



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.20 Appendix 16.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance

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Planning Act (2008)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
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Glossary

Term	Meaning
<i>Environmental Statement (ES)</i>	The Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared to present information for formal consultation in accordance with current EIA regulation.
The Applicant	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
The Application	The Application submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order.
<i>The Proposed Development</i>	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.
The Site	The land planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS, substations, and landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into W1, W2, and W3.
Whitestone 1 (W1)	The northern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Whitestone 2 (W2)	The middle parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Whitestone 3 (W3)	The southern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
<i>BESS</i>	Battery Energy Storage Systems
<i>CAA</i>	Civil Aviation Authority
<i>CDC</i>	City of Doncaster Council
<i>CNP</i>	Critical National Priority
<i>CoP</i>	Code of Practice
<i>COMAH</i>	Control of Major Accident Hazards
<i>DECC</i>	Department of Energy and Climate Change
<i>EA</i>	Environment Agency
<i>EIA</i>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<i>EIP</i>	Environmental Improvement Plan
<i>EMF</i>	Electromagnetic Fields

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Acronym	Meaning
<i>ES</i>	Environmental Statement
<i>FAA</i>	Federal Aviation Administration
<i>HSE</i>	Health and Safety Executive
<i>ICNIRP</i>	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
<i>IEMA</i>	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
<i>ISEP</i>	Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals
<i>LoW</i>	List of Waste
<i>LPA</i>	Local Planning Authority
<i>MADs</i>	Major Accidents and Disasters
<i>NPPF</i>	National Planning Policy Framework
<i>NPPG</i>	National Planning Practice Guidance
<i>NPPW</i>	National Planning Policy for Waste
<i>NPS</i>	National Policy Statement
<i>NSIP</i>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
<i>PV</i>	Photovoltaic
<i>SGHAT</i>	Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool
<i>SoS</i>	Secretary of State
<i>SPV</i>	Solar Photovoltaic
<i>RMBC</i>	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
<i>WEEE</i>	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
<i>WMP</i>	Waste Management Plan
<i>W1</i>	Whitestone 1
<i>W2</i>	Whitestone 2
<i>W3</i>	Whitestone 3
<i>ZoI</i>	Zone of Influence

Units

Units	Meaning
<i>GHz</i>	Gigahertz
<i>kHz</i>	Kilohertz

16.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY, AND GUIDANCE

Waste

16.1.1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance relevant to the generation and management of waste associated with the Proposed Development are described in the following sections.

Legislation

Waste Framework Directive 2008¹

- 16.1.2 The Waste Framework Directive establishes the overarching regulatory framework for waste management in the UK, with the objective of protecting human health and the environment whilst promoting resource efficiency.
- 16.1.3 Article 3(1) of the Waste Framework Directive defines ‘waste’ as: *“any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard”*
- 16.1.4 Article 4 sets out the “*waste hierarchy*” which applies priority to waste prevention and management in the following order:
- Prevention;
 - Preparing for re-use;
 - Recycling;
 - Other recovery (e.g. energy recovery); and
 - Disposal.
- 16.1.5 This hierarchy has been transposed into applicable national legislation through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (see below) and provides a framework for many local waste management plans.

Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011²

- 16.1.6 The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 update earlier aspects of waste controls and emphasise the need for waste permits and authorisations for certain activities. The regulations aim to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the generation of waste, reducing the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste, and reducing the overall impacts of resource use.
- 16.1.7 The regulations implement the Waste Framework Directive, alongside the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Duty of Care Regulations 1991, and require businesses to:
- Apply the waste hierarchy when transferring waste and to include a declaration on their waste transfer note or consignment note; and

- Require a new waste hierarchy permit condition and where appropriate a condition relating to the mixing of hazardous waste.

