that will strongly influence community identity, nor is it expected to result in long-term changes to lighting, overshadowing and reflections, and the attractiveness of public spaces and buildings that could have significant implications for human health.<br>Solar PV modules are specifically designed to absorb light rather than reflect it. They are designed as dark in colour due to their anti-reflective coatings and are manufactured with low-iron, ultra-clear glass with specialised coatings and textures to enable maximum absorption. A standalone Glint and Glare Assessment will be produced as part of the DCO application, outlining the assessment of reflectivity and, where relevant, any appropriate mitigation measures. On this basis no likely significant public health effect is anticipated, and the specific issue of visual impact due to reflections is scoped out.<br>'Community identity, culture, resilience and influence' effects associated with a change in the visual and landscape of the area are scoped into further assessment as outlined in Table 15-4. |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Social environment – social participation, interaction and support | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The Proposed Development would not result in the loss or disruption to any indoor community assets or meeting places for voluntary, social or cultural participation.<br>The potential impact on social participation caused by a change in visual amenity for outdoor community assets and meeting places will be considered within the 'Community identity, culture, resilience and influence' determinant scoped into further assessment in Table 15-4.<br>The DCO application would be informed by an extensive programme of community engagement, which will seek feedback from all sections of the community and enable all to voice their comments regarding the Proposed Development. |
| Economic environment - Education and training | *Construction, operation and decommissioning:* The Proposed Development would not lead to any change in population or demand on schools and educational providers. These issues are therefore scoped out of the health assessment.<br>Informed by the rationale in Chapter 16: Socioeconomics, it is expected that the majority of workers will have existing experience and qualifications appropriate to their roles and the Proposed Development will not deliver apprenticeships and upskilling on a scale that could have significant implications for public health. Therefore, these issues are scoped out of further assessment across all phases of development. |
| Economic environment – Employment and income | *Construction, operation and decommissioning* (partially scoped out): Working conditions can be appropriately managed through health and safety policies and following industry best-practice. As such, the Proposed Development will operate equal employment policies, and the supply chain will be expected to operate appropriate equality, health and safety policies. Therefore, these issues would be scoped out of the health assessment.<br>'Employment and income' effects associated with additional workforce are scoped into further assessment as outlined in Table 15-4. |
| Bio-physical environment - Climate change mitigation and adaption | *Construction and decommissioning*: Chapter 13: Carbon and Climate Change will present an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from construction, operation and decommissioning and the impact of future climate change on the Proposed Development.<br>Embodies carbon and other emissions which can alter the climate are not of a scale that significantly impact public health during the construction and decommissioning phases. These issues have therefore been scoped out of the health assessment.<br>The effect of contributing towards net zero targets on population health and wellbeing during the operational phase is scoped in under a combined 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation and 'Wider societal infrastructure and resources' determinant as set out in Table 15-4. |
| Bio-physical environment – Air quality | *Construction, operation and decommissioning:* Chapter 17: Air Quality has been scoped out based on background concentrations being below the legal limit set by the Air |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | Quality Standards Regulations. During construction, any increase in traffic emissions is not expected to cause significant contributions to poor air quality and dust generated through construction activities would be managed via the oCEMP.<br>As such, air quality effects on population health have been scoped out of further assessment across construction, operation and decommissioning phases. |
| Bio-physical environment - Water quality or availability | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The Proposed Development will adopt standard best practice to minimise water pollution risks.<br>Chapter 7: Hydrology will assess how the Proposed Development affects water resources and Chapter 18: Land and Groundwater has been scoped out based on no existing sources of contamination being identified within the Site Boundary.<br>It is considered unlikely that water quality or availability will be affected to a degree that could significantly affect public health. Therefore, this determinant is scoped out of further assessment. |
| Bio-physical environment - Land quality and use | *Construction, operation and decommissioning:* The Proposed Development will adopt standard best practice to minimise land pollution risks.<br>Chapter 18: Land and Groundwater has been scoped out based on no existing sources of contamination being identified within the Site Boundary.<br>It is considered unlikely that land quality or availability will be affected to a degree that could significantly affect public health. Therefore, this determinant is scoped out of further assessment. |
| Bio-physical environment - Radiation | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: Long-standing public health protection exposure limits for electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) are set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) 1998 and 2010 publications[340,341]. Further compliance with relevant ICNIRP levels is discussed in the NPS EN-5[342] and the Government Code of Practice, 'Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines – a voluntary Code of Practice'[343].<br>The Proposed Development will comply with these guidelines; therefore, the actual risks associated with EMF are scoped out of the health assessment. |

[340] ICNIRP (1998). ICNIRP Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields (Up To 300 Ghz). Available at: https://www.icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPemfgdl.pdf
[341] ICNIRP (2010). ICNIRP Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields (1-100 kHz). Available at: https://icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPLFgdl.pdf
[342] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[343] Department for Energy and Climate Change (2012). Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines A voluntary Code of Practice. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a796799ed915d07d35b5397/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | Public understanding of these risks is acknowledged and will be considered within the 'Public understanding of risk' determinant scoped into further assessment in Table 15-4. |
| Institutional and built environment - Health and social care services | *Construction, operation and decommissioning:* The majority of the workforce are expected to be home-based and would access healthcare under existing entitlements and primary care registered practices. Regular 111 service triage would apply and on-site first aid will be provide as required by statute. Ambulance coverage for this population in the event of an emergency would remain with the NHS Yorkshire Ambulance Service, who cover this home-based population within existing strategic service planning.<br>Therefore, the Proposed Development is not expected to create healthcare related influences on a scale that could significantly affect public health and is scoped out of further assessment. |
| Institutional and built environment – Built environment | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The Proposed Development will operate appropriate waste management and utility diversions such that no associated public health effects will arise, for example any crossing of existing power, gas, water or communications cables during construction will be managed to avoid interruption.<br>The potential public health effects associated with the built environment have therefore been scoped out of the health assessment for all phases of development. |
| Institutional and built environment - Wider Societal Infrastructure | *Construction and decommissioning:* The Proposed Development will not generate energy during the construction and decommissioning phases. Consequently, no public health benefits would arise, and this issue is scoped out of the health assessment.<br>The effect of contributing towards net zero targets on population health and wellbeing during the operational phase is scoped in under a combined 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation and 'Wider societal infrastructure and resources' determinant as set out in Table 15-4. |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment

15.7.7 The construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of a solar farm may result in a range of potentially significant effects that require detailed assessment. The potential effects on wider determinants of health used by ISEP Effective Scoping guidance, which are considered to be scoped in for detailed assessment are listed in **Table 15-4.**

15.7.8 Where there are effects with a likely negative impact in only a smaller part of the Study Area and where the effect would be considered scoped out for other areas, this is scoped in and would be highlighted for further consideration at assessment phase. Where potential effects may be deemed to disproportionately or differentially effect certain vulnerable groups compared to the general population, this would form part of the assessment within the scoped-in determinants of health.

Table 15-4: Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| Social environment – open space, leisure and play (including opportunities for physical activity) | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: During construction, temporary disruption of PRoW and change in landscape amenity may affect opportunities to access open space for recreation and physical activity. During operation, permanent change in access to PRoWs in the vicinity of the Proposed Development may cause behavioural change, although long-term access and connections to the natural environment would be maintained and opportunities for improvement explored as part of the Human Health chapter. The potential impact on landscape amenity will be assessed in **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual** with suggested mitigation to minimise adverse impacts on how these recreational routes are enjoyed and behavioural use, and any potential physical impacts associated with active travel will be assessed in **Chapter 12: Transport and Access** with mitigation measures secured to minimise disruption.<br>The Human Health chapter will assess the effect of any changes to PRoW on the ability for receptors to access open space for leisure and physical activity during the construction and operation phases, including the scale (if any) of the reduction in publicly accessible land. The Human Health chapter will cross-reference **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual** and **Chapter 12: Transport and Access** where appropriate.<br>The health scope includes both physical and mental health related outcomes arising from impacts on views and visual amenity on such routes, as well as measures to maintain or improve on (as appropriate and proportionate) equitable access, including for vulnerable groups. |
| Social environment - Transport modes, access and connections, as well as links between communities | *Construction and decommissioning:* Construction works such as cable laying or movements by heavy goods vehicles, may temporarily disrupt highways, including of pedestrian and cycle routes along roads.<br>Any potential delay, change to access and safety impacts would be assessed in **Chapter 12: Transport and Access**. The Human Health chapter will consider the public health implications of any changes in population health related journey times, road safety, accessibility and severance and cross-reference to **Chapter 12: Transport and Access** where appropriate. The Human Health chapter will also explore opportunities to encourage active travel to work.<br>Transport modes, access and connections in the operational phase have been scoped out in Table 15-3. |
| Social environment - Community identity, culture, resilience and influence | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: In relation to community identity, culture, resilience and influence, a key change will be the visual and landscape of the area. This would be primarily considered in **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual**, including environmental measures secured to minimise impacts. The Human Health chapter will cross-reference to **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual** where appropriate to explain the public health implications of visual change, including on mental wellbeing outcomes.<br>The health assessment conclusions will also have regard as appropriate to linked assessments, including **Chapter 10: Built** |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| | **Heritage**, in relation to potential impacts on cultural assets that contribute to sense of place. |
| Economic environment – employment and income | *Construction, operation and decommissioning:* The assessment of 'employment and income' and will consider the potential opportunities to provide direct and indirect opportunities for employment in renewable energy generation, particularly focusing on the beneficial opportunities for vulnerable or priority groups.<br>These opportunities will be considered during all phases of development and outlined in **Chapter 16: Socioeconomics**, albeit the greatest impacts would be expected during construction. Following confirmation of estimated operational employment, the operation phase may be scoped out of further assessment on the basis that significant effects on human health are unlikely. The Human Health chapter will cross-reference to Chapter 16: Socioeconomics where appropriate.<br>The potential opportunities for employment may include indirect effects related to diversification of agricultural land and growth of rural businesses, as appropriately assessed in **Chapter 16: Socio-Economics**. |
| Bio-physical environment - Noise and vibration | Construction, operation and decommissioning: **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration** will assess how the Proposed Development could affect the existing sound environment. The Human Health chapter will assess the effect of noise and vibration on the health of the identified receptors (including mental wellbeing) and will cross-reference to **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration** where appropriate. |
| Bio-physical environment – climate change mitigation and adaptation<br><br>Institutional and built environment – Wider societal infrastructure and resources | Due to the overlap in the case of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure, these two health determinants are combined.<br>*Operation:* The assessment will combine the 'wider societal infrastructure' and 'climate change mitigation and adaptation' health determinants to consider the population health benefits in responding to the challenges of climate change population and the wider societal benefits of renewable energy security.<br>During operation, the renewable energy generated will assist in transitioning towards net zero. The Human Health chapter would assess how the contribution towards net zero targets affects the physical and mental health of receptors. This links with the Proposed Development will contribute towards energy security by generating the energy which society depends on for good population health. A reliable supply of renewable electricity is required in relation to numerous societal factors such as food production and safety, thermal comfort, healthcare, education, income generation and maintaining social networks. These are important prerequisite for public health and reducing health inequalities.<br>Given the scale of the contribution to renewable energy security and the national population reached via national grid distribution, these benefits are potentially significant and are scoped into the Human Health chapter. |
| Public understanding of risk | *Construction, operation and decommissioning*: The 'public understanding of risk' health determinant explores the |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| | potential for adverse effects on localised populations' mental health and wellbeing associated with community concerns and uncertainty about aspects of the Proposed Development. This may include concerns relating to EMF associated with solar arrays, substation, cabling and other electrical infrastructure as well as BESS fire risk from the pre-commencement stage onwards.<br>The assessment will consider where, notwithstanding that the risks would be appropriately controlled to meet public health protection standards, community concern may still arise and potentially result in adverse effects on localised populations' mental health and wellbeing. |

## 15.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

*15.8.1* The detailed assessment in the ES would establish an updated and more detailed baseline position of the population's health (physical and mental health indicators), inequalities and demographic profile including the human health site-specific study areas.

*15.8.2* This would build on information presented in this scoping chapter to include further detail from published health data in the public domain from sources such as OHID, ONS and site-specific sources listed in Paragraph 15.3.6. This would include local health priorities and public health trends set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategies and JSNAs relevant to the site-specific study areas and local level study area populations. Further, relevant datasets published by local authorities, the NHS and other recognised sources identified through community and stakeholder engagement would be presented where available and relevant. This process of collating and reviewing relevant baseline data would enable vulnerable groups to be identified.

15.8.3 In addition to baseline data collection, the health assessment is also informed by an evidence base that draws on: public health priorities; health planning policy; scientific literature; consultation feedback; and regulatory standards. Collecting, collating and analysing this evidence is ongoing and will be presented in the ES health chapter.

#### *Construction, Operation and Maintenance and Decommissioning*

15.8.4 The same approach will be taken across construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. The detailed assessment will examine the potential effects of the Proposed Development on public health outcomes in the identified populations.

15.8.5 The health assessment will use the approach and criteria for sensitivity, magnitude and significance from the ISEP (formerly IEMA) Guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment'[344]. The health effects will be assessed in the context of the baseline position, as well as the nature and context of the Proposed Development impacts, taking account of the sensitivity of the relevant population (with sensitivity conclusions

[344] Pyper, R., Waples, H., Beard, C., Barratt, T., Hardy, K., Turton, P., Netherton, A., McDonald, J., Buroni, A., Bhatt, A., Phelan, E., Scott, I., Fisher, T., Christian, G., Ekermawi, R., Devine, K., McClenaghan, R., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment.

in relation to both the general population and vulnerable group sub-population for the relevant study areas).

15.8.6 The health assessment will be informed by the conclusion of other technical assessments and chapters of the ES, in particular: Noise and Vibration, Landscape and Visual, Agricultural Soils, Socioeconomics, Transport and Access, Carbon and Climate Change and Hydrology.

15.8.7 The impacts of the Proposed Development will be identified as 'beneficial', 'neutral' or 'adverse' and defined as follows:

- Beneficial - A positive and/or advantageous impact;
- Neutral - No discernible impact; or
- Adverse - A negative and/or disadvantageous/ detrimental impact.

15.8.8 The effects will then be defined as 'significant' or 'not significant' guided by the assessment of magnitude and sensitivity and professional judgment that takes into account relevant public health evidence and context.

15.8.9 **Table 15-5** and **Table 15-6** respectively describe the criteria applied to assign values for the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of potential impacts. The approach uses professional judgement, drawing on consistent and transparency criteria for sensitivity and magnitude. It also references relevant contextual evidence to explain what significance means for public health in terms of a change in population health outcomes. These methodology criteria align with Table 7.1 and Table 7.2 in the ISEP (formerly IEMA) Guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health In Environmental Impact Assessment'[345].

Table 15-5: Health sensitivity methodology criteria

| Sensitivity of impact | Definition |
|---|---|
| High | High levels of deprivation (including pockets of deprivation); reliance on resources shared (between the population and the Proposed Development); existing wide inequalities between the most and least healthy; a community whose outlook is predominantly anxiety or concern; people who are prevented from undertaking daily activities; dependants; people with very poor health status; and/or people with a very low capacity to adapt. |
| Medium | Moderate levels of deprivation; few alternatives to shared resources; existing widening inequalities between the most and least healthy; a community whose outlook is predominantly uncertainty with some concern; people who are highly limited from undertaking daily activities; people providing or requiring a lot of care; people with poor health status; and/or people with a limited capacity to adapt. |
| Low | Low levels of deprivation; many alternatives to shared resources; existing narrowing inequalities between the most and least healthy; a community whose outlook is predominantly ambivalence with some concern; people who are slightly limited from undertaking daily |

[345] Pyper, R., Waples, H., Beard, C., Barratt, T., Hardy, K., Turton, P., Netherton, A., McDonald, J., Buroni, A., Bhatt, A., Phelan, E., Scott, I., Fisher, T., Christian, G., Ekermawi, R., Devine, K., McClenaghan, R., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment.

| Sensitivity of impact | Definition |
|---|---|
| | activities; people providing or requiring some care; people with fair health status; and/or people with a high capacity to adapt. |
| Very low | Very low levels of deprivation; no shared resources; existing narrow inequalities between the most and least healthy; a community whose outlook is predominantly support with some concern; people who are not limited from undertaking daily activities; people who are independent (not a carer or dependant); people with good health status; and/or people with a very high capacity to adapt. |

Table 15-6: Health magnitude methodology criteria

| Magnitude of impact | Definition |
|---|---|
| High | High exposure or scale; long-term duration; continuous frequency; severity predominantly related to mortality or changes in morbidity (physical or mental health) for very severe illness/injury outcomes; majority of population affected; permanent change; substantial service quality implications. |
| Medium | Low exposure or medium scale; medium-term duration; frequent events; severity predominantly related to moderate changes in morbidity or major change in quality-of-life; large minority of population affected; gradual reversal; small service quality implications. |
| Low | Very low exposure or small scale; short-term duration; occasional events; severity predominantly related to minor change in morbidity or moderate change in quality-of-life; small minority of population affected; rapid reversal; slight service quality implications. |
| Negligible | Negligible exposure or scale; very short-term duration; one-off frequency; severity predominantly relates to a minor change in quality-of-life; very few people affected; immediate reversal once activity complete; no service quality implication. |

15.8.10 The impact significance matrix set out in **Table 15-7** will be used to inform the professional judgement on the significance of each effect using a structured framework that considers both the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the affected population within the specific local context. An effect is considered significant where application of the matrix identifies a moderate or major health effect on the population. This significance matrix aligns with the ISEP (formerly IEMA) Guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment'[346].

