



Redmere Wind Farm

EIA Scoping Report - Appendix B:
Legislation, Policy and Guidance

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ERM's London Office

2nd Floor
Exchequer Court
33 St Mary Axe
London, EC3A 8AA

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CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	OVERVIEW	1
2.	BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	2
2.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	2
3.	ORNITHOLOGY	9
3.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	9
4.	CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY	15
4.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	15
5.	LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL	19
5.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	19
6.	SHADOW FLICKER	24
6.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	24
7.	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND GEOLOGY	26
7.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	26
8.	CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GASES	31
8.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	31
9.	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	35
9.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	35
10.	NOISE AND VIBRATION	39
10.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	39
11.	SOCIO-ECONOMICS, TOURISM, RECREATION AND LAND USE	44
11.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	44
12.	AVIATION, RADAR AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	46
12.1	LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	46
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS	50
13.1	AIR QUALITY	50
13.2	FORESTRY	52
13.3	WASTE	54

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BSI	British Standards Institution
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EN-1	Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy
EN-3	National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure
EN-5	National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure
ES	Environmental Statement
ETSU	Energy Technology Support Unit
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
ISEP	Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (Act)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPSE	Noise Policy Statement for England

Acronym	Description
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK	United Kingdom
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility
Acronym	Description

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 This appendix identifies the principal legislation, policy and guidance that will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES). This appendix should be read alongside the Scoping Report. Each relevant ES chapter will identify the legislation, policy and guidance that has informed the assessment, including any relevant overarching national and local planning policies applicable to the Proposed Development.

2. BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION

2.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 2.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 6** of the Scoping Report and will inform the biodiversity and nature conservation assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 2.1.2 **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**¹ provides primary legal protection for wild birds, certain protected animals and plants, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It is relevant to the Proposed Development where construction, operation or decommissioning activities have potential to affect protected species, their places of shelter or breeding, or statutory designated sites.
- 2.1.3 **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**² provide protection for habitats sites forming part of the national site network, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, and for European protected species. The Regulations are relevant to screening and, where required, assessment of implications for European sites and to consideration of licensing requirements for any European protected species potentially affected by the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.4 **The Environment Act 2021**³ establishes a strengthened framework for nature recovery in England, including biodiversity net gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, species conservation strategies and protected site strategies. The Act is therefore relevant to the approach to biodiversity enhancement, the consideration of opportunities for habitat creation or restoration, and the developing biodiversity net gain regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects.

¹ UK Government (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

² UK Government (2017) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. SI 2017/1012. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

³ UK Government (2021) Environment Act 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

- 2.1.5 **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁴** strengthened the legal protection afforded to SSSIs and introduced additional measures relating to nature conservation and wildlife protection. It is relevant where works could affect SSSIs or where the assessment needs to consider habitats and species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation.
- 2.1.6 **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006⁵** places a duty on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species of principal importance in England. These habitats and species will be considered when identifying important ecological features and when defining appropriate avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 2.1.7 **The Hedgerows Regulations 1997⁶** provide protection for important countryside hedgerows in England and Wales, including criteria for determining whether a hedgerow is important and controls on removal. **The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024⁷** introduce baseline management requirements for important hedgerows on or next to agricultural land in England, including requirements relating to buffer strips and cutting or trimming. These instruments are relevant where field boundaries, access works or construction compounds could affect hedgerow habitats.
- 2.1.8 **The Protection of Badgers Act 1992⁸** makes it an offence, subject to specified exceptions and licensing provisions, to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger, or to interfere with a badger sett. It is relevant to survey, design and construction planning where badger setts or badger activity may be present within or near areas of proposed works.

⁴ UK Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁵ UK Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁶ UK Government (1997) The Hedgerows Regulations 1997. SI 1997/1160. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁷ UK Government (2024) The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024. SI 2024/680. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/680/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁸ UK Government (1992) Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

- 2.1.9 **The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975⁹** provides statutory controls relevant to freshwater fish, including provisions relating to spawning fish, polluting matter, obstructions to fish passage and fish passes. It is relevant where works in or near watercourses could affect fish, fish habitat or fish passage.
- 2.1.10 **The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017¹⁰** set out the EIA process for nationally significant infrastructure projects, including screening, scoping and the information to be included within an ES. The biodiversity and nature conservation assessment will therefore be prepared to support the EIA process and to report likely significant effects, mitigation and residual effects in a manner consistent with those Regulations.
- 2.1.11 **The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024¹¹** define irreplaceable habitat for biodiversity gain purposes and modify the application of biodiversity gain requirements where such habitats are present. This will be relevant where the Proposed Development has potential to affect habitats such as ancient woodland, ancient or veteran trees, or other habitats identified as irreplaceable under the Regulations.
- 2.1.12 **JNCC: The UK Biodiversity Framework 2024¹²** provides a UK-wide framework for co-operation between the four countries of the UK in responding to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It informs the broader policy context for nature recovery and the integration of biodiversity considerations within decision-making.