16.1.8 The regulations also:

- Introduce a two-tier system for waste carrier and broker registration, which includes those who carry their own waste, and introduces a new concept of a waste dealer;
- Make amendments to hazardous waste controls and definition; and
- Exclude some categories of waste from waste controls, notably animal by-products, whilst including a small number of radioactive waste materials.

Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014²

16.1.9 These regulations amend the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, adding in regulation 29, a list of offences for the purposes of refusing registration of carriers, brokers and dealers of controlled waste. This amendment also added a new part (Part 10A) relating to the production of authority for transporting controlled waste, specifying how an authority to transport waste must be presented.

Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012³

16.1.10 Under these Regulations, waste from construction or demolition works, including preparatory works, are to be classified as 'Industrial', and treated as household waste for the purposes of Section 34(2) and (2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 only.

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016⁴

16.1.11 These regulations (as amended) provide legislation for the permitting of waste-related activities and operations in England and Wales, including waste exemptions.

16.1.12 Schedule 3 of the regulations describes facilities and operations that are exempt from permitting and to which Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not apply. This includes exemptions for the use of specified volumes of certain waste types in construction (classified as 'U1 exemptions').

16.1.13 Schedules 9 to 13 of the regulations describe requirements for waste operations requiring an environmental permit.

16.1.14 The Regulations also provide the mechanism for implementation of the Landfill Directive (see below).

Landfill Directive, 1999⁵

16.1.15 The European Directive 1999/31/EC on landfilling of waste, transposed into UK legislation and implemented by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, establishes a framework for management of waste disposed to landfill.

16.1.16 The Directive aims to reduce reliance on landfill as a waste management option and well as to reduce impacts to human health and the environment from landfills.

16.1.17 The Directive also defines certain terms including 'waste', 'recovery' and 'disposal'.

The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005⁶

- 16.1.18 These regulations (as amended) set out the regime for the control and tracking of hazardous waste in England and Wales. Under these regulations, a process of the registration of hazardous waste producers and a new system for recording the movement of hazardous waste was introduced.
- 16.1.19 Under the regulations, all industrial and commercial premises producing more than 500 kg of hazardous waste must notify their existence to the Environment Agency (EA). In practice, the EA released updated guidance in this regard in April 2016 which withdrew the need for such notification.
- 16.1.20 Under the regulations, the movement of wastes is controlled by a documentation system which has to be completed whenever waste is removed from premises. From the waste producer's perspective, a Consignment Note must be produced and completed before waste can be removed and the following information must be provided:
- A description of the waste;
 - The process giving rise to the waste;
 - The quantity of waste;
 - The chemical (and / or biological) components and their concentrations;
 - The hazard codes, the List of Waste (LoW) code;
 - The container type;
 - The locations of origin and destination of the waste; and
 - The consignment notes with a unique number ('consignment note code').

Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017⁷

- 16.1.21 Article 1(d) of Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) requires an Environment Statement (ES) to consider the quantities and types of waste to be produced during the construction and operational phases of a Proposed Development. The design life of the Proposed Development is expected to be at least 60 years. After this period, the Proposed Development is likely to be decommissioned. Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months and could be undertaken in phases. Therefore, waste generated during the decommissioning phase will also be considered.

Environment Act 2021⁸

- 16.1.22 Part 3 of the Environment Act 2021 (Waste and Resource Efficiency) sets out a range of waste reduction measures.
- 16.1.23 In the context of waste management for the Proposed Development this includes:
- Defining responsibilities of the waste producer to reduce waste and pay for 'end of life' costs;
 - Restrictions on international exports of waste;
 - Improved tracking of waste movement; and
 - Enforcement of waste crime and enforcement.

Special Waste Regulations 1996 and Special Waste (Amendment) Regulations 1996⁹

16.1.24 The Special Waste Regulations implement the European Hazardous Waste Directive 91/689/EEC and set out the framework for managing hazardous (special) wastes from production to final disposal or recovery. The regulations require special wastes to be appropriately identified with their hazard properties, segregated from other wastes and stored appropriately. Special wastes covered by these regulations include toxic, flammable, corrosive, carcinogenic and environmentally hazardous wastes. The Special Waste (Amendment) Regulations provided clarification on definitions and waste codes.