Table 15-7: Significance Matrix (ISEP, 2022)

| Magnitude | Sensitivity | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | High | Medium | Low | Very Low |

[346] Pyper, R., Waples, H., Beard, C., Barratt, T., Hardy, K., Turton, P., Netherton, A., McDonald, J., Buroni, A., Bhatt, A., Phelan, E., Scott, I., Fisher, T., Christian, G., Ekermawi, R., Devine, K., McClenaghan, R., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | High | Major | Major/ Moderate | Moderate/ Minor | Minor/ Negligible |
| | Medium | Major/ Moderate | Moderate | Minor | Minor/ Negligible |
| | Low | Moderate/ Minor | Minor | Minor | Negligible |
| | Negligible | Minor / Negligible | Minor/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

15.8.11 Where a potential public health effect is identified, enhancement and mitigation measures would be explored to either enhance or secure a significant positive effect or mitigate against a significant negative effect. Mitigation measures can include design or non-design related measures and actions. Monitoring of effects would be secured where appropriate. Typically monitoring is only appropriate in relation to a significant adverse effect conclusion or mitigation relied on to avoid a significant adverse effect conclusion.

### *Cumulative Assessments*

15.8.12 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**.

15.8.13 The health assessment will determine cumulative (inter-project) effects. A list of relevant reasonably foreseeable cumulative projects will be identified as relevant to the Human Health study areas and health determinants. A narrative will provide a combined level of effect to reflect the likely implications for public health, including any further mitigation necessary.

15.8.14 The health assessment of interactive effects[347] will further analyse the geographic and temporal relationship between health effects. All identified effects (excluding negligible effects) will be collated for each study area population to produce a list of relevant determinants of health and their level of effect. A narrative will be provided of likely interactions and describe the need for any further mitigation necessary.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

15.8.15 It should be noted that the boundaries of the aforementioned impact areas may be adjusted for certain receptors depending on:

- The availability of data (e.g. where public health data is not available for MSOAs, data from the relevant electoral wards or district councils would be utilised); and
- Alignment with other technical assessments within the EIA and DCO application (e.g. Air Quality Assessment or the Noise and Vibration Assessment).

15.8.16 The identified impact areas and scale will be highlighted throughout the assessment, along with the relevant data sources, assumptions and limitations. The latest available data will be used; however, it should be noted that many data sources are frequently updated and could be subject to change from the time of drafting or during the DCO process.

[347] Our individual health determinants inherently deal with combined effects from different sources on the same population and then the cumulative health assessment considers the interactive effects between determinants of health on the same population (intra-development effects).

Given that the health assessment will rely on other specific assessments and chapters of the ES, the health assessment would therefore carry through any assumptions, limitations and uncertainties from those individual assessments.

# 16 Socio-economics

## 16.1 Introduction

16.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment of the socioeconomic outcomes for the Proposed Development. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area. It also sets out the scope of assessment including, with justification, those effects that are proposed to be scoped in or out for detailed assessment and then concludes by outlining the method that would be used to undertake the detailed environmental assessment.

## 16.2 Review of Policy, Legislation and Relevant Guidance

16.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to socioeconomics, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

16.2.2 There is no specific legislation relevant to assessing impacts relating to socioeconomics in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Other legislation found in other aspect chapters, such as the Environment Act 2021, Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Control of Pollution Act 1974, will be considered where applicable.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[348] – specific reference to Section 5.13, which relates to socioeconomics.
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[349] – specific reference to Section 2.10 on the role of solar PV in meeting net zero targets and the associated impacts that may need to be assessed, with reference to green jobs at paragraph 2.10.2 and considering the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land at paragraph 2.10.137.
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[350] provides general advice on issues that need consideration (such as noise and landscape and visual impact), and which may indirectly affect socioeconomics.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[351] and Draft NPPF (December 2025) – specific reference to Section 6: Building a strong, competitive economy (Section 7 in the Draft NPPF), Section 12: Achieving well designed places (Section 14 in the Draft NPPF), Section 14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and

[348] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf
[349] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[350] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[351] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf

coastal change and Section 15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (Section 19 in the Draft NPPF), and Draft NPPF Section 10 Securing clean energy and water.[352]

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025),[353] specifically Policy EC1: 'Supporting the growth and diversification of the East Riding economy', Policy EC2: 'Developing and diversifying the visitor economy' and Policy EC5 'Supporting the renewable and low carbon energy sector' of the Strategy Document Update.

- The Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Local Growth Plan (2026)[354] outlines four 'Big Plays' with delivery plans to drive growth over the next 10 years: "Powering our industrial future", "Backing local businesses", "Building skills and good work" and "Connecting and enabling growth".

- East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Minerals Local Plan 2016 – 2033 (adopted November 2019).[355]

## National Guidance

- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK;[356]

- ISEP (2025) Solar PV on Agricultural Land includes some guidance for socioeconomic impact assessment in EIA, including a checklist for socioeconomic assessment;[357]

- This scoping report has also been prepared with regard to the principles in: HM Treasury (2026) The Green Book: Central Government Guidance on Appraisal;[358] and Homes and Communities Agency (2014). The additionality guide, fourth edition.[359]

## Local Guidance

- The authors are not aware of any local guidance to the assessment of socioeconomic effects in EIA. However, one of the five priorities in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Business Plan is "Growing the Economy", stating the potential for East Riding to become the "UK's green data centre capital" as an area where both solar and wind infrastructure is established.[360] The Plan includes the commitment to improve skills, connections and digital

[352] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025). Available at:
[353] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[354] Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (2026) Local Growth Plan. Available at: https://www.hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/214/local-growth-plan
[355] East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council (2019) East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Minerals Local Plan 2016 – 2033. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/joint-minerals-plan/
[356] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK. Available at: https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/
[357] ISEP (2026) Solar PV on Agricultural Land: Essential Components of Environmental Assessments and Reports. Available at: https://www.isepglobal.org/media/onndjxns/isep-solar-pv-on-agricultural-land-2025.pdf
[358] HM Treasury (2026) The Green Book: Central Government Guidance on Appraisal. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/698dbcd17da91680ad7f4308/The_Green_Book_2026.pdf
[359] Homes and Communities Agency (2014) the additionality Guide, fourth edition. Notwithstanding that it has been withdrawn to avoid duplication with the Treasury Greenbook it includes relevant principles that are still applicable in social impact assessment. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ec4b9e5274a2e87db1c92/additionality_guide_2014_full.pdf
[360] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2026) Council Business Plan 2026-31, 2026-27 update. Available at: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/plans-and-policies/all-plans-policies-and-strategies/business-plan/Council_Business_Plan_2026-2027.pdf

technologies and networks with the objective of East Riding to become a place for innovation. The Plan also seeks to strengthen East Riding's tourism and cultural offer.

- Visit Hull and East Yorkshire Destination Management Strategy 2024-2029[361] contains four priorities with a focus on the visitor economy which cover to grow value, to develop and present quality locations, support productivity and embracing a new landscape through the development of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP).

- Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035[362] identifies five investment and growth priorities in the Humber region: "The Humber stakeholders continuing to work together to maximise and unlock investment", "A strategic and proactive approach to infrastructure investment (particularly around ports, water and energy) to support private sector growth", "Creating more jobs and growth through new energy and energy security"; "Strengthening the innovation and value chain across the economy", and "Placing climate and nature resilience at the heart of investment decisions in the Humber to support growth and investment".

## 16.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

16.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for socioeconomics sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development. It is noted that further surveys and assessment are proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 16.4**).

### Study Area

16.3.2 The potentially likely significant effects of the Proposed Development would be assessed against a baseline scenario, considering social and economic conditions at different spatial levels, how they have changed over time and, where relevant, where they are expected to change over time. Study areas used in the baseline set out in Section 16.3 are presented in **Figure 16-1** and **Figure 16-2** and are:

- **Site:** the area within the Site itself plus 500m (where relevant data is available) based on Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 112[363].

- **Local Area:** Output Areas (OAs) [364] intersecting with the Site Boundary itself plus 500m.

- **Labour Market Focus Area:** encompasses the East Riding of Yorkshire Unitary Authority and Hull City Council, and North Lincolnshire. This reflects a best fit to align with Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) surveys[365] which present 22% of construction workers in Yorkshire and the Humber travelling 20 miles or less from home to site with consideration of the Skills and Employment Plan focusing on local employment and skills development.

[361] Visit Hull & East Yorkshire (2024) Destination Management Strategy 2024-2029. Available at: https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/eastyorkshire/Visit_Hull_and_East_Yorkshire_Destination_Management_Strategy_2024_29_AW_1__6cedcfeb-1563-4254-9925-fbb889feeb7e.pdf [Accessed 15 May 2026].
[362] ARUP (2025). Humber Economic Strategy. Available at: https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2025/06/4a.-Humber-Economic-Strategy.pdf
[363] Highways England (2020). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 112 Population and human health, revision 1. Available at: https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/tses/attachments/1e13d6ac-755e-4d60-9735-f976bf64580a?inline=true [Accessed 29 May 2026].
[364] Output Areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geographical area for census statistics and were first created following the 2001 Census. Each OA is made up of between 40 and 250 households and a usually resident population of between 100 and 625 persons and may change after each census.
[365] CITB (2023) Workforce Mobility and Skills in the UK Construction Sector 2022. Available at: https://citb.euwest01.umbraco.io/media/le3him2t/2272_bmg_workforce_mobility_and_skills__yorkshire_and_the_humber_v1.pdf [Accessed 14 May 2026].

- **Labour Market Area:** encompasses the wider population of Yorkshire and the Humber including North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire (including Kingston Upon Hull), West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. This includes the cities of Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, York, Wakefield, Ripon, Kingston upon Hull, and Doncaster. This reflects a best fit to align with the CITB surveys which present 30% of construction workers in Yorkshire and the Humber travelling between 21 and 50 miles from home to site, and 46% working more than 50 miles away from their home.[366]

- **National:** Great Britain, England, or England and Wales depending on the dataset used.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

16.3.3 Baseline data was collected via a desktop search on demographic characteristics and trends as well as those on the local economy, employment, labour market, housing and relative socio-economic "deprivation". These data are taken from data published by the Office for National Statistics on "Nomis" including:[367]

- Census 2021[368];
- Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey[369]; and
- Business Register and Employment Survey[370].

16.3.4 Baseline data was also collected via a desktop search from sources including:

- Google Earth Pro[371];
- East Riding & Hull 2023 Cambridge Model 2[372];
- Tourism Accommodation Study for East Riding of Yorkshire[373];
- East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment[374]; and
- Office for National Statistics Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based[375].

[366] Construction Industry Training Board (2023) Workforce Mobility and Skills in the UK Construction Sector 2022. Available at: https://citb.euwest01.umbraco.io/media/le3him2t/2272_bmg_workforce_mobility_and_skills__yorkshire_and_the_humber_v1.pdf [Accessed 22 May 2026].
[367] Office for National Statistics (2026) Nomis. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/ [Accessed 15 May 2026].
[368] Office for National Statistics (2021) 2021 Census. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021 [Accessed 15 May 2026].
[369] Office for National Statistics (2025) Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/aps [Accessed 15 May 2026].
[370] Office for National Statistics (2024) Business Register and Employment Survey. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?theme=27 [Accessed 15 May 2026].
[371] Google Earth Pro (2022)
[372] TSE Research (2023) East Riding & Hull 2023 Cambridge Model 2. Available at: https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/eastyorkshire/East_Riding_Hull_Cambridge_2023_1af8e2cc-6a47-4f98-a7f6-ee2bc2225a79.pdf
[373] Aecom (2016) Project Report Tourism Accommodation Study Final Report prepared for East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/files/eryc_directory/local_plan_library/tourism_accommodation_study_main_report/East%20Riding%20Tourism%20Final%20Report_September%202016.pdf
[374] East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2025). Population Projections. Available at: https://eastridingjsna.com/population-projections/ [Accessed 22 May 2026]
[375] Office for National Statistics (2025). Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based [Accessed 22 May 2026].

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

16.3.5 The Site Boundary itself extends across two separate parcels of land; the 'northern land parcel' and 'southern land parcel' (see **Figure 16-1** within **Appendix A**), and a cable corridor comprising a broad search area between the two separate parcels of land (the 'cable search area'). The Site Boundary predominantly comprises agricultural fields and is located outside of villages.

16.3.6 The northern land parcel is located approximately 3.5km east and 3km north from the village of Hutton Cranswick and Leconfield, respectively. The cable search area extends approximately 10km from the north of Leconfield and passes south approximately 400m and 200m east of the villages of Cherry Burton and Bishop Burton, respectively. The cable search area passes approximately 200m west to the centre of the town of Beverley, and around Walkington village at the southern extent of the cable search area. The southern land parcel is approximately 1km north of the large village of Cottingham and small village of Skidby, and 900m south of the southern edge of Beverley. Other settlements in close proximity to the Site Boundary includes the villages of Arram, Beswick, Little Weighton and Scorborough, and also the hamlets of Aike, Bently, Rotsea, and Wilfhome.

16.3.7 The Site Study Area forms part of 38 Output Areas (OAs). These are presented in **Figure 16-1** within **Appendix A**. Hereafter this is referred to collectively as the 'Local Area'.[376]

16.3.8 According to the 2021 Census, the resident population of the Local Area was approximately 11,792 people.[377] That of the wider East Riding of Yorkshire was 342,215, having increased by 2.4% from around 334,179 in 2011. The resident population of Kingston upon Hull was 267,014 in 2021, having increased by 4.1% from around 256,406 in 2011. The population in North Lincolnshire increased 1.3% from 167,446 in 2011 to 169,680 in 2021.[378] East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire experienced slower growth and Kingston upon Hull experienced faster growth compared to regional population growth in Yorkshire and the Humber (3.7%) between 2011 and 2021. This compares to the faster rate of population growth across England in the same period (6.6%). On this basis, the population of the Local Area comprised about 3.4% of the population of East Riding of Yorkshire, and 1.5% of the combined population counts for East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull and North Lincolnshire.

16.3.9 According to data from 2024, the proportion of the population of working age (i.e. age 16-64) was lower in East Riding of Yorkshire (57.4% or 204,130 persons)[379] and North Lincolnshire (59.3% or 101,569 persons) compared to Yorkshire and the Humber (62.3%) and Great Britain (62.8%).[380]

[376] Note that some data are not published at OA level, where unavailable socioeconomic data would be analysed at lower level super output area (LSOAs) level. LSOAs are made up of groups of Output Areas (OAs), usually four or five. They comprise between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.
[377] Office for National Statistics (2021). TS001 – Number of usual residents in households and communal establishments. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/data_finder [Accessed 18 May 2026] for Output Areas: E00065167, E00065168, E00065169, E00065170, E00065171, E00065177, E00065178, E00065179, E00065180, E00065182, E00065191, E00065204, E00065205, E00065206, E00065207, E00065208, E00065209, E00065210, E00065211, E00065364, E00065366, E00065431, E00065432, E00065433, E00065434, E00065437, E00065438, E00065505, E00065517, E00065544, E00065786, E00065789, E00065934, E00065958, E00185469, E00185473, E00185492, and E00185564.
[378] Office for National Statistics (2023). How your area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/howyourareahaschangedin10yearscensus2021/2022-11-08 East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull.
[379] Nomis Labour Market Profile, East Riding of Yorkshire. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lad/1778384907/report.aspx?town=yorkshire#tabrespop
[380] Nomis Labour Market Profile, North Lincolnshire. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lad/1778384909/report.aspx?town=lincolnshire

Kingston upon Hull had a higher proportion of population at working age (64.4%, or 177,306 persons).[381]

16.3.10 Data from January 2025 to December 2025 present economic activity rates for those aged between 16-64 in East Riding of Yorkshire at 81.3%, in Kingston upon Hull at 69.8% and North Lincolnshire at 77.5%. Both the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire have higher economic activity rates compared to the wider Yorkshire and the Humber area (76.8%), with East Riding of Yorkshire rates also above the rate across Great Britain (79.2%). Rates of economic activity for those aged between 16-64 in Kingston upon Hull are below the rates across Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain.[382] Self-employment rates in East Rising of Yorkshire (9.9%) were higher compared to Kingston upon Hull (6.3%) and North Lincolnshire (6.8%), and higher than regional rates in Yorkshire and the Humber (8.9%) and across Great Britain (9.3%).

16.3.11 In the same period, the unemployment rate (i.e. number of people aged 16 and over who are economically active but not in employment) in East Riding of Yorkshire was 4.3% (7,100), which is lower than the regional rate of 4.6% in Yorkshire and the Humber, and 4.5% across Great Britain. Unemployment rates in Kingston upon Hull (6.7%, or 8,200) and North Lincolnshire (5.9%, or 5,000) are higher than the regional rate (4.6%) and across Great Britain (4.5%).

16.3.12 Claimant count unemployed (i.e. those out of work, seeking it and in receipt of universal credit to support that search) amounted to 4,885 persons (2.4%)[383] in East Riding of Yorkshire, 9,545 (5.4%) in Kingston upon Hull, and 3,615 (3.6%) in North Lincolnshire (April 2026). This compares to the regional rates of 4.2% for Yorkshire and the Humber, and 4.0% across Great Britain.[384]

16.3.13 In terms of qualification levels in 2025, 44.4% of working age residents in East Riding of Yorkshire had a qualification at degree-level or above (i.e. Registered Qualifications Framework (RQF) 4 or higher). This is higher than the Yorkshire and the Humber (41.1%) and lower than the Great Britain averages (48.6%). The percentage of working age residents with qualifications at RFQ4 and above in Kingston upon Hull was much lower at 28.1%, and in North Lincolnshire was 33.7%. The percentage of working age residents with qualifications at RFQ1 and above in East Riding of Yorkshire was 91.0%, which is higher than the Yorkshire and Humber (88.7%) and Great Britain (89.3%) averages. The percentage of working age residents with qualifications at RQF1 and above was lower in Kingston upon Hull (82.7%) and North Lincolnshire (88.2%) compared to the Yorkshire and Humber (88.7%) Great Britain (89.3%) averages.