⁹ UK Government (1975) Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/51/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

¹⁰ UK Government (2017) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. SI 2017/572. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹¹ UK Government (2024) The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024. SI 2024/708. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/708/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

¹² Joint Nature Conservation Committee, on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (2024) UK Biodiversity Framework. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Available at: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/1a8f5902-09c5-4e8a-bbeb-c7e9e1e4e2d3> (Accessed: August 2026).

POLICY

- 2.1.13 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)(2025)¹³ and the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)(2025)¹⁴** provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to biodiversity and nature conservation because they require applicants to assess effects on biodiversity, designated sites, protected species and ecological networks, and to demonstrate how adverse effects have been avoided, mitigated or, where necessary, compensated.
- 2.1.14 **The National Planning Policy Framework(2026)¹⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including policies for conserving and enhancing the natural environment, protecting designated sites and species, minimising impacts on biodiversity, and providing net gains where appropriate. It provides relevant national planning policy context for the biodiversity and nature conservation assessment.
- 2.1.15 **Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Circular 06/2005¹⁶** provides Government guidance on statutory obligations relating to biodiversity and geological conservation, including protected species and designated sites. It provides supporting policy context for the consideration of biodiversity duties and protected species requirements within the planning process.
- 2.1.16 The ES will consider the relevant local planning policy for the local planning authority areas, and any other relevant authority areas within the biodiversity Study Area, will be reviewed where it relates to biodiversity, designated sites, protected species,

¹³ UK Government (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025> (Accessed: August 2026).

¹⁴ UK Government (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-3-2025> (Accessed: August 2026).

¹⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>. (Accessed: August 2026).

¹⁶ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Circular 06/2005. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-and-geological-conservation-circular-0605> (Accessed: August 2026).

priority habitats and species, ecological networks, biodiversity net gain, nature recovery and renewable energy development.

GUIDANCE

- 2.1.17 **CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine (2018)**¹⁷ provide the principal professional guidance for ecological impact assessment. The guidance will inform the approach to identifying important ecological features, characterising impacts, assessing significance, applying the mitigation hierarchy and reporting residual effects.
- 2.1.18 **CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2017)**¹⁸ provide guidance on undertaking ecological desk studies and preliminary ecological appraisal surveys. The guidance will inform the approach to baseline data collection, identification of ecological constraints and opportunities, and the scoping of further survey or assessment requirements.
- 2.1.19 **BSI: BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development (2013)**¹⁹ provides good practice guidance for integrating biodiversity into the planning and development process. It will inform the approach to identifying biodiversity constraints, applying the mitigation hierarchy, developing proportionate mitigation and enhancement measures, and supporting biodiversity-related decision-making.
- 2.1.20 **UK HAB Ltd.: UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (2023)**²⁰ provides a standardised habitat classification system for the UK. It will inform the classification and mapping of habitats within the biodiversity Study Area and provide a

¹⁷ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.3. Available at: <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/> (Accessed: August 2026).

¹⁸ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edn. Available at: <https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-on-preliminary-ecological-appraisal-gpea/> (Accessed: August 2026).

¹⁹ British Standards Institution (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development. Available at: <https://www.bsigroup.com/LocalFiles/en-GB/biodiversity/BS-42020-Smart-Guide.pdf> (Accessed: August 2026).

²⁰ UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0. Available at: <https://www.ukhab.org/> (Accessed: August 2026).

consistent basis for describing baseline habitat conditions and informing the assessment.