The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020¹⁰

16.1.25 These regulations implement amendments to earlier legislation including the Environment Act 1995, The Hazardous Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2005, The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011, The Controlled Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2012 and Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 in relation to recycling, hazardous waste treatment, waste prevention measures, waste management plans, packaging waste and record-keeping.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013¹¹, including the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2018¹²

16.1.26 The WEEE Regulations 2013 aim to reduce the amount of electronic and electrical waste, including photovoltaic (PV) components, sent to landfill by promoting reuse, recycling and recovery and sets out obligations for producers and distributors of such waste. The 2018 amendment made it mandatory for producers to register with the Producer Compliance Scheme to ensure legal obligations with respect to treatment and recycling are met.

Planning Policy

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (December 2025)¹³

16.1.27 National Policy Statements (NPSs) are the primary policy basis for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).

16.1.28 NPS EN-1 is relevant to the Proposed Development in the context of waste management. NPS EN-1 acknowledges that all large infrastructure projects are likely to generate wastes but encourages the protection of human health and the environment by producing less waste and using it as a resource wherever possible.

16.1.29 Section 5.15 of NPS EN-1 specifically advocates:

- Producing less waste, and by using it as a resource wherever possible;
- Implementation of sustainable waste management through the waste hierarchy;
- Disposal of waste only being considered where other waste management options are not available or where it is the best overall environmental outcome;
- Proposal should align with circular economy objectives;

- Setting out waste management arrangements and sustainable management practices in a report for any relevant demolition, excavation and construction activities;
- Implementation of construction best practices to ensure that material is reused or recycled onsite where possible;
- Sourcing of materials from recycled or re-used sources, sustainable sources and local suppliers; and
- Development of construction materials management plans to inform the use of construction best practices in relation to storing materials in an adequate and protected place on site to prevent waste, or degeneration of valuable materials.

16.1.30 No other NPSs, including EN-3 and EN-5, which are relevant to the Proposed Development contain relevant waste-specific policies.

National Planning Policy Framework, 2012 (revised December 2024)¹⁴

16.1.31 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (as amended) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. In the context of waste management, this includes:

- Development of objectives to achieve sustainable development, including by minimising waste and pollution; and
- Strategic policies should make sufficient provision for waste management.

16.1.32 The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (see below).

National Planning Policy for Waste¹⁵

16.1.33 The NPPW supports the NPPF and sets out the government's planning policies for England in relation to waste management. The NPPW provides the context for how Local Planning Authorities should manage waste in their area and sets out considerations that local planning authorities are to take into account when deciding planning applications.

16.1.34 The NPPW also outlines expectations for Local Planning Authorities to provide a suitable network of facilities to deliver adequate sustainable waste management provision in their areas, whilst driving waste management up the waste hierarchy. Waste Management Plan for England 2021¹⁶

16.1.35 The Waste Management Plan (WMP) for England fulfils the requirements of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended) for the WMP to be reviewed every six years. It provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and evaluates how it will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The Plan also provides an overview of the type, quantity and source of waste generated within England; existing waste collection schemes and major disposal and recovery installations; an assessment of the need for new collection schemes; and general waste management policies.

16.1.36 The WMP also confirms England's commitment to recovering at least 70% by weight of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste by 2020. Recovery is assumed in the context of this policy to include reuse, recycling and incineration with energy recovery.

16.1.37 The 2021 Plan supersedes the previous WMP for England and includes changes to WMP requirements which have been made by the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, where appropriate.

Environmental Improvement Plan, 2023¹⁷

16.1.38 The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) sets out how the UK government will deliver long-term environmental improvements. In relation to waste, key objectives include moving towards a circular economy, endorsement of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, a reduction in waste being disposed to landfill and improvement enforcement and waste tracking.

Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018)¹⁸

16.1.39 This strategy sets out the UK government's strategy for minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy, whilst minimising environmental damage and reducing and managing waste safely and carefully. Chapter 3 of the strategy document details, amongst other things, measures for improving recycling rates, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and encouraging waste producers to implement the waste hierarchy in respect to hazardous waste.

The Waste Prevention Programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste (2023)¹⁹

16.1.40 This programme sets out the UK government's priorities for managing waste in England in line with the waste strategy (see above). Key policies set out in the programme include:

- Significantly reduce waste generation by establishing supportive policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks;
- Prevent waste from occurring in the first place and adopt a circular economy approach which retains products and materials in circulation for as long as possible;
- Drive down the amount of waste produced, encourage re-use and recycling; and
- Eliminate avoidable plastic waste.

Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan 2012²⁰

16.1.41 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, the City of Doncaster Council (CDC), and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) have developed the Joint Waste Plan to "*guide and manage future waste provision across the boroughs over the next 15 years*". The key objective of the Joint Waste Plan is to "*manage waste in the following order of priority: prevention (reduction), re-use, recycling, recovery and landfill disposal*", in line with the waste hierarchy.

16.1.42 Specifically, Policy WCS7 requires all development proposals to submit a Waste Management Plan and ensures that developments do not compromise the delivery of waste management facilities on safeguarded and allocated sites.

16.1.43 It is noted that this plan applies until 2026 and work has commenced on a new Joint Waste Plan. However, no details of the new plan are readily available.

Derby and Derbyshire Waste Local Plan 2005²¹

- 16.1.44 The Waste Local Plan for Derby and Derbyshire, prepared jointly by the city and county councils (as existing in 2005), sets out policies and proposals for the control of development of land in relation to waste management with the overall aim of “*establishing a planning framework which enables the provisions of adequate facilities and an integrated system for the management of waste whilst respecting the principles of sustainable development and protecting people and communities, the countryside, natural resources and built heritage from the adverse effects of waste management*”.

Guidance

The Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (DoW: CoP)²²

- 16.1.45 This Code of Practice (CoP) sets out good practice for the development industry to use when:
- Assessing on a site-specific basis whether excavated materials are classified as waste or not;
 - Determining on a site-specific basis when treated excavated waste can cease to be waste for a particular use; and
 - It describes an auditable system to demonstrate that this CoP has been adhered to.
- 16.1.46 The EA will take account of this CoP in deciding whether to regulate the materials as waste. If materials are dealt with in accordance with the CoP the EA considers that those materials are unlikely to be waste if they are used for the purpose of land development. This may be because the materials were never discarded in the first place, or because they have been submitted to a recovery operation and have been completely recovered so that they have ceased to be waste.

National Planning Practice Guidance (Waste), 2015²³

- 16.1.47 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) supports implementation of the NPPF. The NPPG for waste provides guidance on planning policies in relation to, amongst other things, implementation of the waste hierarchy, sustainable waste management and the handling of waste arising from construction, operation and decommissioning on non-waste developments.

Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice, 2016²⁴

- 16.1.48 This Code Of Practice (as amended) provides guidance on fulfilling waste duty of care requirements in England and Wales, as set out in Section 34(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 16.1.49 The Code of Practice applies to anyone who imports, produces, carries, keeps, treats, disposes of, or are a dealer or broker that has control of, controlled waste and provides practical guidance on how to:
- Prevent unauthorised or harmful deposit, treatment or disposal of waste;
 - Prevent a breach by any other person to meet the requirements to have an environmental permit, or a breach of a permit condition;

- Ensure that any person you transfer waste to has the correct authorisation; and
- Provide an accurate description of waste when it is transferred.

16.1.50 The Code of Practice also provides accessible guidance on compliance with a number of other applicable waste laws.