16.3.14 Total employee jobs in East Riding of Yorkshire (2024) was 128,000 of which 67.2% were full time; a similar proportion to regionally (68.1%) and across Great Britain (69.2%). In Kingston upon Hull there were 126,000 jobs, with 69.8% of these being full time. There were 73,000 jobs in North Lincolnshire, with 71.2% of these being full time.[385]

16.3.15 In 2024, the proportion of people in the construction industry was 6.2% (8,000) in East Riding of Yorkshire, 7.1% (9,000) in Kingston upon Hull and 6.8% (5,000) in North Lincolnshire. This is above the proportions at regional level (5.4%) and for Great Britain (5.0%).

[381] Nomis Labour Market Profile, City of Kingston upon Hull. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lad/1778384906/report.aspx?town=hull
[382] ONS annual population survey sourced from Nomis Labour Market Profiles for East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull and North Lincolnshire.
[383] The % is the number of claimants as a proportion of the resident population of the area, aged 16-64.
[384] Nomis Labour Market Profile source note: 'Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise'
[385] ONS Business Register and Employment Survey: open access, accessed through Nomis Labour Market Profiles for North Lincolnshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull.

16.3.16 According to the 2025 English indices of deprivation,[386] Kingston upon Hull is the 14th most deprived of the 296 Local Authority Districts in England by average rank. East Riding of Yorkshire is the 203rd most deprived and North Lincolnshire is the 104th most deprived by average rank.

16.3.17 Using the UK small area GVA estimates,[387] GVA in East Riding of Yorkshire in 2023 (the most recent year for which data is available) was £9,375 million, in Kingston upon Hull was £7,403 million and in North Lincolnshire was £5,577 million.

16.3.18 A 2023 model calculating the volume and value of tourism in Hull and East Yorkshire reported £590.9 million total spend by tourists visiting in the area, with £301.7 million generated by overnight visits and £289.2 million generated from day trips.[388] The model reported 21,263 jobs[389] supported by tourism for people living locally and nearby, with 8.24% of the population employed as a result of tourism.

16.3.19 In East Riding of Yorkshire, a 2016 Tourism Accommodation Study[390] reported that there were 71,200 bedspaces from 550 businesses, with a large proportion of accommodation being within holiday parks. Data analysis of Airbnb, Booking.com and Expedia Group data for quarters in a year. In the three months to June 2025, there were 178,130 guest nights (the number of nights of a stay counted for each individual in the visiting group) in Hull and East Yorkshire. From July to September 2024, 195,540 guest nights were reported and the highest of the four quarters for the year from June 2024 to June 2025.[391]

16.3.20 Data from Visit England indicates the supply of short-term rental properties in East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire area to be 4,713 as of April 2026 and an average occupancy rate of 42.1%. This is considered likely to increase in summer months, however historical data indicates lower peak supplies of short-term rental properties for 2025, 2024 and 2019 than the current April 2026 figure of 4,713.[392] Of these 4,713 short-term rentals, the East Riding of Yorkshire contains 2,460, the City of Kingston upon Hull contains 1,132 and North and North East Lincolnshire contains 1,121. Occupancy rates in the City of Kingston upon Hull were 32.5% in April 2026, 40.5% in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and 46.6% in North and North East Lincolnshire.

16.3.21 In terms of visitor/tourism attractions and facilities in the vicinity of the Site Boundary, based on an initial desktop review, these comprise:

- Cottingham Parks Golf & Leisure Club and Skidby Lakes Golf Club immediately adjacent south of the southern land parcel;
- Cottingham Equestrian Centre to the south of the southern land parcel;
- Tudor Springs Holiday Park on Park Lane to the east of the southern land parcel;

[386] HM Government (2025) English Indices of Deprivation (IoD25). Data from File 10 – Local Authority District Summaries (lower-tier). Available at: https://deprivation.communities.gov.uk/
[387] ONS (2023) UK small area gross value added estimates. Accessed through Nomis at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/gvasa
[388] TSE Research (2023) East Riding & Hull 2023 Cambridge Model 2. Available at: https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/eastyorkshire/East_Riding_Hull_Cambridge_2023_1af8e2cc-6a47-4f98-a7f6-ee2bc2225a79.pdf
[389] Tourism jobs directly supported and non-tourism elated jobs supported.
[390] Aecom (2016) Project Report Tourism Accommodation Study Final Report prepared for East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/files/eryc_directory/local_plan_library/tourism_accommodation_study_main_report/East%20Riding%20Tourism%20Final%20Report_September%202016.pdf
[391] ONS (2025). Gues nights, nights and stays for short-term lets, quarterly, UK. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/guestnightsnightsandstaysforshorttermletsuk [Accessed 15 June 2026].
[392] Visit England (2026). Short term rentals dashboard. Available at: https://www.visitbritain.org/integrated-report/short-term-rentals-dashboard [Accessed 15 June 2026].

- Lazaat hotel on Wood Hill Way, immediately adjacent south-east of the southern land parcel;
- Woodhill Cottages on Wood Hill Way to the south of the southern land parcel;
- Risby House and Gardens, Risby Park Cellar Heads, Risby Hall, Risby Fishing Ponds and Folly Lake Café off Dunflat Road adjacent to the southern land parcel;
- Attractions and facilities in Walkington, including:
    - Dog walking fields on Burton Gates road;
    - Walkington Sanctuary Stone;
    - A series of restaurants and pubs along East End road;
    - Walkington Bowling Club;
    - Walkington Cricket Club; and
    - Townend Park.
- Bentley Sanctuary Stone located on Victoria Road adjacent west to the southern land parcel;
- Butt Farm Caravan, Camping & Glamping campsite off Victoria Road to the north of the southern land parcel;
- Attractions and facilities in Cherry Burton, including:
    - Cherry Burton Leisure Park and Cherry Burton Luxury Lodge Park, a holiday park located off Main Street to the west of the cable search area;
    - Burton Mount Country House accommodation located off the B1248 to the west of the cable search area;
    - Cherry Burton Sports Field to the south of Cherry Burton and west of the cable search area; and
    - Cherry Burton House accommodation located off Main Street to the west of the cable search area.
- Broadgate Farm Cottages accommodation on Beverley Road partially within the cable search area to the east of Walkington;
- Calf House Studios, an Arts Centre north-east of the cable search area to the north-east of Walkington;
- Pret A Manger and other travel services located off Killingwoldgraves Roundabout within the cable search area;
- Killingwoldgraves Sanctuary Stone located east of Killingwoldgraves Roundabout within the cable search area;

- Beverley Westwood, Beverley Racecourse and Beverley Bushes to the west of Beverley and east of the cable search area. There is also an Outdoor Cinema at Beverley Racecourse. A Parkrun event takes place at Beverley Westwood every Saturday at 09:00am[393];
- Beverley Clay Target Centre off Miles Lane to the west of Leconfield and west of the cable search area;
- Leconfield Recreation Club, Leconfield Play Area and Leconfield Playing Fields off Miles Lane in the west of Leconfield and within the cable search area;
- Aike Grange Stud, which includes accommodation located off Aike Lane to the south of the northern land parcel;
- Moat Hill historic land mark off Station Road to the south of Wilfholme and east of the northern land parcel;
- Oaklands Wedding Venue and Struncheon Hill Farm accommodation to the west of Hempholme and east of the northern land parcel;
- Visitor accommodation in Rotsea, adjacent to the north of the northern parcel boundary; and
- East Yorkshire Caravan Site and Thistledown Farm Caravan Site off Carr Lane to the east of Watton and west of the northern parcel boundary.

16.3.22 There are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which pass through or are close to the Site Boundary. These are outlined in **Chapter 15: Human Health**.

## 16.4 Predicted Future Baseline

16.4.1 The East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) presents that the population is projected to grow in East Riding of Yorkshire from 346,316 people in 2022 to 369,673 in 2032.[394] This is reported to be mainly driven by net internal migration (where people move between other local authorities in England), which is the same main reason for projected population change in the majority of areas in England. East Riding is also expected to see an ageing population, with 25% of the population aged 65 and above in 2022, growing to 29% in 2032. A similar proportion of a working-age population is anticipated in 2032 compared to 2022, but with an increase in the old age dependency ratio ("the number of people of State Pension age for every 1,000 people of working age"[395]). The JSNA also reports there to be a projected decline in the proportion of younger people aged 18 and under between 2022 (19%) and 2032 (17%).[396]

16.4.2 In Kingston upon Hull, the population is projected to grow from 268,677 people in 2022 to 272,124 in 2032, which is a percentage increase of 1.3% compared to the 6.4% projected across England.

[393] Parkrun. Beverley Westwood Parkrun. Available at: https://www.parkrun.org.uk/beverleywestwood/
[394] East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2025). Population Projections. Available at: https://eastridingjsna.com/population-projections/ [Accessed 22 May 2026] sourced from Office for National Statistics Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based
[395] Office for National Statistics (2025). Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based [Accessed 22 May 2026].
[396] East Riding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2025). Population Projections. Available at: https://eastridingjsna.com/population-projections/ [Accessed 22 May 2026]. sourced from Office for National Statistics Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based

Net international migration is anticipated to be the largest factor in driving this growth. An ageing population is projected, with 14% of the population aged 65 and over in 2022 increasing to 17% by 2032. The proportion of the working-age population is anticipated to be similar in 2032 to 2022, and an increase in the old age dependency ratio. A decline in the proportion of younger people aged 18 and under between 2022 (23%) and 2032 (21%) is also projected.[397]

16.4.3 In North Lincolnshire, the population is projected to grow very slightly from 170,085 people in 2022 to 170,621 people in 2032, which is a percentage increase of less than 0.1% compared to the 6.4% projected increase across England. Net internal migration is anticipated to be the largest factor for this projected increase in population. An ageing population is projected, with 21% of the population aged 65 and over in 2022 increasing to 25% by 2032. The proportion of the working-age population is anticipated to be similar in 2032 to 2022, and an increase in the old age dependency ratio. A decline in the proportion of younger people aged 18 and under between 2022 (21%) and 2032 (19%) is also projected.[398]

## 16.5 Important Receptors Identified

16.5.1 Socioeconomic effects are felt by people; individually, in households, places of work, leisure/recreation and by communities. The size of community impacted differs based on the nature and scale of effect, its duration and on local characteristics. Most effects are likely to be felt at a local level. Where relevant, baseline data and potential effects at regional and national levels would also be examined.

16.5.2 Specific groups and areas likely to be affected are:

- Residents, primarily those in the Local Area;
- Employees (i.e. people who are already in work) as well as those who are currently unemployed in the Site, Local Area and Local Market Focus Area. Potentially some employees may be further afield (e.g. Labour Market Area) if the Proposed Development needs specialist labour and/or there is demand for greater numbers than the local labour market can provide;
- Businesses (i.e. employers) in the Site, Local Area and Local Market Focus Area; and
- Visitors to the Site and Local Area for leisure/recreation or tourism.

## 16.6 Environmental Measures

16.6.1 Consideration would be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that would help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (EIA Regulations), the Environmental Statement would be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where

[397] Office for National Statistics (2025). Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based [Accessed 22 May 2026].
[398] Office for National Statistics (2025). Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based [Accessed 28 May 2026].

appropriate)[399] likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to socioeconomics would be identified and would be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures would form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the project, the following environmental measures would be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

## Construction

16.6.2 Consideration of good design principles for construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development as well as during operation. These would be reflected in a Design Approach Document (DAD) which would be submitted as part of the DCO application.

16.6.3 The construction management plans include:

- An outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) which sets out the overall approach and specific measures to minimise adverse and maximise beneficial effects during construction;
- Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), which will set out the short and long-term measures and practices that would be implemented to establish, monitor, and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design of the Proposed Development;
- Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP), which, as above, will manage potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during and on completion of the Proposed Development (considering the construction, decommissioning and operational phases);
- Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP), which will set out the standard good practice measures that would be implemented by the Applicant to manage waste generated by the construction of the Proposed Development;
- An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) would set out measures to minimise any disruption from construction traffic, including traffic generated by employee travel;
- Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP), which will outline how PRoW would be managed for the Proposed Development to ensure they have been considered fully and are able to operate during construction, operation and decommissioning. The oPRoWMP would also detail any temporary diversions or closures which may be required during construction and decommissioning; and
- Outline Employment Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan (oESSCMP), which will set out measures to maximise opportunities to promote economic benefits in relation to skills, supply chains, and employment in the local region, which is required to deliver the entirety of the Proposed Development.

## Operation and Maintenance

16.6.4 During operation and maintenance, the Proposed Development would be subject to the following plans:

[399] The ISEP (2025) guidance states that offsetting is not suitable in Social Impact Assessment, with 'compensation' referenced as an example of last resort in Social Impact Assessment instead.

- Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), which will set out measures to manage environmental impacts during the operational phase of the development and ensuring compliance;
- Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), which will set out the short and long-term measures and practices that would be implemented to establish, monitor, and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design of the Proposed Development;
- Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP), which, as above, will manage potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during and on completion of the Proposed Development (considering the construction, decommissioning and operational phases);
- Outline Employment Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan (oESSCMP), which will set out measures to maximise opportunities to promote economic benefits in relation to skills, supply chains, and employment in the local region, which is required to deliver the entirety of the Proposed Development; and
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP), which will set out measures to account for potential safety risks, and the mitigation and management procedures to ensure that all safety concerns are addressed in so far as is reasonably practicable.

### Decommissioning

16.6.5 The decommissioning management plans would include:

- Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP), which will set out the principal decommissioning activities and the measures that would be implemented, so far as is practical, to ensure the works do not adversely impact amenity, traffic or the environment in the surrounding area;
- Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP), which, as above, will manage any potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land) during and on completion of the Proposed Development (considering the construction, decommissioning and operational phases);
- Outline Employment Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan (oESSCMP), which will set out measures to maximise opportunities to promote economic benefits in relation to skills, supply chains, and employment in the local region, which is required to deliver the entirety of the Proposed Development; and
- Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP), which will set out the standard good practice measures that would be implemented by the Applicant to manage waste generated by the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development.

## 16.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

16.7.1 No consultation has been undertaken to date for socioeconomics. Once the scope of the assessment has been agreed, consultation with local stakeholders, including East Riding of Yorkshire and the City of Kingston upon Hull, would be undertaken. This could include the Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration for East Riding of Yorkshire and team members at Visit Hull and East Yorkshire, as well as the Economic Development Officer at Hull City Council.

## Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

16.7.2 **Table 16-1** presents the socioeconomic matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse or significant beneficial effects and are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment. The list of social determinants (potential effects) is drawn from that set out in the ISEP (2025) guidance.[400]

16.7.3 It is recognised that socioeconomic effects are closely linked to various effects on amenity – particularly Landscape and Visual Impacts, Noise, Air Quality and Traffic and Transport. These are to be assessed separately in specific chapters which would be cross referenced in the assessment. Similarly, the potential effects on population health, including on local people are considered in a dedicated chapter (see **Chapter 15: Human Health**).

16.7.4 A central socioeconomic benefit of the Proposed Development is the contribution to net zero targets, to any associated reduction in GHG emissions as well as the supply of renewable energy over its operational lifetime. This is covered in a specific chapter on climate effects (see **Chapter 13: Carbon and Climate Change**).

16.7.5 Potential effects of the Proposed Development on the supply of agricultural land, including best and most versatile land, is detailed in **Chapter 8: Agricultural Soils** and would not be covered here. Any resulting employment and economic effects, however, would be covered.

Table 16-1: Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Socioeconomic conditions as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on upskilling and training. | *All phases*: Whilst the Proposed Development will include workforce training and upskilling, it is likely that the majority of workers will have existing experience and qualifications appropriate to their roles. The expectation is that apprenticeships and upskilling would not be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Housing as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on homes or accommodation quality, supply, price or access. | *Operation and maintenance*: As relatively few operational workers (likely less than 50) are expected to be required, the extent of any change in demand for accommodation during operation is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on relocations or temporary housing. | *All phases*: No relocations are expected and no new temporary accommodation are expected on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. The workforce is expected to be drawn predominantly from the Labour Market Area and Labour Market Focus Area with normal patterns of construction worker commuting and use of overnight accommodation. During operation, relatively few operational workers (likely less than 50) are expected to be required. This social determinant is scoped out. |

[400] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK. https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Social change due to impact on spatial planning and zoning. | *All phases*: Whilst the Proposed Development affects land use, it does not change spatial planning or zoning designations in relation to current or future housing on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Infrastructure as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on public & social services (e.g. health & education). | *All phases*: The Proposed Development is not expected to result in a significant permanent increase in the local population; thus, demand on school places and health services, such as GP provision, should not be affected on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on local community facilities (e.g. halls) and their financial revenues. | *All phases*: No direct or indirect impacts to community halls are expected on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. (This is a separate consideration for tourism and visitor facilities which are scoped in for detailed assessment.) |
| Social change due to impact on public utilities (e.g. water or energy supplies). | *All phases*: No direct or indirect impacts to public utilities are expected on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. Any diversions would be managed in accordance with standard good practice and discussion with relevant providers and service users. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| People as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on migration or demographic change (including presence of temporary workforces or gentrification). | *All phases*: The Proposed Development is not expected to result in either temporary or permanent changes in the local population and its demographic structure to an extent that could significantly affect community social outcomes. The workforce is expected to be drawn predominantly from the Labour Market Area and Labour Market Focus Area, with normal patterns of construction worker commuting and use of overnight accommodation. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on people's capacities to engage in society linked to levels of health, education, skills, care responsibilities or human rights. | *All phases*: The Proposed Development is not expected to change the underlying capacities, rights or statuses of the affected communities such that they would significantly change their degree of engagement with society. Human rights are appropriately and separately protected by the regimes set out in the Human Rights Act 1998. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on people's outlook (public understanding), including aspirations, fears, expectations and anxieties. | *All phases*: Whilst there would likely be a degree of concern and uncertainty about the Proposed Development, as well as positive aspiration and expectations, there would also be a high degree of information provided by the Proposed Development through the application process. As information would be provided and consultation undertaken, any change in community outlook is unlikely to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. This issue is appropriately considered in the Human Health EIA topic under the 'public understanding of risk' health determinant (see Chapter 15 Human Health). |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Connectedness of community as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on community cohesion, severance and social networks. | *All phases*: Whilst the Proposed Development affects a number of routes, significant severance within or between communities is not anticipated. Therefore, there is not expected to be disruption to community social networks or cohesion on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. An Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP) will be produced and outline how PRoW will be managed for the Proposed Development to ensure they have been considered fully and are able to operate during construction, operation and decommissioning. The issue of 'Social change due to impact on public access to outdoor spaces and routes, including sports, play and recreation' has been scoped in. To avoid duplication, 'Social change due to impact on community cohesion, severance and social networks' has been scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on community interactions linked to safety, hazards, security and crime. | *All phases*: The management plans associated with the Proposed Development, and secured through its determination, will appropriately respond to issues of safety, hazards, security and crime e.g. fencing and unintrusive lighting and CCTV. Any change is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on volunteering and inter-generational participation, including linked to empowerment and representation in decision-making. | *All phases*: No impacts on volunteering or intergenerational participation are expected. Any change will not be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Culture as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on cultural identity, including linked to buildings, structures and events. | *All phases*: This issue is appropriately assessed through the Chapter 9 Archaeology and Chapter 10 Built heritage. Any impact on cultural identity is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on place identity, including wider cityscape, seascape or landscape aesthetics. | *All phases*: This issue is appropriately assessed through Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual. Any impact on place identity is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. The issue is appropriately considered in Chapter 15 Human Health under the 'community identity' health determinant, which provides coverage of any relevant social outcomes. |
| Social change due to impact on minority languages protected in policy, e.g. Gaelic, Cornish or Welsh. | *All phases*: No impacts on minority languages are expected. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Nature as a social determinant | |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Social change due to impact on biodiversity and natural capital affecting experiences of wildlife and natural habitats. | *All phases*: This issue is appropriately assessed through Chapter 6 Biodiversity. Whilst activities associated with the Proposed Development could cause local changes (i.e. noise disturbance, visual and structural) that may reduce wellbeing and nature connection, linked to community perception of loss of natural heritage, embedded design, management plans and mitigation would minimise adverse effects. Any impact on experiences of wildlife and natural habitats is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. The issue of 'Social change due to impact on public access to outdoor spaces and routes, including sports, play and recreation' is scoped into the assessment and will consider wider impacts of changes to local amenity and facilities such as PRoW/open space on the likelihood of visitors to the Local Area. The issue is also appropriately considered in Chapter 15 Human Health under the 'community identity' health determinant, which provides coverage of any relevant social outcomes. |
| Social change due to impact on community gardens and parks (quantity, quality and access) affecting attitudes to and levels of engagement with nature. | *All phases*: The Proposed Development is not expected to result in direct or indirect impacts to community gardens or parks to an extent that could significantly affect community social outcomes. It is noted that Risby Park is encompassed by the Site Boundary and that the park benefits from woodland that provides screening. This social determinant is scoped out.<br>The issue of 'Social change due to impact on public access to outdoor spaces and routes, including sports, play and recreation' is scoped into the assessment and will consider wider impacts of changes to local amenity and facilities such as PRoW/open space on the likelihood of visitors to the Local Area. |
| Social change due to impact on natural resource availability, or traditional knowledge, relating to local farming, growing, foraging or freshwater. | *All phases*: Any impacts on natural resource availability to communities is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. Potential impacts to best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land are set out in Chapter 8: Agricultural Soils. |
| Living environmental as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact of pollution or nuisance affecting | *All phases*: This issue is appropriately assessed through Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration, Chapter 17 Air Quality (Scoped out), Chapter 7 hydrology and Chapter 18 Land and Groundwater (Scoped out). Any impact on the local living environment is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |
| Social change due to impact on wider living environment quality due to climate change or the circular economy. | *All phases*: This issue is appropriately assessed through the Chapter 13 Carbon and Climate Change. Any impact on place identity is not expected to be on a scale that could significantly affect community social outcomes. This social determinant is scoped out. |

## Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment

16.7.6 Potential socioeconomic effects that would be further considered in terms of **employment** are:

- Additional temporary direct employment opportunities during the construction and decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development and additional permanent employment opportunities during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The number of new jobs created as a direct result of the Proposed Development will be assessed, based on estimates derived from estimates of the investment value of the Proposed Development or using published estimates from other solar schemes.

- The potential for existing employment within the Site Boundary, for example in agricultural or visitor economy jobs lost or relocated as a result of the Proposed Development will also be assessed, during construction, operation and decommissioning. This will take into account the potential for income diversification to landowners via income received in rent from the Proposed Development. Indirect employment effects arising from the expenditure of new employees and the investment required for the Proposed Development at construction, operation and decommissioning will also be assessed using economic multipliers. The "net additional" number of jobs (i.e. gains less any loses) will be presented.

- The supply of labour – both in terms of the number of employees and the relevant skills required – likely to be provided by the local labour market, considering community/travel to work patterns.

16.7.7 Potential socioeconomic effects that will be further considered in terms of **tourism and the visitor economy** are:

- Potential for and impacts of temporary use of local accommodation by construction workers, on the owners and other visitors to the Local Area during construction and decommissioning phases.

- Wider impacts of changes to local amenity and facilities such as PRoW/open space on the likelihood of visitors to the Local Area and any associated employment effects to local business owners and employees during construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

16.7.8 The effects to be scoped into the detailed assessment are summarised in Table 16-2 below. The list of social determinants (potential effects) is drawn from that set out in the ISEP 2025 guidance.[401]

Table 16-2: Effects Scoped in to the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| Socioeconomic conditions as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on jobs and GVA created, safeguarded or lost. | *Construction and decommissioning*: The Proposed Development is expected to support an increase in temporary employment opportunities at the Site Boundary, at a range of skills levels and with at least a proportion accessible to people in the Local Market Focus Area.<br>*Operation and maintenance*: Permanent roles are expected to be supported once the Proposed Development becomes operational, with at least a proportion accessible to people in the Local Market Focus Area. |

[401] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK. https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| | *All phases*: Consideration will be given to the risk of employment losses in agriculture. Any increase in employment noted above, will be compared with any potential for employment losses (referred to as displacement effects) for example in local employment in agriculture within the Site Boundary. It is important to note that any such effects are unknown at this stage and will be further examined. The overall net effect on employment would be examined during construction, operation and decommissioning.<br>*All phases*: Consideration will be given to labour supply. The assessment will example sources of labour supply, both in terms of the number of jobs, the nature of the roles and skill level required as well as that available in the local labour market. This will help to establish the likelihood of jobs being filled locally or from further afield. |
| Social change due to impact on structural economic factors, including traditional industries or foundational economy (including impact on tourism-based livelihoods). | *All phases*: The potential for the visitor economy/tourism to be affected would be examined as follows:<br>First, provision of accommodation/visitor attractions near to the Site Boundary and associated employment will be assessed.<br>Second, any specific works proposed and distances will be examined, taking into account any natural/proposed barriers.<br>Third, assessments of amenity (e.g. Noise, Transport and Access, Built Heritage, and Landscape and Visual impact) would be cross-referred. Air quality has been scoped out of the EIA (see Chapter 17 Air Quality). Mitigation measures proposed (and associated management plans) will be taken into account.<br>Fourth, the size of the Site Boundary, and the nature and duration of very localised proposed works across the Site Boundary over the construction duration will be evaluated.<br>Fifth, the extent to which additional construction employment on the Site Boundary may offset potential adverse effects on demand will be considered.<br>Sixth, when considering the potential for effects during operation, published evidence will be reviewed on the relationship between presence of solar farms and Tourism. |
| Housing as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on homes or accommodation quality, supply, price or access. | *Construction and decommissioning*: The net change in employment and the extent to which these jobs are likely to be filled by local people will influence the likely demand on accommodation in the Local Area. Consideration would include the potential for and impacts of temporary use of local accommodation by construction and decommissioning workers, on the owners and other visitors to the Local Area during construction and decommissioning phases. This links with tourism economy effects discussed above. |
| Living environment as a social determinant | |
| Social change due to impact on public access to outdoor spaces and routes, including sports, play and recreation. | *All phases*: This issue is appropriately considered in the Human Health EIA topic under the 'open space, leisure and play (including opportunities for physical activity)' health determinant (see **Chapter 15: Human Health**). Wider impacts of changes to local amenity and facilities such as PRoW/open space on the likelihood of visitors to the Local Area and any associated employment effects to local business owners and |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped In |
|---|---|
| | employees. This links with the tourism economy effects discussed above. |

## 16.8 Proposed Approach to the ES

### Assessment Methodology

#### *Further Baseline Data*

16.8.1 A further review of relevant national, regional and local policies would be carried out to identify the key issues relevant to the Proposed Development.

16.8.2 More detailed review of baseline socio-economic conditions would be undertaken, alongside assessment of current uses, facilities and social infrastructure around the Site Boundary. Data may be used at OA, LSOA, District and regional level. Where the 'Zone of Influence' of the Proposed Development differs from the spatial levels noted above, other metrics such as proximity, travel/commuting distances and/or defined planning areas may be more appropriate and would be considered.

16.8.3 For the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement, subnational population projections[402] for the assessment years will be used to outline the predicted future baseline for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

16.8.4 Discussions would take place with landowners to ascertain:

- Full time, part time and seasonal employment on landowner and tenant plots, and approximate hours worked; and
- Landowner expectations for continued employment of the above roles either on the same plots, if feasible, or others owned by the landowner, if relevant.

#### *Methodology for Assessment of Effects at Construction, Operation and Decommissioning*

16.8.5 The same approach would be taken across construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The proposed approach is based on the ISEP (2025) guidance.[403]

16.8.6 Social impact assessment is analysing, monitoring and managing the social consequences of development.[404] In the context of EIA, Social Impact Assessment is a means of investigating and understanding the likely significant effects of new development on the host community.[405]

[402] Office for National Statistics (2025) Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2006 [Accessed 29 May 2026].
[403] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK. Available at: https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/
[404] IAIA (2003) International Principles for Social Impact Assessment. https://iaia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BEST-PRACTICE-SIA-Principles.pdf
[405] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK. https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/

Social impact assessment aims to bring about more ecologically, socio-culturally and economically sustainable and equitable environment.[406]

16.8.7 The social assessment looks at social outcomes at the community level. The social assessment considers the societal pressures placed on, and opportunities provided to, the relevant community(s) due to the Proposed Development. The primary receptor for the assessment is the community or communities of the relevant study area/zone of influence. Within this relevant consideration is given to the experiences of, and outcomes to, the people that make up that community, as well as effects on infrastructures (e.g. schools) and services.

16.8.8 For each social determinant, the approach assesses the sensitivity of the relevant community(s), and the magnitude of the impacts due to the Proposed Development.

*Sensitivity*

16.8.9 The criteria for community sensitivity are outlined in **Table 16-3**. Judgements are based on most relevant criteria as it is likely in any given analysis that some criteria would span categories.

16.8.10 For Social Impact Assessment receptors are the defined communities. Within these communities there would be workforces, residents, visitors, businesses, services, events, neighbourhoods, facilities, assets, sites, routes, habitats and spaces. The community would also be set within a wider context of markets, identity and other societal influences.

16.8.11 In assessing the sensitivity of a community, relevant characteristics of the community are considered in terms of their value, capacity, scarcity and/or dependency. Characteristics affected may include for example, labour markets, traditional industries, accommodation markets, key public services, key community facilities or amenities, certain population groups, cultural sites, the community setting, protected languages, natural capital or public spaces.

Table 16-3: Community Sensitivity Criteria

| Level | Indicative criteria |
|---|---|
| High | The value of a key community characteristic (e.g. market, traditional industry or minority language) is high because it is highlighted as important or is protected in relevant strategies, policies or official publications.<br><br>The capacity of a key community characteristic (e.g. tourism, labour or housing market) to absorb change is limited because: it has little or no headroom relative to existing demand (e.g. for visitor bedspaces); is based on inherent fragility or constraints (e.g. tourism reliant on the tranquillity of the environment); or is reliant on a population with high degrees of baseline deprivation.<br><br>The scarcity of a key community characteristic (e.g. footpath, traditional industry, asset, land allocation or service) is high, because: there are no alternatives; or it is considered to be of regional or national importance.<br>The dependence on a key community characteristic is essential because it is a critical public service (e.g. a sole health or education provider); or it sustains usual daily activities (e.g. sole community leisure facility or play park); or local livelihoods rely upon it (e.g. crofting land). |
| Medium | The value of a key community characteristic is medium because it is referenced directly but only as contributory in relevant strategies, policies or official publications. |

[406] IAIA (no date) Social Impact Assessment (online) https://iaia.org/social-impact-assessment/social-impact-assessment-general-info/

| Level | Indicative criteria |
|---|---|
| | The capacity of a key community characteristic to absorb change is moderate because: it has some headroom relative to existing demand; has some reliance on inherent fragility or constraints; or is reliant on a population with moderate degrees of baseline deprivation.<br>The scarcity of a key community characteristic is medium, because: there are limited alternatives; or it is considered to be of local or regional importance.<br>The dependence on a key community characteristic is influential because it is a core public service; or it supports usual daily activities; or local livelihoods make high use of it. |
| Low | The value of a key community characteristic is low because it is only referenced indirectly or as peripheral within relevant strategies, policies or official publications.<br>The capacity of a key community characteristic to absorb change is high because: it has adequate headroom relative to existing demand (e.g. for visitor bedspaces); has limited reliance on inherent fragility or constraints; or is reliant on a population with low degrees of baseline deprivation.<br>The scarcity of a key community characteristic is low, because: there are adequate alternatives; or it is considered to be of limited local or regional importance.<br>The dependence on a key community characteristic is marginal because it is a standard service; or it has limited influence on usual daily activities; or local livelihoods make little use of it. |
| Negligible | The value of a key community characteristic is limited because it is not referenced in relevant strategies, policies or official publications.<br>The capacity of a key community characteristic to absorb change is very high because: it has plenty of headroom relative to existing demand; has no reliance on inherent fragility or constraints; or is reliant on a population with very low degrees of baseline deprivation.<br>The scarcity of a key community characteristic is very low, because: there are a more than adequate alternatives; or it is not considered to be of local or regional importance.<br>The dependence on a key community characteristic is low because it is a common service; or it has no influence on usual daily activities (e.g. inaccessible private land); or local livelihoods make no use of it (e.g. derelict buildings). |

*Magnitude*

16.8.12 The criteria for impact magnitude are reflected in **Table 16-4.** Judgements are based on most relevant criteria as it is likely in any given analysis that some criteria would span categories.

16.8.13 In assessing the magnitude of an impact, relevant characteristics of the change due to the Proposed Development are considered in terms of their size, scale, duration, frequency and reversibility. Community characteristics impacted may include for example, jobs, bedspaces, demographics, land use or services.

Table 16-4: Magnitude Criteria

| Level | Indicative criteria |
|---|---|
| High | High size or scale; long-term duration; continuous frequency; permanent change. |
| Medium | Medium size or scale; medium-term duration; frequent events; gradual reversal. |
| Low | Small size or scale; short-term duration; occasional events; rapid reversal. |

| Level | Indicative criteria |
|---|---|
| Negligible | Negligible size or scale; very short-term duration; one-off frequency; immediate reversal. |

16.8.14 The following size definitions guide the social impact assessment:

- Large size relates to impacts characterised as follows. The number of jobs expected to be created is a large proportion of the existing local labour supply; or the number of new residents is a large proportion of the baseline population. The project would create employment in sectors which would cause structural economic change in a place.
- Medium size relates to impacts characterised as follows. The number of jobs expected to be created is a moderate proportion of the existing local labour supply; or the number of new residents is a moderate proportion of the baseline population. The project would create employment in sectors which would cause influential economic change in a place.
- Small size relates to impacts characterised as follows. The number of jobs expected to be created is a small proportion of the existing local labour supply; or the number of new residents is a small proportion of the baseline population. The project would create employment in sectors which would cause marginal economic change in a place.
- Negligible size relates to impacts characterised as follows. The number of jobs expected to be created is a very small proportion of the existing local labour supply; or the number of new residents is a very small proportion of the baseline population. The project would create employment in sectors which would cause no discernible economic change in a place.

16.8.15 The following scale of change definitions guide the social impact assessment:

- High scale relates to profound change in conditions or availability of a resource that influences social outcomes. Change is dominant. Impact is experienced across large geographic areas or to a large number of communities/receptors. Typically, impacts are widespread and experienced in full across the area; or critically impacts a key service covering that area for which there is no alternative. Typically, the addition or removal of the majority, or entirety, of an influential resource.
- Medium scale relates to notable change in conditions or availability of a resource that influences social outcomes. Change is prominent. Impact is experienced across moderate geographic areas or to a moderate number of communities/receptors. Typically, impacts are widespread but experienced variably across the area; or markedly impacts a key service covering that area for which there are limited alternatives. Typically, the addition or removal of a sizable component of an influential resource.
- Small scale relates to marginal change in conditions or availability of a resource that influences social outcomes. Change is noticeable but generally unobtrusive unless scrutinised. Impact is experienced across small geographic areas or to a small number of communities/receptors. Typically, impacts are localised and experienced variably across the area; or marginally impacts a key service covering that area for which there are no or limited alternatives. Typically, the modification of a small part of an influential resource, or larger change to a resource that has limited influence in the context.
- Negligible scale relates to no discernible change in conditions or availability of a resource that influences social outcomes. Change is generally indiscernible. Impact is experienced across very small geographic areas or to very few communities/receptors. Typically, impacts

are highly localised; or relate to very specific users of an impacted service covering that area for which there are no alternatives. Typically, the modification of a small part of a resource that has limited influence in the context.