IEMA Guide to Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)²⁵

16.1.51 The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP, formerly the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) Guide to Material and Waste in EIA sets out guidance and significance criteria to assess the potential impacts on a development resulting from disposal of waste to landfill. The guidance advocates the use of one of two assessment methodologies, based on void capacity or landfill diversion. Assessment based on landfill void capacity is the recommended methodology for statutory EIAs.

Glint and Glare

Legislation

16.1.52 There is no relevant legislation relevant to Glint and Glare.

Policy

UK Government, Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) (December 2025)

16.1.53 Given the number of road receptors assessed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 16.2: Glint and Glare Report [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**, paragraph 5.14.22 of NPS EN-1 is relevant to the Proposed Development. Paragraph 5.14.22 states *“The Secretary of State should only consider refusing development on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe, or it does not show how consideration has been given to the provision of adequate active public or shared transport access and provision.”* The risk of glint and glare related safety impacts has consequently been assessed in the ES.

16.1.54 The Applicant has applied the mitigation hierarchy. However, under NPS EN-1, the Proposed Development is considered to be of critical national priority (CNP). Consequently consideration has been given to paragraph 4.2.24, which states *“measures that result in a significant reduction in generation capacity for CNP infrastructure are unlikely to be considered to be appropriate as mitigation. There may be exceptional circumstances where the mitigation could have a significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in generation capacity and function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.”*

UK Government, NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (December 2025)²⁶

16.1.55 As a NSIP, NPS EN-3 is relevant to the Proposed Development. In this NPS, 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 defined as ‘a continuous source of

excessive brightness experienced by a stationary observer located in the path of reflected sunlight from the face of the panel’.

- 16.1.56 According to NPS EN-3, “*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.*”
- 16.1.57 If necessary, the glint and glare assessment will depend on the specific project site and design. However, 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.
- 16.1.58 The glint and glare assessment may also need to assess the potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality.
- 16.1.59 Paragraphs 2.10.126 – 2.10.128 of NPS EN-3 state that applicants should consider:
- Using solar panels to comprise of (or be covered with) anti-glare / anti-reflective coating with a specified angle of maximum reflection attenuation for the lifetime of the permission;
 - Using screening between potentially affected receptors and the reflecting panels to mitigate the effects; and
 - Adjusting the azimuth alignment of, or changing the elevation tilt angle of, a solar panel within the economically viable range, to alter the angle of incidence.

Guidance

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (UK)²⁷

- 16.1.60 Paragraph 13 of the NPPG states that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) will need to consider the effect on landscape of glint and glare on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety. The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun will also need to be considered.

Interim Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Guidance – Solar Photovoltaic Systems¹

- 16.1.61 On 17 December 2010, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued interim guidance concerning Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems, referenced in CAA information alert 2010/53. Although the formal policy was cancelled on 7 September 2012, the guidance remains applicable until a new formal policy is established. The CAA guidance recommends that glint and glare studies include:
- Aerodromes typically within 5–10km, though in exceptional cases this may extend beyond 10km; and

¹ Document redacted as of 7 September 2012.

- To evaluate the orientation, tilt, and elevation of panels and their potential to cause reflections toward sensitive aviation receptors.

BRE (2014). Planning Guidance for the Development of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV Systems²⁸

- 16.1.62 This document is intended to provide best-practice planning guidance in respect of how large ground mounted arrays are developed setting out planning considerations and requirements. It is important to note that this document specifically relates to the planning policy framework permitted development and fees regulations for England.
- 16.1.63 In relation to glint and glare, the planning guidance states that 'it may be necessary to seek a glint and glare assessment as part of the planning application'. A glint and glare assessment is particularly important if 'tracking' panels are intended to be used within a proposed solar farm development, as these may cause differential diurnal and / or seasonal impacts.
- 16.1.64 It is also recommended that the potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality should be assessed.