16.8.16 The following duration of impact definitions guide the social impact assessment:

- Long-term relates to impacts predominantly experienced over many years or decades. Typically, operational effects.
- Medium-term relates to impacts predominantly experienced over months or a few years. Typically, overall construction, maintenance or decommissioning effects at a given location.
- Short-term relates to impacts predominantly experienced over months. Typically, localised construction, maintenance or decommissioning effects at a given location.
- Very-short-term relates to impacts predominantly experienced over hours, days or weeks. Typically, highly localised construction, maintenance or decommissioning effects at a given location.

16.8.17 The following frequency of impact definitions guide the social impact assessment:

- Continuous relates to impacts characterised as experienced on an ongoing basis without interruption. Typically, where there is a dominant influence from operational infrastructure or activities at permanently occupied locations with no respite and no meaningful variation; or atypical construction, maintenance or decommissioning activities undertaken on a 24hr basis for a specified period.
- Frequent relates to impacts characterised as experienced on a regular basis but where planned schedules provide respite, or normal behaviours in the receiving population provide meaningful variation. Typically, construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning activities undertaken during normal work hours; or experiences of infrastructure or activities that are common but interspersed by other influences and time at other locations.
- Occasional relates to impacts characterised as seldom experienced or only experienced on a transitory basis. Typically, planned construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning irregular events; or fleeting experiences of infrastructure or activities from time-to-time, for example whilst passing along a transport route.
- One-off relates to impacts characterised as experienced rarely or only once. Typically, a temporary but noteworthy event during construction or decommissioning; or relating to a mitigated but still foreseeable atypical events occurring, such as an accident or unplanned repair.

### *Significance*

16.8.18 Determination of the likely significance of social or economic effects, including distributional effects, is an evidence and context based professional judgment. To guide the professional judgment a matrix is used (see **Table 16-5**).

16.8.19 Where the matrix offers more than one significance option, professional judgement is used to decide which option is most appropriate.

16.8.20 Effects of moderate and above are considered significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Table 16-5: Indicative Assessment Matrix

| Magnitude of Impact | Sensitivity of Community | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | High | Medium | Low | Negligible |
| High | Major | Moderate or major | Moderate or minor | Minor or negligible |
| Medium | Moderate or major | Moderate | Minor | Minor or negligible |
| Low | Moderate or minor | Minor | Minor | Negligible |
| Negligible | Minor or negligible | Minor or negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

16.8.21 The narrative accompanying the significance conclusion is informed by the criteria set out in **Table 16-6**. Judgements are based on most relevant criteria as it is likely in any given analysis that some criteria would span categories.

Table 16-6: Significance Criteria

| Level | Indicative criteria |
|---|---|
| Major (significant) | The narrative explains that this is a significant community effect because:<br>Changes, due to the Proposed Development, have a substantial effect on the ability to deliver current social or economic policy (including in relation to distributional inequalities).<br>There is likely to be a major change in the social or economic baseline of the community(s) of the relevant study area. |
| Moderate (significant) | The narrative explains that this is a significant community effect because:<br>Changes, due to the Proposed Development, have an influential effect on the ability to deliver social or economic policy (including in relation to distributional inequalities).<br>There is likely to be a moderate change in the social or economic baseline of the community(s) of the relevant study area. |
| Minor (not significant) | The narrative explains that this is not a significant community effect because:<br>Changes, due to the Proposed Development, have a marginal effect on the ability to deliver social or economic policy (including in relation to distributional inequalities).<br>There is likely to be a minor change in the social or economic baseline of the community(s) of the relevant study area. |
| Negligible (not significant) | The narrative explains that this is not a significant community effect because:<br>Changes, due to the Proposed Development, are not related to the ability to deliver current social or economic policy (including in relation to distributional inequalities).<br>There is likely to be a negligible change in the social or economic baseline of the community(s) of the relevant study area. |

16.8.22 The assessment will aim to quantify effects where possible, although where this is not possible some effects will be assessed qualitatively. Effects are defined as follows:

- Beneficial classifications of effect indicate an advantageous or positive effect on the defined receptors within the Study Area(s);
- Neutral classifications of effect indicate no perceived effects on the defined receptors within the Study Area(s); and
- Adverse classifications of effect indicate a disadvantageous or negative effect on the defined receptors within the Study Area(s).

16.8.23 The community receptors in the study area for each potential effect will be defined according to the appropriate spatial scale, which may differ for each potential effect. It may be relevant to assess the significance of certain effects at multiple spatial scales (e.g. both locally and regionally).

### *Cumulative Assessments*

16.8.24 The assessment methodology for cumulative and in-combination assessments has been detailed within **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA.**

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

16.8.25 The socioeconomics assessment draws upon the assessments of other chapters for amenity effects, in particular **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual, Chapter 12: Transport and Access** and **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration**. The assumptions applied in these assessments therefore are also applicable to the socioeconomics assessment.

16.8.26 The socioeconomics baseline may be impacted by factors such as wider macro-economic change. It is not possible to account for these potential and unknown changes in this assessment.

Pre-defined criteria as well as evidence and context based professional judgement will be used when determining community sensitivity, impact magnitude and the likely significance of social or economic effects. This approach is accepted by ISEP (2025) guidance[407].

[407] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK. Available at: https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/

# 17 Air Quality (Scoped Out)

## 17.1 Introduction

17.1.1 This Chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of the detailed assessment for air quality impacts upon human and ecological receptors from the Proposed Development. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Proposed Development and surrounding area. It concludes by setting out justification as to why the topic is proposed to be **scoped out of the ES** and outlines the method that would be used to undertake the standalone assessment.

## 17.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

17.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Air Quality, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- EU Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe[408];
- The Environmental Protection Act (1990)[409];
- Part IV of the Environment Act (1995)[410];
- The Clean Air Act (1993)[411];
- The Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000)[412];
- The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations (2002)[413];
- The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010)[414];
- The Environment Act 2021 (2021)[415]; and
- The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[416];

[408] The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2008) Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Available: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008L0050.
[409] Environmental Protection Act 1990 (1990), Available: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents.
[410] Environment Act (1995), HMSO, Available: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents.
[411] Clean Air Act 1993 (1993), HMSO, Available: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/11/contents.
[412] The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 Statutory Instrument 928 (2000), HMSO, Available: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2000/928/contents/made.
[413] The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002, Statutory Instrument 3043 (2002), HMSO, Available: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/3043/contents/made.
[414] The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 Statutory Instrument 1001 (2010), HMSO, Available: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/pdfs/uksi_20101001_en.pdf.
[415] Environment Act 2021 (2021).
[416] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[417];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[418];
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[419] and Draft NPPF (December 2025)[420]
- Environmental Improvement Plan (2025)[421];
- Clean Air Strategy (2019)[422];
- Air Quality Strategy (2007)[423];
- Air Quality Strategy (2023)[424];
- Reducing Emissions from Road Transport: Road to Zero Strategy (2018)[425];
- National Air Quality Plan (2017) and Supplement (2018)[426]; and
- $PM_{2.5}$ Targets: Interim Planning Guidance (2024)[427].

## Local Planning Policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[428]

## National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance for Air Quality (2019)[429];
- Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) & Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance: Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality (2017)[430];

[417] DESNZ (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[418] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[419] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[420] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025) Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025)
[421] Defra (2025) Environmental Improvement Plan 2025, [Online], Available: https:// www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025/environmental-improvement-plan-eip-2025.
[422] Defra (2019) Clean Air Strategy 2019, Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019.
[423] Defra (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Defra.
[424] Defra (2023) Air Quality Strategy: Framework for Local Authority Delivery, [Online], Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england/air-quality-strategy-framework-for-local-authority-delivery.
[425] DfT (2018) The Road to Zero: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy.
[426] Defra (2018) Supplement to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations, Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746100/air-quality-no2-plan-supplement.pdf.
[427] Defra (2024) PM2.5 Targets: Interim Planning Guidance, [Online], Available: https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/pm25targets/planning.
[428] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents) Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[429] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance, Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance.
[430] Moorcroft and Barrowcliffe et al (2017) Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality v1.2, IAQM, London, Available: http://iaqm.co.uk/guidance/.

- IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (2024)[431]; and
- Defra Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22) (2025)[432].

## 17.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

17.3.1 This section of the Scoping Chapter for Air Quality sets out the known baseline conditions at this (scoping) stage of the project. It is noted that further assessment is proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (see details and scope of the further baseline data below under **Section 17.4**).

### Study Area

17.3.2 The assessment of dust and particulate emissions during construction considers the potential effects within 250m of the Site Boundary (including the cable search area), or within 50m of roads used by construction vehicles within 250m of the Site Boundary exit(s). This is in line with IAQM guidance[431].

17.3.3 The assessment of pollutant emissions from road traffic exhausts defines the study area based on criteria in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), which considers there is a potential for air quality road traffic impacts *"on sensitive receptors within 200m of a road."* A distance of 200m is used as concentrations from road sources decrease rapidly with distance from the source and beyond this distance the road source contribution is not typically discernible. The key pollutants in terms of human health impacts from road traffic emissions are nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$) and particulate matter ($PM_{10}$ and $PM_{2.5}$). For ecological impacts, the key pollutants are oxides of nitrogen ($NO_x$) and ammonia ($NH_3$).

### Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

17.3.4 Baseline data was collected using the following sources:

- Local sources of pollution have been identified through examination of the Council's Air Quality Review and Assessment reports[433];
- Information on existing air quality has been obtained by collating the results of monitoring carried out by the local authority[433];
- Background concentrations have been defined using the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) 2021-based background maps[434]. These cover the whole of the UK on a 1x1 km grid and are intended to be representative of air quality conditions away from major roads or other significant sources of emissions; and
- Whether or not there are any exceedances of the annual mean limit value for $NO_2$, $PM_{10}$ and $PM_{2.5}$ in the study area has been identified using Defra's Compliance data[435].

[431] IAQM (2024) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction v2.2, [Online], Available: http://iaqm.co.uk/guidance/.
[432] Defra (2025) Review & Assessment: Technical Guidance LAQM.TG22 May 2025 Version, [Online], Available: https:// laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LAQM-TG22-May-25-v2.1.pdf.
[433] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025) 2025 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR). Available: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/air-quality-monitoring/pdfs/Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Status%20Report%20(ASR)%202025.pdf
[434] Defra (2026) Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Support Website, [Online], Available: http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/.
[435] Defra (2026) UK Ambient Air Quality Interactive Map, [Online], Available: https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/gis-mapping.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

17.3.5 The Proposed Development falls wholly within the administrative boundary of ERoY Council. The nearest Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) to the Site Boundary is located in Kingston upon Hull, approximately 7 km to the southeast, and designated for an area of the City Centre. Hull City Council are currently in the process of revoking this AQMA, but this has not yet been confirmed by Defra, so it has been conservatively assumed that it remains in place. Given this distance and taking account the AQMA has been designated for the city centre, the Proposed Development is not expected to affect air quality within this area. The location and setting of the Site Boundary are presented in **Figure 1-1**.

17.3.6 The Site Boundary is predominantly rural and no significant industrial sources have been identified that are likely to affect the Proposed Development, in terms of air quality.

17.3.7 ERoY Council monitors air quality throughout its administrative boundary using a network of $NO_2$ diffusion tubes, including at 8 locations within 5km of the Site Boundary. The locations are shown in **Figure 17-2** and annual mean $NO_2$ results for 2019 to 2024 (the latest year of air quality monitoring data within the public domain) are shown in **Table 17-1**. Results have been taken from ERoY Council's 2024[436] and 2025[437] Air Quality Annual Status Reports.

Table 17-1: Summary of Annual Mean NO2 Monitoring (2019-2024) (µg/m³)

| Site ID | Site Type | Location | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S5 | Roadside | 1 Queensgate, Beverley | 27.0 | 21.1 | 23.7 | 20.9 | 21.3 | 21.5 |
| S6 | Roadside | 163 Keldgate, Beverley | 21.0 | 21.2 | 24.8 | 22.5 | 21.4 | 20.2 |
| S7 | Kerbside | 16 Queensgate, Beverley | 25.0 | 20.4 | 21.8 | 20.0 | 19.6 | 18.9 |
| S15 | Roadside | 270 Northgate, Cottingham | 24.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 20.2 | 19.0 | 17.3 |
| S19 | Roadside | Swinemoor Lane, Beverley | 23.0 | 19.9 | 22.1 | 21.5 | 12.3 | 12.6 |
| S21 | Roadside | 9 Swinemoor Lane, Beverley | 29.0 | 23.7 | 26.6 | 22.8 | 22.7 | 19.3 |
| S24 | Roadside | 29 Railway Street, Beverley | - | - | 20.1 | 19.2 | 18.8 | 17.4 |
| S49 | Roadside | 57 Flemingate, Beverley | - | 14.8 | 17.5 | 17.1 | 16.1 | 16.0 |
| Objective | | | 40 | | | | | |

[436] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2024) 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR). Available: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/air-quality-monitoring/pdfs/Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Status%20Report%20(ASR)%202024.pdf
[437] East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025) 2025 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR). Available: https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/air-quality-monitoring/pdfs/Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Status%20Report%20(ASR)%202025.pdf

17.3.8 As shown in **Table 17-1**, there have been no recorded exceedances of the annual mean $NO_2$ objective (of 40 µg/m³) at the nearby monitoring sites since at least 2019, with measured concentrations well below the air quality objective for the protection of human health. Concentrations have therefore also remained well below 60 µg/m³, indicating that exceedances of the 1-hour mean $NO_2$ objective are unlikely to have occurred (according to methodology set out in Defra's LAQM.TG22[432]). There has been a decrease in concentrations observed since 2019, which is in line with trends observed nationally[438].

17.3.9 While 2020 and 2021 results have been presented for completeness, they will not be relied upon in any way as they are unlikely to be representative of 'typical' air quality conditions due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on traffic volumes and thus pollutant concentrations.

17.3.10 No monitoring of $PM_{10}$ or $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations is carried out by ERoY Council but based on the rural location of the Site away from any major sources of emissions, the baseline pollutant concentrations are expected to be close to background levels (presented below).

17.3.11 There are no Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) monitoring sites operated by Defra in the study area with which to identify exceedances of the annual mean $NO_2$ limit value. Defra's roadside annual mean $NO_2$ concentrations, which are used to identify and report exceedances of the limit value, do not identify any exceedances within the study area in 2024. As such, there is considered to be no risk of a limit value exceedance in the vicinity of the Proposed Development by the time that it is operational.

17.3.12 Estimated background concentrations in the Study Area, derived from Defra's 2021-based background maps, are set out in **Table 17-2** and are all well below the objectives for all pollutants. A range of values is presented as the study area covers multiple 1x1 km grid squares.

Table 17-2: Estimated Annual Mean Background Concentrations in 2026 (µg/m³)

| Year | $NO_2$ | $PM_{10}$ | $PM_{2.5}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2026 | 3.7 – 8.1 | 11.7 – 13.6 | 5.1 – 6.1 |
| Objective / AMCT | 40 | 40 | 20[a] / 10[b] |

[a] The 20 µg/m³ $PM_{2.5}$ objective, which was to be met by 2020, is not in Regulations and there is no requirement for local authorities to meet it.

[b] To be met by 2040, and provided here for reference only.

## 17.4 Predicted Future Baseline

17.4.1 Future air quality conditions (i.e. anticipated opening year of the Proposed Development) at the Site is expected to be better than it is currently, as policies and measures to improve air quality (such as the change in vehicle fleet to electric cars and lower emission vehicles) and reduce emissions continue to deliver improvements. Emissions of nitrogen oxides have decreased by 80% since 1990[439] As such, future baseline conditions will be better than, and not materially different to, the current conditions.

[438] Air Pollution in the UK 2023, Defra, September 2024. Available at https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/annualreport/viewonline?year=2023_issue_1#report_pdf
439 Emissions of air pollutants in the UK – Nitrogen oxides (NOx), 2026 available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/emissions-of-air-pollutants/emissions-of-air-pollutants-in-the-uk-nitrogen-oxides-nox

## 17.5 Important Receptors Identified

### Construction

17.5.1 The IAQM construction dust risk assessment approach[431] does not require specific sensitive receptors to be identified; instead, the numbers of different types of receptors within given distance bands are counted. It considers the potential for impacts within 250m of the site boundary, or within 50m of roads used by construction vehicles within 250m of the Site exit(s).

17.5.2 The guidance explains that residential properties, schools and care homes are 'high' sensitivity receptors to dust soiling, while public parks and places of work are 'medium' sensitivity receptors with farmland being 'low' sensitivity. Residential properties, schools and care homes are classified as being of 'high' sensitivity for human health effects, while places of work and shops are classified as being of 'medium' sensitivity and public parks are of 'low' sensitivity. Nationally designated ecological sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), are of 'medium' sensitivity to ecological effects.

### Operation and Maintenance

17.5.3 All the human health objectives apply at locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present on a long-term basis such as at residential properties. Only the 1-hour $NO_2$ objective applies at retail, education, community properties and public realm spaces as in these locations it is unlikely people will spend an extended period (i.e. 24 hours) in these locations. Offices and places of work are not covered by the national air quality objectives.

17.5.4 Nationally designated ecological sites located within 200m of a road likely to be affected by the operation of the Proposed Development, within 10km of the Site, are considered.

### Decommissioning

17.5.5 The approach taken during decommissioning will be the same as that during construction, described in paragraphs 17.5.1 and 17.5.2.

## 17.6 Environmental Measures

17.6.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Air Quality would be identified and would be considered as part of the standalone assessments. At this stage of the project, the following environmental measures would be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### Construction

17.6.2 Dust management measures will be included within an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) included as part of the DCO Application. Construction plant (including non-road mobile machinery (NRMM)) and vehicles will also be managed through relevant management plans, to be secured as part of the DCO application.

### Operation and Maintenance

17.6.3 Mitigation measures to manage any impacts of unplanned emissions from a BESS fire will be included in an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP).

### Decommissioning

17.6.4 As set out for the construction phase, management measures will be set out during decommissioning to ensure there are no likely significant effects to air quality and will be included within the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) included as part of the DCO Application.

## 17.7 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

### Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

17.7.1 Table 14-3Table 17-3 presents the Air Quality matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out.

Table 17-3: Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Construction Dust | Guidance published by the IAQM[431] is clear that with good practice dust management measures in place, commensurate to the risk identified by a risk assessment following the methodology set out in the guidance, effects will be 'not significant'.<br>A risk assessment will be undertaken and appropriate measures secured in the oCEMP to be submitted as part of the DCO application. It can therefore be concluded that with the recommended dust management and mitigation measures in place, no significant effects will occur.<br>With regards to potential cumulative effects, the IAQM guidance[431] also suggests that cumulative construction dust impacts are only likely where sites are within 500 m of each other. Work would also have to be taking place in areas of both sites that are close to a receptor in order for potential cumulative effects to occur. It is anticipated that all construction sites will adopt appropriate mitigation measures to limit emissions of dust, will hold the liaison meetings and will ensure that plans are co-ordinated to minimise impacts upon the most sensitive receptors. With these measures in place, the cumulative effect of construction activities should be 'not significant'. |
| On-Site Construction Plant | The IAQM guidance[431] states:<br>"Experience of assessing the exhaust emissions from on-site plant (also known as non-road mobile machinery or NRMM) and site traffic suggests that they are unlikely to make a significant impact on local air quality, and in the vast majority of cases they will not need to be quantitatively assessed. For site plant and on-site traffic, consideration should be given to the number of plant/vehicles and their operating hours and locations to assess whether a significant effect is likely to occur".<br>The Site is large and the majority of the site area is more than 50m from any sensitive receptors. The areas in which NRMM and site traffic will typically operate are thus likely to be located more than 50m away from any sensitive properties. |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | Additionally, suitable measures for site plant will be implemented based on advice presented in the IAQM guidance[431]. Construction plant and vehicles will also be managed through the oCEMP and the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. It is therefore judged that there is negligible risk of significant effects at existing receptors as a result of on-site machinery emissions. |
| Construction Road Traffic | EPUK and the IAQM[440] recommend a two-stage screening approach[430] to determine whether emissions from road traffic generated by a development have the potential for significant air quality effects on human health. The approach first considers the size and parking provision of a development; if the development is residential and is for fewer than ten homes or covers less than 0.5 ha, or is non-residential and will provide less than 1,000m$^2$ of floor space or cover a site area of less than 1 ha, and will provide ten or fewer parking spaces, then there is no need to progress to a detailed assessment.<br>The second stage then compares the changes in vehicle flows on local roads that a development will lead to against specified screening criteria. The screening thresholds inside an AQMA are a change in flows of more than 25 Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDVs) or 100 Light Duty Vehicles (LDVs) per day; outside of an AQMA the thresholds are 100 HDVs or 500 LDVs, respectively. Where these criteria are exceeded, a detailed assessment is likely to be required, although the guidance advises that *"the criteria provided are precautionary and should be treated as indicative"*, and *"it may be appropriate to amend them on the basis of professional judgement"*.<br>The exact traffic generation by the Proposed Development will be confirmed, and a standalone qualitative air quality assessment will be carried out to determine if the screening thresholds in the second stage of the EPUK and IAQM guidance is reached. It is expected to fall below the aforementioned screening criteria, with the current estimate being a peak of approximately 80 HDV and 130 LDV movements, which would not require a detailed modelling assessment. Should the final traffic flows exceed the criteria, however, a detailed modelling assessment would be undertaken for the ES.<br>There are two SSSIs close to the likely construction vehicle routes - one adjacent to the A164 (Bryan Mills Field SSSI) and another (Burton Bushes SSSI) adjacent to York Road. Any potential air quality impacts on these SSSIs will be assessed as part of the standalone assessment and used to inform the wider assessment of potential ecological effects to be submitted as part of the DCO application. Natural England is in the process of updating its approach to assessing air quality impacts of road transport. The method will align with Natural England's revised approach. |
| Operational Road Traffic | There will be a small number of operational traffic movements associated with maintaining the solar farm, but the number is likely to fall well below the screening thresholds for a detailed air quality assessment set out in the EPUK / IAQM guidance[430], |

[440] The IAQM is the professional body for air quality practitioners in the UK.

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | especially considering the Site is not located close to an AQMA (as discussed above); thus, the Proposed Development will likely not result in any significant effects during routine operation. |
| Operational Unplanned BESS Emissions | There is the potential for unplanned emissions from the BESS during operation, such as those that could arise from a fire. The potential impacts of unplanned emissions from a BESS fire will be presented as an appendix to the outline Battery Safety Management Plan that will be submitted alongside the DCO application. |
| Operational Land Use | A change of use from agricultural use to the Proposed Development has the potential to improve local air quality through the reduction in emissions generated by agriculture (such as emissions from agricultural plant, the use of any chemicals and pesticides, and the generation of fine particulates from activities such as harvesting and ploughing). |
| Decommissioning Dust | As is the case for construction, guidance published by the IAQM is clear that with good practice dust management measures in place, commensurate to the risk identified by a risk assessment following the methodology set out in the guidance, effects will be 'not significant'. It is also worth noting that the scale of works in decommissioning is smaller than for construction; thus, the conclusions of the construction assessment are considered worst-case in relation to decommissioning.<br>A risk assessment will be undertaken and appropriate measures secured in a oDEMP. It can therefore be concluded that with the recommended dust management and mitigation measures in place, no significant effects will occur. |
| On-site Decommissioning Plant | As is the case for construction, the IAQM guidance states that impacts of emissions from on-site plant are unlikely to be significant and do not usually need to be quantitatively assessed. The Site is large and the majority of the site area is more than 50m from any sensitive receptors. It is therefore judged that there is negligible risk of significant effects at existing receptors as a result of on-site machinery emissions. |
| Decommissioning Road Traffic | As is the case for construction, the traffic generation during decommissioning is expected to fall below the EPUK/IAQM screening criteria and therefore result in no significant effects. It should also be noted that emissions rates and air quality are expected to continue to improve in the future, due to improved technology and stricter policy, and the scale of works in decommissioning is smaller than for construction; thus, the conclusions of the construction assessment are considered worst-case in relation to decommissioning. |

Based on the findings presented in this Chapter and the effects proposed to be scoped out above, air quality is scoped out of the ES. A standalone air quality assessment, including a Construction Dust Risk Assessment, will be produced for the Proposed Development and appropriate measures will be contained in the oCEMP. No operational standalone assessments are proposed and suitable measures relating to unplanned emissions from fire will be detailed

in the oBSMP. The supporting management plans are described further in Section 17.6 of this Chapter.

# 18 Land Quality and Groundwater

## 18.1 Introduction

18.1.1 This chapter of the Scoping Report presents the scope of detailed environmental assessment for land and groundwater. This Chapter presents the policy and legislative context, the approach to collecting baseline data and an overview of the relevant baseline conditions within the Site Boundary and surrounding area.

18.1.2 It concludes by setting out justification as to why effects are proposed to be scoped out of the ES. Land and Groundwater have been assessed further in supporting assessments known as Preliminary Risk Assessments (PRA), also known as Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies, which establish the potential for likely significant effects. No significant risks associated with the Proposed Development have been identified; therefore, land and groundwater have been scoped out of further assessment.

## 18.2 Review of policy, legislation and relevant guidance

18.2.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to land and groundwater, and relevant to the Proposed Development comprises:

### Legislation

- The European Water Framework Directive (Directive 2006/60/EC) (WFD) [441];
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017[442];
- Part 2a of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA). This is relevant in terms of the assessment of contaminated land[443];
- The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016. This is relevant with respect to environmental permitting[444]; and

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025) with specific reference to Section 4 Assessment Principles. This incorporates principles relating to geological conservation, land use and resource and waste management [445];

[441] European Commission (2000). Water Framework Directive. Available at: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en
[442] UK Statutory Instruments (2017). The Water Environment Regulations. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents
[443] UK Public General Act (1990). Environmental Protection Act. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
[4] Environmental Permitting Regulations (England & Wales) 2016.. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uks2016/1154/contents
[5]UK Statutory Instruments (2009). The Groundwater Regulations. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2902/contents/made
[6] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025). National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
[445] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[446];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)[447]; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2024 (updated February 2025)[448] with specific reference to Chapter 11 Making Effective Use of Land and Chapter 15 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment. The Draft NPPF (December 2025)[449] has also been considered.

### Local Planning Policy

- East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents, adopted April 2025)[450].

### National Guidance

- Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) (2020)[451]. This provides guiding principles on how to assess and manage the risks from historic land contamination in the UK;
- CIRIA Report C552 Contaminated Land Risk Assessment: A Guide to Good Practice (2001)[452]; and
- DEFRA Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (2012)[453]. This provides detailed procedures for contaminated land risk assessment.

### Local Guidance

- Development on Land Affected by Contamination: Technical Guidance for Developers, Landowners and Consultants (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire pollution Advisory Group, adopted July 2023)[454].

## 18.3 Existing Baseline Conditions

### Study Area

18.3.1 The Site Boundary comprises two large, irregular-shaped parcels of land known as the northern and southern land parcels and a cable search area. The northern land parcel covers an area of

[446] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf
[447] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[448] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) Updated online February 2025. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
[449] Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (2025). Draft National Planning Policy Framework (December 2025). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/697b71c52ff8d10a830d5d4a/Draft_NPPF_December_2025.pdf
[450] East Riding of Yorkshire (2025) Local Plan Update (Strategy & Allocations Documents). Available at: https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/local-plan-update/
[451] Environment Agency (2020). Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) (2020). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-contamination-risk-management-lcrm
[452] Rudland, D. J., Lancefield, R. M. and Mayell, P. N. CIRIA Report C552 Contaminated Land Risk Assessment: A Guide to Good Practice (2001). Available at: https://www.ciria.org/
[14] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (2012). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contaminated-land-statutory-guidance
[15] Development on Land Affected by Contamination: Technical Guidance for Developers, Landowners and Consultants (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire pollution Advisory Group, adopted July 2023). Available at: https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/9221/yalpag-guidance-development-on-land-affected-by-contamination

approximately 574 hectares. The southern land parcel covers an area of approximately 580 hectares. At this stage, the cable search area remains a broad search area covering 2,013 hectares rather than a fixed alignment. The Site Boundary is shown on **Figure 1-1** and the location and extent of the northern and southern land parcels and cable search area are shown in **Figure 1-3**.

18.3.2 The study area establishes the geographic extent over which potential contamination and its environmental effects will be assessed. Given the nature of land and groundwater, it can be difficult to accurately define a study area as contamination within soils and controlled waters (which include both groundwater and surface waters) can be both mobile and highly variable.

18.3.3 For the purposes of assessing land and soils (excluding controlled waters), a 250m buffer zone from the northern and southern land parcels and the cable search area is considered suitable with regards to identifying land and soil-related receptors that could be impacted by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. With regards to controlled waters receptors, a 1km buffer zone is considered suitable with regards to identifying possible impacts to controlled waters receptors that could be impacted. This distance is greater as controlled waters are more mobile than land and soil-derived contamination and can provide a faster-moving contaminant pathway. Owing to this, any impacts to both soils and controlled waters beyond 1km from the Site Boundary are likely to be negligible and are therefore not considered further.

## Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping

18.3.4 Baseline data was collected using the following sources of data, as well as project specific surveys:

- Historical Ordnance Survey (OS) Mapping;
- British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping and borehole records;
- BGS Aquifer Designations, EA Groundwater Vulnerability Mapping, and Groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) Mapping;
- Groundsure® Reports comprising Enviro Insight and Geo Insight (northern land parcel report reference: GS-3YT-H68-OVR-NDL, dated May 2026 and southern land parcel report reference: GS-6QM-PLN-1WT-JBJ, dated May 2026);
- Open-Source aerial and street view images including Google Earth®;
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website; and
- Environment Agency (EA) and Local Planning Authority (LPA) including East Riding of Yorkshire Council's website.

18.3.5 Detailed Site-specific information has been obtained from the above-mentioned Groundsure® Reports which comprises a database report incorporating records and mapping from the LPA, EA and BGS and will be provided in full as part of two forthcoming Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies (referred to as Desk Studies) for the northern and southern land parcels. These standalone reports are being prepared in support of the forthcoming DCO application for the Proposed Development.

18.3.6 The Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies will be finalised once site walkovers of the northern and southern land parcels are completed. This will be carried out by an environmental professional from Turnkey Regeneration Ltd in mid-2026 to finalise the baseline assessment undertaken. This has not been able to be carried out to date due to access onto the northern

and southern land parcels not being available at scoping stage. A walkover of land within the cable search area will also be carried out to support a separate f Technical Note for the Grid Connection Corridor once a route has been defined within the broad search area.

## Relevant Baseline Conditions for Scoping

18.3.7 The following sections provide a summary of the key baseline conditions. Further details will be included within the forthcoming Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies for the northern and southern land parcels and Technical Note for the cable search area. The desk studies and Technical Note will be supported by walkovers which will be carried out by Turnkey Regeneration Ltd in mid-2026, to verify the desk-based findings at the Site Boundary as detailed above.

18.3.8 At the time of writing this Scoping Report, the GroundSure maps providing coverage of the cable search area have not been obtained as a defined route is unknown. Therefore, this Chapter does not provide a baseline section for the cable search area as the collection of accurate baseline and measurements is not possible at this stage. Please refer to Section 2.4 for further information on the design process.

### *Designated Geological Sites*

#### Northern Land Parcel

18.3.9 There are no designated geological sites recorded within the northern land parcel. There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), nature reserves or ancient woodland recorded within the northern land parcel or within a 500m radius of the northern land parcel.

18.3.10 No sites determined as Contaminated Land under Part 2a of the EPA 1990 have been recorded within the northern land parcel or within 500m of the northern land parcel.

#### Southern Land Parcel

18.3.11 There are no designated geological sites recorded within the southern land parcel. There are no SSSIs, Ramsar sites, SACs, SPAs or nature reserves recorded within the southern land parcel or within a 500m radius of the southern land parcel. Areas of ancient woodland are recorded immediately off-site.

18.3.12 No sites determined as Contaminated Land under Part 2a of the EPA 1990 have been recorded on or within 500m of the southern land parcel.

### *Mineral Extraction and Mineral Safeguarding Areas*

#### Northern Land Parcel

18.3.13 Four entries for historical pits (relating to former sand gravel extraction) are recorded within the northern land parcel, shown on historical mapping between 1908 and 1952. No records of mining are recorded within the northern land parcel.

18.3.14 The Groundsure Report® has not identified any operational mineral extraction sites within the Study Area. Mineral safeguarding areas are located across parts of the Study Area, as identified on mapping provided in the East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan.

### Southern Land Parcel

18.3.15 Numerous entries for historical pits (relating to former Sand, Chalk and Charcoal extraction) are recorded within the southern land parcel, shown on historical mapping between 1889 and 1992. No records of mining are recorded within the southern land parcel.

18.3.16 The Groundsure® Report has not identified any operational mineral extraction sites within the Study Area. Mineral safeguarding areas are located across parts of the Study Area, as identified on mapping provided in the East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan.

*Geology and Geological Hazards*

### Northern Land Parcel

18.3.17 No areas of Made Ground or Worked Ground are recorded within the northern land parcel. The superficial deposits underlying the northern land parcel are recorded to comprise Glaciofluvial Deposits (sands and gravels), Till (Diamicton) and Alluvium (clays, silts, sands and gravels). The on-site bedrock is the Flamborough Chalk Formation.

18.3.18 According to the Groundsure® Report, there are no natural cavities or significant ground hazards recorded within the northern land parcel.

### Southern Land Parcel

18.3.19 No areas of Made Ground or Worked Ground are recorded within southern land parcel. The superficial deposits underlying the Site Boundary are recorded to comprise Glaciofluvial Deposits (sands and gravels), Till (Diamicton), Head Deposits (clays, silts, sands and gravels) and Alluvium (clays, silts, sands and gravels). The on-site bedrock is the Flamborough Chalk Formation and the Burnham Chalk Formation.

18.3.20 According to the Groundsure® Report, there are no natural cavities or significant ground hazards recorded within the southern land parcel. Despite this, it should be noted that historical incidents relating to holes within the southern land parcel were recorded by Groundsure® dated between 1908 and 1992.

*Hydrogeology and Hydrology*

### Northern Land Parcel

The superficial deposits are recorded as Secondary A (described by Groundsure® as permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers) and Secondary Undifferentiated Aquifers (assigned where it is not possible to attribute either category A or B to a rock type. In general, these layers have previously been designated as both minor and non-aquifer in different locations due to the variable characteristics of the rock type) which have variable intergranular permeability (very low to high). The Chalk bedrock beneath the Site Boundary is a Principal Aquifer (geology of high intergranular and/or fracture permeability, usually providing a high level of water storage and may support water supply/river base flow on a strategic scale) with very high fracture permeability.