US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Guidance – (Interim Policy, FAA Review of Solar Energy System Projects on Federally Obligated Airports²⁹

- 16.1.65 This policy was produced with the intention of enhancing safety by clarifying and adding standards for measuring the ocular impact of solar energy systems. Although this document specifically relates to solar energy systems on airport property, it can be used as guidance for the methodology of glint and glare assessments.
- 16.1.66 This policy provides a quantitative threshold in that a solar development will not automatically receive an objection on glint and glare grounds if low intensity glare is visible to pilots. Low intensity glint or glare with a low potential to form a temporary after-image would be considered acceptable under US guidance. Therefore, and given the lack of legislation and guidance within England quantifying acceptable effects, the US guidance has been followed in the methodology employed as part of the assessment presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 16.2: Glint and Glare Report [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

Technical Guidance for Evaluating Selected Solar Technologies on Airports (2018)³⁰

- 16.1.67 A final policy from the FAA (Policy Document 86 FR 25801, FAA, 2021) encourages airport developers to conduct ocular analysis of the potential impact for glint and glare, but notes that the FAA is withdrawing a previous interim policy, and that the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool (SGHAT) is the only FAA approved tool for measuring the ocular impact of solar PV systems on receptors and acknowledges that there are several tools available for such assessment.

Doncaster Local Plan (2021)

- 16.1.68 Policy 59: 'Low Carbon and Renewable Energy' of the Doncaster Local Plan aims to increase the supply of low carbon and renewable energy generated in the Borough. In all cases, low carbon and renewable energy proposals will be supported where they:

- “3. allow the continued safe and efficient operation of Doncaster Sheffield Airport;”
- “4. would have no unacceptable adverse effects on highway safety and infrastructure;”

Telecommunications and Utilities

Legislation, Policy and Guidance

16.1.69 Effects relating to existing infrastructure are not environmental effects and there is no requirement to include an assessment of these effects under the EIA Regulations 2017³¹. There is no other legislation, policy or guidance specifically related to the Telecommunications and Utilities assessment.

Major Accidents and Disasters

Legislation

Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017³¹

16.1.70 Regulation 5(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations requires 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*”. Regulation 5(4) also states that “*the vulnerability of the proposed developments to major accidents or disasters*” should be considered.

Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017³¹

16.1.71 Under paragraph 8 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017, information relating to Major Accidents and Disasters (MADs) must be included in ES.

16.1.72 The following information relating to MADs must be included:

- A description of the expected Significant Adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of MADs;
- Measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the Significant Adverse effects of such events on the environment, where appropriate; and
- Details of the preparedness for and propose response to such emergencies.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015³²

16.1.73 The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 sets out the regulations relating to the management of the health, safety and welfare of construction projects.

Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002³³

- 16.1.74 The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 “*specify safety standards which are aimed at protecting the general public and consumers from danger.*”

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999³⁴

- 16.1.75 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 relate to employers’ obligations in respect of the health and safety of workers. Occupational health and safety incidents will be managed through compliance of these regulations.

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992³⁵

- 16.1.76 The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 mandate that UK employers provide safe, healthy, and functional environments. They cover maintenance, ventilation, lighting, cleanliness, seating, and welfare facilities.

Health and Safety Work Act 1974³⁶

- 16.1.77 The Health and Safety Work Act 1974 sets out regulations relating to the health and safety of persons at work. It applies to all workplaces and is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) (Updated 2025)

- 16.1.78 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the UK Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. Although specific policies relating to NSIPs are not included within the NPPF it is stated that “*planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements by anticipating and addressing possible malicious threats and other hazards (whether natural or man-made)*”.

NPS EN-1, Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (December 2025)¹³

- 16.1.79 The Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) is relevant to the Proposed Development in the context of MADs. NPS EN-1 states that some energy infrastructure will be subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. The COMAH Regulations apply throughout the life cycle of the facility, and they aim to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit the consequences to people and the environment of any that do not occur.
- 16.1.80 It is also noted within NPS EN-1 that the Secretary of State (SoS) should be satisfied that a safety assessment has been prepared, where required, and that the Competent Authority has raised no safety objections.