18.3.21 There are four historical groundwater abstractions recorded within the northern land parcel in the Groundsure® records. Abstracted groundwater was reportedly used for general farming and domestic use from the underlying Chalk aquifer. No potable abstractions are recorded within the northern land parcel or within a 500m radius of the northern land parcel. Parts of the northern land parcel lie within a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 1.

18.3.22 Watton Beck (described as an inland river by Groundsure®) is recorded within the northern land parcel. Various other watercourses which comprise a series of land drains are also present and include Beswick New Cut, Kirby Drain, Kilnwick Arm Drain, Scurf Dike, Coal Dike and Rotsea Drain. There are eighteen surface water abstractions recorded within the northern land parcel, two of which are active. The surface water taken from land drains on-site is used for spray irrigation.

#### Southern Land Parcel

18.3.23 The superficial deposits are recorded as Secondary A and Secondary Undifferentiated Aquifers which have variable intergranular and mixed permeability (very low to high). The Chalk bedrock strata beneath the Site are Principal Aquifers, with very high fracture permeability. There are no groundwater abstractions recorded on-site. No potable abstractions are recorded within the southern land parcel or within a 500m radius of the southern land parcel. Parts of the southern land parcel lie within groundwater SPZs 1, 2 and 3.

18.3.24 The Autherd Drain and a series of wider land drains are recorded within the southern land parcel. There are no surface water abstractions within the southern land parcel.

### *Discharge Consents and Pollution Incidents*

#### Northern Land Parcel and Southern Land Parcel

18.3.25 There are no licenced discharge consents to controlled waters and no pollution incidents recorded on-site or within a 250m radius of the Site Boundary.

### *Current and Historical Site Usage*

#### Northern Land Parcel

18.3.26 The northern land parcel is dominated by open agricultural land and plantations, farms and sporadic residential properties and woodland areas. A pumping station is also recorded in the northern land parcel. Two records of historical tanks which date to 1976 and 1995 are recorded on the northern land parcel and appear to be associated with farming operations.

18.3.27 Widespread farming activities were noted in the wider area, with some localised energy generation (wind turbines) and limited works and commercial activities operating over 50m from the northern land parcel.

18.3.28 Historical land uses within a 250m radius of the northern land parcel have included the former Lockington railway station on the Hull to Scarborough Line (which closed in 1960) and associated railway sidings along the western Site, pits and heaps (associated with former sand and gravel extraction), a sewage works and a tank over 100m from the Site Boundary.

18.3.29 No records of historical energy features are recorded in the northern land parcel or within a 75m radius of the northern land parcel. No records of historical petrol stations or garages are recorded in the northern land parcel or within a 500m radius of the northern land parcel.

#### Southern Land Parcel

18.3.30 The southern land parcel use is dominated by open agricultural land and plantations, a park, farms and sporadic residential properties and woodland areas. A former contemporary petrol station on Beverley Road is also recorded on-site (obsolete).

18.3.31 Widespread farming activities were noted in the wider area, with some localised energy generation (wind turbines and solar panels), a slurry tank and limited works and commercial activities operating over 150m from the southern land parcel.

18.3.32 Numerous entries relating to old pits, ground workings and associated heaps (associated with former Sand, Chalk and Charcoal extraction) are recorded in the southern land parcel. A disused sewage works (1992) is also recorded. A garage (which appears to remain operational according to the Groundsure® Report) is present approximately 19m north-west of the southern land parcel, and dates to the mid-1960s.

18.3.33 Historical land uses within a 250m radius have included a former nursery, pits, a quarry, heaps and unspecified tanks located from immediately off-site and a boat house. A historic gas works (now removed) is recorded approximately 285m to the north of the southern land parcel, which dates to the early-1900s.

18.3.34 No records of historical energy features are recorded within the southern land parcel or within a 175m radius of the southern land parcel. Other than the abovementioned obsolete Beverley Road on-site petrol station, no further historical petrol stations or historical tanks are recorded in the southern land parcel or within a 500m radius.

*Landfill Sites and Waste Transfer Sites*

### Northern Land Parcel

18.3.35 There are no records of active, or historical landfills, licensed waste sites or waste management facilities on-site or within a 500m radius of the northern land parcel.

### Southern Land Parcel

18.3.36 There are three historical landfill sites recorded within the southern land parcel. These include:

- An approximate 0.29ha former facility recorded by Groundsure® on Dunflat Road in Risby recorded by Groundsure® and the LPA as having accepted industrial waste from 1948. No final input date is available although the site appears to comprise a small former Chalk pit and be historic in nature.
- An approximate 0.02ha former facility within Risby Wood in Risby recorded by Groundsure® (recorded by Groundsure® and the LPA as having accepted inert and industrial waste. No input dates are available, although the site is confirmed to be pre-1973 by the LPA.
- An approximate 0.48ha former facility at West End Farm in Bentley recorded by Groundsure® and the LPA as having accepted industrial waste between 1983 and 1990. This appears to relate to a localised facility operated by Stoneledge Plant and Transport Ltd at the farm.

18.3.37 Wider historical landfill sites are recorded over 125m from the southern land parcel. Further historical landfill sites over 125m from the southern land parcel are recorded but due to the nature of such facilities and the respective distance, those beyond this distance are considered to pose a negligible risk.

18.3.38 Consultation with the LPA identified no additional records relating to these landfill sites, and no associated pollution incidents or other environmental concerns are understood to have been recorded by either the LPA or the EA. The available information indicates that the identified landfill areas are of limited extent and relate to historic, localised waste disposal activities. Figure 18-1 illustrates the locations of these sites within the southern land parcel.

18.3.39 The Proposed Development will avoid intrusive groundworks within the identified landfill extents, with solar panel infrastructure only currently proposed in these locations. Appropriate design and construction controls, including restrictions on piling and excavation works within the former landfill areas, will be incorporated into the project design and secured through the Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**). Based on this information, the potential for significant land and groundwater effects associated with the three small historical landfills is considered to be negligible.

18.3.40 There are no records of licensed waste sites or waste management facilities within the southern land parcel or within a 500m radius of the southern land parcel.

*Land contamination*

18.3.41 No sources of contamination that are considered to pose a significant risk to identified receptors within the Site have been identified on-site or within the immediate surrounding area. The absence of significant contamination sources will be confirmed as part of the forthcoming walkovers across both the northern and southern land parcels.

## 18.4 Important Receptors Identified

18.4.1 Following baseline reviews, the following important receptors have been identified within the assessment and forthcoming Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies for the northern and southern land parcels and a supporting Technical Note for the refined cable route that will be confirmed from within the cable search area:

- Human health receptors users during construction and decommissioning (i.e. construction and decommissioning workers) and of the completed development during operation (i.e. staff, site-users including maintenance workers, neighbours and members of the public) in relation to potential land contamination from all identified sources.
- Controlled waters receptors including existing watercourses on and adjacent to the Site (Watton Beck within the northern land parcel and a series of land drains within the northern and southern land parcels) and groundwater receptors (underlying Secondary A Aquifers, Secondary Undifferentiated Aquifers and Principal Aquifer).
- Built environmental including buildings and infrastructure (i.e. foundations and underground utilities).
- Flora and fauna (i.e. plant and animal species within nearby habitats).

## 18.5 Environmental Measures

18.5.1 Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures that would help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the EIA Regs, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to land and groundwater would be identified and will be considered as part of the Desk Studies and Technical Note. At this stage of the project, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.

### *Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA)*

18.5.2 A Phase 1 Desk Study, also known as a Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA), is being prepared for the northern and southern land parcels to support the DCO application. A Technical Note for the refined cable route will also be produced. These documents provide supplementary information to the baseline assessment carried out to support this Scoping Report and establish the environmental status of the northern and southern land parcels and the cable search area. They provide a preliminary assessment of any potential land contamination issues which has been achieved through the following scope of works:

- Establish the environmental setting and context of the Site Boundary.
- Determine the historical land use of the Site, including a review of available historical reports and supporting information.
- Develop a preliminary Conceptual Site Model (CSM) and conduct a PRA of potential contamination on-site.
- Make recommendations for further works such as ground investigation and remedial action (if deemed to be necessary).

18.5.3 Following the site walkovers, should unacceptable risks be identified, ground investigation could be required to further define / confirm land quality and assess the need for remediation. It should be noted that this is considered to be very unlikely at this stage following a review of the available baseline information.

### *Environmental Management Plans*

18.5.4 Pollution management measures will be implemented to support the Proposed Development throughout to ensure good practice and pollution prevention principles. These measures will be outlined within three outline Environmental Management Plans (oEMPs), namely the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP). These will be developed into detailed management plans and secured via DCO Requirement as the Proposed Development evolves. The production and implementation of a detailed CEMP, OEMP, and DEMP will be essential to oversee land and groundwater quality controls across the northern and southern land parcels and the cable search area to ensure contamination is prevented.

18.5.5 An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) will also be implemented on Site during construction and operation and will manage vegetation and ecology on-site. The commitment to these management plans is included in the Commitments Register (see **Appendix B**).

## Construction

### *Outline CEMP*

18.5.6 An oCEMP will be prepared and secured as part of the DCO application and implemented throughout the construction phase. The document will include best practice procedures and mitigation measures to prevent and minimise effects on land quality and groundwater during construction. The oCEMP will include measures for, but not be limited to, the following:

- Environmental management, emergency response and incident procedures.

- Pollution prevention measures in accordance with relevant Environment Agency guidance and industry best practice.
- Piling and Earthworks Risk Assessments, as appropriate, to assess and manage potential risks to controlled waters on-site during construction in accordance with Environment Agency Guidance (CL:AIRE 2025)[455].
- Soil handling and management procedures, controlled as part of the Soil Management Plan (SMP), which will be secured as part of the DCO application.
- Dust, air quality, noise and vibration control measures;
- Surface water, drainage and sediment control measures as part of temporary drainage design for the Site, which will be secured as part of the DCO application.
- Waste management and materials handling procedures, controlled as part of the Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP), which will be secured as part of the DCO application.
- Construction traffic, access and routing management.
- Discovery strategy, watching brief and unexpected contamination protocol.
- Ecological protection measures, as required.
- Site inspection, monitoring, auditing and corrective action procedures.

18.5.7 The oCEMP will be implemented throughout the construction phase and monitored through site-inspections and contractor management procedures to ensure compliance with DCO requirements, environmental legislation and relevant best practice guidance.

### *Detailed Design*

18.5.8 The detailed design will evolve as the Proposed Development progresses and will ensure all available options to safeguard land and groundwater are realised. This will principally focus on the protection of the underlying aquifers and will include comprehensive drainage design involving the siting of sensitive infrastructure (i.e. sub-stations and BESS) and pile and foundation design (as appropriate) for underground cabling, BESS and substations (located to minimise ground penetration and aquifer penetration).

## Operation and Maintenance

### *Outline OEMP*

18.5.9 The oOEMP will set out the measures, management procedures and mitigation to be implemented during the operational phase of the Proposed Development to prevent and minimise potential effects on land and groundwater. The principal risks during operation relate to the storage and handling of oils, fuels and chemicals associated with plant and equipment, including the BESS and substations.

18.5.10 The oOEMP will include detail on measures such as sealed drainage systems, impermeable surfacing and secondary containment for any transformers, storage tanks and associated

[455] Juden, A. and Wilson, S. (2025) *Piling and Penetrative Ground Improvement Methods on Land Affected by Contamination: Guidance on Pollution Prevention*. London: CL:AIRE. Available at: https://claire.co.uk/home/news-new/piling-and-penetrative-ground-improvement-methods-on-land-affected-by-contamination-guidance-on-pollution-prevention.htm

infrastructure, together with procedures for the safe storage, handling and disposal of fuels, oils, chemicals and wastes as appropriate. It will also include spill response procedures, emergency incident management measures and inspection and maintenance requirements. Operational controls for the BESS, including leak detection, fire water management and routine inspection and maintenance procedures, will also be included where relevant. Further specific technical details will be summarised in a supporting Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP).

18.5.11 The oOEMP will further set out monitoring, reporting and auditing procedures throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development (anticipated to be up to 60 years) to ensure that operational activities do not result in unacceptable risks to human health, controlled waters, the built environment or ecological receptors, and that the development is operated in accordance with relevant legislation and industry best practice guidance.

#### *Surface Water Drainage Strategy*

18.5.12 A Surface Water Drainage Strategy (SWDS) will be developed for the operational phase of the Proposed Development, with operational drainage design undertaken. Restricted and carefully risk-assessed drainage only will take place to control surface water run-off and maintain greenfield discharge rates. Where possible, the Proposed Development design locates permanent infrastructure away from sensitive groundwater SPZs. The system will incorporate bunded infrastructure, drainage features and designated drainage zones as appropriate to manage and treat surface water.

18.5.13 Impermeable surfacing (e.g. hardstanding and concrete bases) under the BESS, electrical sub-stations and associated equipment to prevent downward migration of any spilled fluids or products which could be potentially contaminative into underlying soils will be carried out.

### Decommissioning

18.5.14 An oDEMP will be submitted as part of the DCO application. As per the oCEMP and oOEMP, the document will set out the measures, management procedures and mitigation to be implemented during decommissioning to minimise potential effects on land and groundwater and to prevent pollution. It will include details of environmental roles and responsibilities, pollution prevention measures, materials and waste management procedures, soil handling protocols, surface water and drainage controls, storage and handling of fuels and chemicals, contamination management procedures, and emergency response measures. It will also include an unexpected contamination protocol, monitoring and inspection procedures, reporting requirements, and verification measures to demonstrate that construction and decommissioning activities would not result in unacceptable risks.

## 18.6 Scope of the Assessment

### Consultation Undertaken to Date

18.6.1 An overview of other consultation undertaken to date for land and groundwater, and how this has informed the scope to the assessment is provided in **Table 18-1**.

Table 18-1: Consultation Undertaken To Date

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| May 2026 | East Riding of Yorkshire Council | A consultation request was submitted to the Principal Officer (Environmental Control) at the LPA, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Subsequently, a call was held with the |

| Date | Consultee | Summary |
|---|---|---|
| | | Principal Officer, during which the findings presented in this Scoping Chapter were reviewed.<br>The Principal Officer confirmed that the three landfill sites recorded by GroundSure® within the southern land parcel were historic in nature and / or of very limited extent based on the LPA and EA records. Provided that these former landfill sites remain undisturbed during construction and operation of the Proposed Development, the Principal Officer considered there to be no material risk to the Proposed Development or that these facilities could give rise to significant land and groundwater contamination. Consequently, no specific concerns were raised by the LPA in relation to the northern or southern land parcels. |

## Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

18.6.2 **Table 18-2** presents the land, and groundwater matters that are unlikely to give rise to significant adverse effects and, therefore, which are proposed to be scoped out from detailed assessment.

Table 18-2: Likely Significant Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| Effects on human health from construction, operation and demolition dust and contamination via oral, dermal and inhalation exposure during construction activities (including Made Ground stripping, excavation and soil disturbance and removal). | PRA to determine any potentially unacceptable risks with follow-on actions which could include ground investigation and remedial action if deemed to be necessary.<br>Construction, operational and decommissioning activities controlled by the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP.<br>Control of waste and materials management through oSMP and oSWMP. |
| Effects on human health from any imported fill materials and soils and re-use of site-won materials during construction activities. | Control of materials management through oSMP. |
| Effects of contamination of groundwater (Secondary A and Undifferentiated Aquifers and Principal Aquifers) from soil disturbance which may lead to mobilisation of any residual contamination. Potential for new contamination pathways from construction, maintenance and demolition activities including excavation works, installation and removal of infrastructure, foundations, drainage and possible dewatering and accidental spills or leaks of fuels, oils and chemicals during operation and refuelling. | Construction, operational and decommissioning activities controlled by the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP.<br>Detailed drainage design, SWDS and flood risk assessment will ensure appropriate surface water run-off management and controlled / no infiltration to ground. |
| Effects of contamination on surface water, including potential for sediment and surface water runoff during construction, maintenance and demolition works to impact surface watercourses. | Construction, operational and decommissioning activities controlled by the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP.<br>Detailed drainage design, SWDS and flood risk assessment will ensure appropriate surface water run-off |

| Potential Effect | Rationale to be Scoped Out |
|---|---|
| | management and no uncontrolled discharges to surface water. |
| Effects on current and future built environment including buildings and infrastructure via direct contact with soil or groundwater and chemical attack. | Detailed design will ensure appropriate design of buildings and infrastructure (i.e. concrete, cables).<br>Agreement of auditing / maintenance of buildings and infrastructure to ensure no detrimental effects will form part of oOEMP. |
| Effects of contamination on ecological receptors (flora and fauna). | An oLEMP will be implemented during construction and operation to ensure potential wider risks to on and off-site vegetation and ecological receptors are managed. |

18.6.3 Based on the findings presented in this Chapter, land and groundwater is proposed to be scoped out of the ES and the following documents are being produced and will be submitted to provide information on potential source, pathway, receptor linkages and recommendations for mitigation measures and further works:

- Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Study, also known as a PRA for the southern land parcel.
- Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Study for the northern land parcel.
- Technical Note (providing a summarised Phase 1 Contamination Desk Study) for the refined cable route.

18.6.4 It is extremely unlikely that any significant, unexpected sources and impacts will be discovered during the site walkovers that will support the Desk Studies and Technical Note. However, in any instance where this occurs then it is possible that land and groundwater effects could be scoped back into the ES. This is not currently anticipated.

### *Assumptions and Limitations*

18.6.5 The following assumptions have been made at this scoping stage for land and groundwater:

- Turnkey Regeneration Ltd are not aware of any historical ground investigation works having been carried out within the northern and southern land parcels.
- Agreement of the study area by the LPA and EA has been assumed at this stage (i.e. 250m with regards to land and soil-related receptors and 1km with regards to controlled waters). This applies to the Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies and Technical Note.