Guidance

Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA: An ISEP Primer³⁷

- 16.1.81 The ISEP Primer presents an assessment approach that can be adopted by impact assessment practitioners undertaking a MADs assessment. This methodology is based on known current practice within the UK and can act as a basis for methodology to evolve as experience in the field grows.
- 16.1.82 The following topics are detailed within the assessment approach:
- Hazard identification and receptor tagging;
 - Identifying reasonable worst-case impact;
 - Selecting the grouped Risk Events that need further assessment;
 - Understanding the likelihood of a Risk Event occurring;
 - Identifying the requirements for secondary mitigation;
 - Risk management options; and
 - Residual assessment.

House of Commons Research Briefing on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) (2025)³⁸

- 16.1.83 This briefing covers BESS, concerns about their safety, and barriers to their deployment. Due to the potential fire risk associated with BESS, this briefing is relevant to MADs.

Electromagnetic Fields

Legislation

The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017³¹

- 16.1.84 Regulation 5(2)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations requires 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”*. Regulation 5(4) also states that *“the vulnerability of the proposed developments to major accidents or disasters”* should be considered.

The Control of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) at Work Regulations 2016³⁹

- 16.1.85 The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations applies to all workplaces in the UK where EMFs are present, and as a result, they are relevant to the Proposed Development. The regulations surround the following:
- Exposure and risk;
 - Information and training;
 - Health surveillance and medical examinations; and
 - Records.

Policy

NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (December 2025)⁴⁰

- 16.1.86 NPS EN-5 provides planning guidance for developers of nationally significant electricity network infrastructure projects, and as a result, is relevant to the Proposed Development. In relation to EMFs, paragraph 2.10.11 states the applicant should consider the following factors:
- Height, position, insulation and protection measures;
 - That optimal phasing of high voltage overhead power lines is introduced wherever possible and practicable; and
 - Any new advice emerging from the Department of Health and Social Care relating to government policy for EMF exposure guidelines.
- 16.1.87 Paragraphs 2.10.12 to 2.10.13 outline guidance surrounding mitigation stating, *“where it can be shown that the line will comply with the current public exposure guidelines and the policy on phasing, no further mitigation should be necessary.”*

Guidance

National Grid Undergrounding High Voltage Electricity Transmission Lines (2015)⁴¹

- 16.1.88 The purpose of this document is to provide information about the technical merits and challenges associated with undergrounding high voltage electricity lines. Section 9 discusses the EMFs from underground cables and is relevant to the Proposed Development.

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Power Lines: Demonstrating Compliance with EMF Public Exposure Guidelines (2012)⁴²

- 16.1.89 The guidance produced by the DECC surrounds the public exposure guidelines to EMFs, and as a result, is relevant to the Proposed Development. Guidance on calculating EMF levels is also provided in the document.

Energy Networks Association. Electric and Magnetic Fields (2017)⁴³

- 16.1.90 This guide provides contextual information to EMFs and the associated impacts, and as a result, it is relevant to the Proposed Development.

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields (up to 300 GHz) (1998)⁴⁴

- 16.1.91 This publication is relevant to the Proposed Development as it establishes guidelines for limiting exposure to EMFs that will provide a high level of protection for all people. This guidance can be read in conjunction with the Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations and the DECC guidance.

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Note for Scoping Solar Development⁴⁵

- 16.1.92 Although non-statutory, the Technical Advice Note for Scoping Solar Development has been drawn from good practice and has been informed by *“the policy tests set out within the relevant NPS’, the Infrastructure Planning EIA Regulations, and the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.”*
- 16.1.93 The advice states *“Where proposed cables are over 132 kV, an EMF Assessment should be provided in an appendix to the Environmental Statement. This should include the location, routing and voltages of any cables over 132 kV and a risk assessment to any human and ecological sensitive receptors within the Zone of Influence (Zoi).”*

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