18.6.6 The following limitations are acknowledged at this scoping stage for land and groundwater:

- Desk-based information obtained from publicly available datasets, statutory consultees, and third-party sources are assumed to be accurate and complete at the time of writing and have been taken at face value.
- Historical mapping and records utilised to support this scoping chapter are assumed to reasonably represent past land use, though it is acknowledged that not all contaminative activities are always recorded.

- Site walkovers have not yet been able to be carried out by Turnkey Regeneration Ltd due to access restrictions. This will be carried out to support the two forthcoming Phase 1 Land Contamination Desk Studies for the northern and southern land parcels and the Technical Note for the refined cable route.
- The assessment reflects conditions at the time of writing; future anticipated changes in land use, climate, regulatory standards, or guidance may affect the land and groundwater conclusions drawn.

The assessment undertaken is based on the current baseline at the time of writing in June 2026 and the reasonable worst-case parameters as described in **Chapter 5** of this Scoping Report.

# 19 Scoped Out Aspects

## 19.1 Introduction

19.1.1 There are a number of environmental aspects which are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment presented in the Environmental Statement. This is because it is considered that there can be no significant effects occurring to any receptor as a result of these aspects. In accordance with the PINS Advice Note Seven[456] and PINS advice for Scoping Solar Development[457], the following table sets out each of the aspects that it is proposed are scoped out from the detailed assessment, with justification provided on why this is considered to be acceptable.

[456] Planning Inspectorate (2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development [Online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-technical-advice-page-for-scoping-solar-development#example-of-how-the-information-in-the-solar-scoping-table-should-be-applied
[457] Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development [Online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-technical-advice-page-for-scoping-solar-development

Table 19-1: Justification for Scoping Out

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | As further explained in **Chapter 17: Air Quality**, it is proposed to scope out Air Quality from the EIA on the basis that there will be no likely significant effects, and that any air quality effects can be effectively managed through the implementation of environmental measures. |
| Land Quality and Groundwater | As further explained in **Chapter 18: Land Quality** and Groundwater, it is proposed to scope out Land Quality and Groundwater from the EIA on the basis that there will be no likely significant effects, and that any land quality and groundwater effects can be effectively managed through the implementation of environmental measures. |
| Glint and Glare | Solar PV modules are specifically designed to absorb light rather than reflect it. Solar PV modules are dark in colour due to their anti-reflective coatings and are manufactured with low-iron, ultra-clear glass with specialised coatings and textures to enable maximum absorption. The combination of these factors significantly increases electrical energy production of the panels and significantly reduces reflected rays at the same time.<br>There are limited guidelines which set out a particular methodological approach to delivering a glint and glare assessment. National Policy Statement (NPS) for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) in Sections 2.10.102 - 2.10.106, and the Draft NPS (EN-3) Sections 2.10.94 – 2.10.98 state that:<br>“Solar panels are specifically designed to absorb, not reflect, irradiation. However, solar panels may reflect the sun’s rays at certain angles, causing glint and glare. Glint is defined as a momentary flash of light that may be produced as a direct reflection of the sun in the solar panel. Glare is a continuous source of excessive brightness experienced by a stationary observer located in the path of reflected sunlight from the face of the panel. The effect occurs when the solar panel is stationed between or at an angle of the sun and the receptor. Applicants should map receptors qualitatively to identify potential glint and glare issues and determine if a glint and glare assessment is necessary as part of the application.<br>When a quantitative glint and glare assessment is necessary, applicants are expected to consider the geometric possibility of glint and glare affecting nearby receptors and provide an assessment of potential impact and impairment based on the angle and duration of incidence and the intensity of the reflection.<br>The extent of reflectivity analysis required to assess potential impacts will depend on the specific project site and design. This may need to account for ‘tracking’ panels if they are proposed as these may cause differential diurnal and/or seasonal impacts.<br>When a glint and glare assessment is undertaken, the potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality may need to be assessed, although the glint and glare of the frames and supports is likely to be significantly less than the panels.”<br>National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) Footnote 93 states that: |

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| | "Most commercially available solar panels are designed with anti-reflective glass or are produced with anti-reflective coating and have a reflective capacity that is generally equal to or less hazardous than other objects typically found in the outdoor environment, such as bodies of water or glass buildings."<br>In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development, it is proposed to exclude glint and glare as a chapter within the ES and instead produce a stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment, which will be appended to the ES submitted in support of the DCO application. The Assessment will take into account Network Rail guidance[458] and highlight the engagement with the relevant consultees in regard to glint and glare. Any potential impacts will be assessed and mitigated accordingly through design. With regard to the ES, a description of any relevant proposed mitigation measures and safety considerations of the Proposed Development will be included within the Proposed Development description. Furthermore, if any significant glint and glare effects are identified (for example, on public rights of way (PRoW) or roads), these will be considered within the relevant individual environmental aspect assessment chapter(s), such as Landscape and Visual or Transport and Access. |
| Material Assets and Waste | The main impacts (changes) and effects (consequences) of materials consumption and waste disposal are derived from the ISEP (formerly IEMA) Guide (2020)[459].<br>Material assets and waste is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment for the following reasons:<br>The indirect impacts associated with materials consumption and waste disposal (e.g. release of greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, amenity impacts, ecological impacts, etc) will be assessed elsewhere within the EIA (including **Chapter 6: Biodiversity**, **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity**, **Chapter 12: Transport and Access,** and **Chapter 13: Carbon and Climate Change**). Similarly, the indirect impacts of any off-Site waste management facilities and material production facilities are expected to be assessed (and where necessary, mitigated) under the planning and permitting regime for those sites and thus do not form part of an EIA for a development that uses such facilities for material supply or waste management;<br>The Applicant is committed to undertaking a pre-construction site investigation which will confirm the need (or otherwise) to remove some soils for treatment or disposal if found to be contaminated and not practical to treat on-site. This investigation will be secured within the Outline Site Waste Management Plan (oSWMP). Where there is found to be a need, measures to address this will be implemented and secured by the oSWMP, which will be submitted in support of the DCO application. The commitment to provide an oSWMP is set out within the commitments register (**Appendix B**). |

[458] Network Rail (2025) Network Rail Signal Sighting Glint/ Glare Report Guidance.
[459] Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2020) Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available online: https://www.iema.net/media/0t5fwyhj/iema-materials-and-waste-in-eia-march-2020.pdf

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| | The waste hierarchy will be followed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It is not expected that the Proposed Development will result in significant amounts of waste being sent to local landfill sites. However, local landfill capacities will be considered and discussed in the oSWMP, which will be submitted in support of the DCO application.<br>It is not intended that borrow pits will be used during construction or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.<br>It is not intended to remove significant quantities of excavated arisings from the Site Boundary during construction (there are currently no demolition works proposed, for example). There may, however, be a need to remove some soils for treatment or disposal, if found to be contaminated, and it is not practical to treat this on-Site. Where possible, material will be balanced through a cut and fill exercise to retain volumes on-site. Mitigation measures detailed in and secured by the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and oSWMP, both of which will be submitted in support of the DCO application, will demonstrate how a cut and fill balance will be achieved.<br>For the operation phase, the potential streams and volumes of operational materials and waste disposal will be described within the Description of Development chapter of the ES. There will be relatively little waste produced during the operational phase and the requirement for material assets will be limited to maintenance and replacement parts, as required. The ES will provide details on the replacement schedule and maintenance requirements, which will be based upon an indicative design life which will be assessed as part of the aspect chapters.<br>Details of operational waste management measures for the Proposed Development will be detailed in and secured by the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) and oSWMP, both of which will be submitted in support of the DCO application. These measures will aim to reduce the waste produced during the operation phase and the requirement for material assets will be limited to maintenance and replacement parts, as required.<br>The operation phase of the Proposed Development components will be outlined in the Description of Development chapter of the ES and will also be considered in other relevant aspect chapters of the ES. It is acknowledged that components of the Proposed Development, such as the solar PV panels and BESS, will require replacement during the operation phase of the Proposed Development. Appropriate measures will be put in place to facilitate these components being diverted from the waste chain, which will be detailed in and secured by the oSWMP, which will be submitted in support of the DCO application.<br>During decommissioning, the removal of any material assets and waste will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. If items can be recycled, this will be the first-choice option. The impacts of waste during the decommissioning phase will be managed and mitigated through measures detailed in and secured by the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) and the oSWMP, both of which will be submitted in support of the DCO application. The |

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| | Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (which will be required to be in substantial accordance with the oDEMP), will be approved by the host local planning authority at the time of decommissioning to ensure any impacts on waste arising at this stage are considered and mitigated. |
| Major Accidents and Disasters | 'Accidents' are considered to be an occurrence resulting from uncontrolled events in the course of construction and operation of a development (e.g. major emission, fire or explosion). 'Disasters' are considered to be naturally occurring extreme weather events or ground related hazard events (e.g. subsidence, landslide, earthquake).<br>Given the nature and type of development, it is considered that the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in any type of major accident/ disaster. The key areas considered relevant are:<br>construction-related incidents, including pollution events, fire, and interactions with construction activities;<br>operational risks associated with electrical infrastructure, including the BESS;<br>flooding and other extreme weather events;<br>potential interactions with aviation and rail infrastructure; and<br>the potential presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO).<br>These risks are considered below, together with the measures that will be implemented to manage and control them.<br>There is a strict legislative framework in the UK developed from the Building Act 1984[460] regarding technical standards on health and safety, and also through the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015[461] to ensure measures are measured through a project lifecycle, that governs construction activities to ensure risks are clearly managed to an acceptable level. A variety of other legislative controls and guidance, including to ensure pollution prevention, also exists. Bearing all these in mind, an oCEMP will be submitted as part of the DCO application prior to construction commencing, that will detail the measures that will be implemented to ensure that major accidents are avoided.<br>The Proposed Development will be designed and operated in accordance with all legislative requirements that relate to this type of facility. As discussed in **Chapter 5: Description of Development**, an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. This plan will detail the regulatory guidance reviewed and how these will be responded to, so as to ensure that safety concerns around the BESS element of the Proposed Development are addressed in so far as is reasonably practicable.<br>During operation, safety processes will be reviewed, and if required, updated to ensure that the operations do not increase the risk or result in a major accident. |

[460] His Majesty's Government (1984), Building Act 1984 [online] available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/55
[461] His Majesty's Government (2015), The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 [online] available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/51/contents

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| | The Site Boundary is outside of an area where natural disasters have historically occurred. It is not an area at high risk from major earthquakes or subsidence, or because of the Site's flat nature, likely to suffer from landslides. Parts of the Site Boundary are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3, indicating a medium to high risk of flooding. However, the Proposed Development including the way it is constructed and operated, is being designed to withstand any flooding should it occur. Further information is available within **Chapter 7: Hydrology** of this Scoping Report.<br>Furthermore, the infrastructure associated with solar is considered of low susceptibility to the impact of natural disasters. There is limited potential for a disaster occurring at a solar farm to create a hazardous pollution risk, with limited need for hazardous substances in solar farm operation. It is battery storage where the highest risk of such occurs, but with good design and simple measures implemented, the risk of such will be managed.<br>In regard to the potential for aircraft disasters and rail accidents, the potential for glint and glare to affect aircraft and rail users will be considered within the Glint and Glare Assessment which will be appended to the ES.<br>In regard to the risk from UXO, finds have been recorded within and in proximity to the Site Boundary following a review of desk-based data[462], which indicates the Site is at a low risk. Non-intrusive UXO surveys will be undertaken prior to any excavation and shallow piling works, to identify specific UXO to be avoided where practicable, or investigated and removed by qualified professionals. The potential for impacts during construction will be considered and mitigated through measures which will be included within the oCEMP, such as the provision of formal UXO awareness briefings for all staff to offer UXO recognition skills, and the actions required if UXO is encountered.<br>As a result, it is considered that there can be no significant effect as a result of major accidents and disasters and as such it is scoped out of the EIA. |
| Heat and Radiation | Heat and Radiation has been considered within EIA through its introduction via the 2017 update to the EIA regulations, to which Schedule 4(5)(c) states an ES should include:<br>"A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:<br>(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste."<br>Due to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant sources of heat or radiation during either construction, operation or decommissioning that could give rise to likely significant effects on ecological or human health receptors. The only potential source of localised thermal change relates to buried electrical cables during operation, which will be buried a sufficient |

[462] Zetica UXO (2026) Risk Maps [online] Available at: Risk Maps | Zetica UXO

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| | distance below ground and away from sensitive receptors to avoid likely significant effects. With regard to potential cables, the typical distance estimates of measurable changes in temperature are at most between 1m and 1.5m from any potential cables, thus making any potential effect highly localised. It is therefore proposed to exclude heat and radiation from the scope of the EIA. |
| Electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (EMF) | Electric fields are produced by voltage, which is the pressure behind the flow of electricity, and the nature of the electric fields depend on the operating voltage of the equipment. Magnetic fields are produced by current, which is a measure of the flow of electricity. The occurrence of EMF is therefore limited to the operation phase only.<br>In regard to biodiversity, EMF from buried cables during operation can result in environmental changes in close proximity to cables through soil heating (altering habitat composition) and magnetic fields discouraging certain species from moving through the area. However, cabling for solar farms is no different to those already in position across the country (e.g. connections for other electricity generating stations, parts of the national grid and distribution networks and other solar farms). Heating of the soil will occur over a small area only and is considered in the Heat and Radiation section above.<br>Electrical fields can also be blocked by fences, shrubs and buildings, and the intensity of the electric and magnetic fields decreases from the source which will be designed into the Proposed Development.<br>The majority of the Proposed Development will utilise medium voltage underground cabling, aside from the 400kV cabling required to connect the proposed on-site substation(s) to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation extension, Wanlass Beck, to which underground and overhead options are being considered. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) guidance, alongside the 1998 guidelines published by International Commission on Non – Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) states that underground cables and overhead power lines at voltages up to and including 132kV (medium voltage) are not capable of exceeding the ICNIRP exposure guidelines.<br>The Proposed Development will be further guided by the design principles, which include offsets to electrical infrastructure, residential properties, PRoW as well as ecological and hydrological receptors such as watercourses, thus avoiding the potential for EMF effects upon sensitive receptors. Design measures will be in compliance with ICNIRP public exposure guidelines, the factors to which are detailed within sections 2.10.11 – 2.10.13 of the NPS EN-5 and NPS EN-5.<br>For the reasons outlined above, due to the limited spatial extent and lack of credible pathway to ecological and human receptors, it is therefore proposed to exclude EMF from the scope of the EIA. A standalone report for EMF will be produced for the Proposed Development and submitted with the DCO application and will be presented as part of the EIA. |

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| Wind Micro-climate | The potential for likely significant effects in relation to Wind Microclimate is generally assessed in respect of the Lawson Comfort Criteria. This criterion is a standard which can be used to evaluate the impact of the Proposed Development upon pedestrians or users of PRoW within and surrounding the Site and their safety if there are potential changes to wind speed. The generation of significant Wind Microclimate effects is typically associated with taller developments in highly urbanised environments, unlike the Proposed Development. Given the low-rise nature of the Proposed Development, wind conditions outside of the Site Boundary are likely to remain broadly similar, and as a result the construction and operation of the Proposed Development is unlikely to negatively impact pedestrians whilst using local PRoWs or lead to safety exceedances due to the on-site wind conditions remaining similar. As such, no technical assessment of Wind Microclimate is considered necessary in respect of the Proposed Development and this aspect is scoped out of the EIA. |
| Lighting | Any lighting during the construction and decommissioning phases will be directional, temporary and only used during working hours. When used, lighting will be designed to minimise potential for light spillage beyond the Site Boundary, particularly towards houses, roads and ecological habitats, in so far as it is reasonably practicable. To ensure there are no likely significant effects, control measures will be included within the oCEMP and oDEMP, both submitted as part of the DCO application.<br>During operation, the effect of lighting will be considered as part of a standalone chapter. It will, however, be covered within the scoped in aspect chapters, and will therefore be included in the description of effects on landscape character and visual amenity, as well as through the assessment of biodiversity.<br>Construction and decommissioning, and operational lighting requirements will be incorporated within a Lighting Strategy. An Outline Lighting Strategy will be produced and submitted as part of the DCO application. |
| Utilities | The Proposed Development has the potential to affect existing utility infrastructure located within the Site Boundary. Given the nature of the Proposed Development, potential impacts to existing utility assets will be limited to the construction and decommissioning phases. Utility searches are ongoing and will be used to further inform the design.<br>Further consultation will be carried out with relevant utility companies to confirm the information drawn from the utility search is accurate and up to date. This information will be used to inform the layout of the Proposed Development and will be taken into account of in the relevant technical assessments, including archaeology as well as landscape and visual amenity and hydrology.<br>The oCEMP will include any additional mitigation measures to protect against interference with below ground utilities during construction. The Applicant will agree protective provisions with each relevant utility owner, in order to ensure the DCO includes appropriate protections and restrictions on the Applicant's exercise of its powers for the protection of utilities.<br>It is therefore not proposed to prepare a separate utilities chapter as part of the EIA. |

| Technical Aspect | Justification |
|---|---|
| Transboundary Effects | Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations requires the consideration of any likely significant effects on the environment of another European Economic Association (EEA) State. The consideration of transboundary effects is also detailed within PINS Advice Note Seven[463] and further guidance detailed within specific advice upon transboundary impacts[464].<br>Due to the nature and location of the Proposed Development, it is not anticipated that the Proposed Development will lead to potential for any likely significant effects upon the environment of another EEA State. Therefore, a transboundary screening matrix has not been included within this Scoping Report and is scoped out of the EIA. |

[463] Planning Inspectorate (updated March 2025) Advice Note Seven: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements [Online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an

[464] Planning Inspectorate (updated March 2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process [Online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-transboundary-impacts-and-process