- 2.1.21 **JNCC: The Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit (2010)**²¹ provides guidance on Phase 1 habitat survey methods and the standardised recording of broad habitat types. It will provide supporting guidance where Phase 1 habitat survey information is used to inform baseline characterisation or comparison with more recent habitat data.
- 2.1.22 **Rodwell, J.S.: British Plant Communities and the National Vegetation Classification: Users' Handbook (2006)**²² provide the standard framework for classifying and describing plant communities in Great Britain. They will be relevant where National Vegetation Classification survey or interpretation is required to characterise higher-value or more sensitive habitats.
- 2.1.23 **Natural England: The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (2023)**²³ provides guidance on habitat condition assessment for biodiversity metric calculations. It will inform the approach to habitat condition assessment where biodiversity net gain calculations or habitat enhancement proposals are required.
- 2.1.24 **Bat Conservation Trust: Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (2023)**²⁴ provides current good practice guidance on bat survey design, methods and reporting. It will inform the approach to bat activity surveys, roost assessment, survey effort, data interpretation and the identification of potential bat constraints.

²¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit. Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/resources/9578d07b-e018-4c66-9c1b-47110f14df2a> (Accessed: August 2026).

²² Rodwell, J.S. (2006) National Vegetation Classification: Users' Handbook. Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Available at: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/a407ebfc-2859-49cf-97101bde9c8e28c7/JNCC-UsersHandbook-2006.pdf> (Accessed: August 2026).

²³ Natural England (2023) The Biodiversity Metric 4.0: Technical Annex 1. Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides> (Accessed: August 2026).

²⁴ Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 4th edn. Available at: <https://www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/bat-surveys-for-professional-ecologists-good-practice-guidelines-4th-edition> (Accessed: August 2026).

- 2.1.25 **NatureScot: Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation (2021)**²⁵ provides specific guidance on the assessment of bat collision and displacement risks associated with onshore wind energy development. It will inform the approach to bat survey design, risk assessment, operational effects and mitigation where bats have potential to be affected by the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.26 **Reason, P.F. and Wray, S: UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2025)**²⁶ provide guidance on impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. They will inform the development of proportionate mitigation or compensation measures where impacts on bats or bat roosts are identified.
- 2.1.27 **Chanin. P.: Monitoring the Otter *Lutra lutra* (2003)**²⁷ provides guidance on otter survey and monitoring methods. It will inform the approach to identifying otter field signs and assessing potential impacts where suitable riparian or wetland habitats are present.
- 2.1.28 **Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. and Andrews, R.: The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (2016)**²⁸ and **Dean .M: Water Vole Field Signs and Habitat Assessment: A Practical Guide to Water Vole Surveys (2021)**²⁹ provide guidance on water vole survey, habitat assessment and mitigation. They will inform the approach to water vole survey and mitigation where suitable watercourses, ditches or riparian habitats are present.

²⁵ NatureScot, Natural Resources Wales, Natural England, Bat Conservation Trust, Scottish Power Renewables, RenewableUK, University of Exeter and Ecotricity (2021) Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/bats-and-onshore-wind-turbines-survey-assessment-and-mitigation> (Accessed: August 2026).

²⁶ Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2025) UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: A Guide to Impact Assessment, Mitigation and Compensation for Developments Affecting Bats. Version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Available at: <https://cieem.net/resource/uk-bat-mitigation-guidelines-2025/> (Accessed: August 2026).

²⁷ Chanin, P. (2003) Monitoring the Otter *Lutra lutra*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 10. Available at: <https://cieem.net/resource/monitoring-the-otter/> (Accessed: August 2026).

²⁸ Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. and Andrews, R. (2016) The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook. The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series. Available at: <https://mammal.org.uk/ebooks/p/the-water-vole-mitigation-handbook-e-book> (Accessed: August 2026).

²⁹ Dean, M. (2021) Water Vole Field Signs and Habitat Assessment: A Practical Guide to Water Vole Surveys. Available at: <https://pelagicpublishing.com/products/water-vole-field-signs-and-habitat-assessment> (Accessed: August 2026).

3. ORNITHOLOGY

3.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 3.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 7** of the Scoping Report and will inform the ornithology assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 3.1.2 **Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (1992)**³⁰ establishes the Natura 2000 network, including Special Areas of Conservation, and sets out requirements for the assessment and protection of sites that support qualifying habitats and species. Although now implemented through domestic legislation, it remains relevant to understanding the legislative basis for HRA and the protection of European sites.
- 3.1.3 **Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds**³¹ provides the European framework for the conservation of naturally occurring wild birds, including requirements for the protection of wild birds, their eggs, nests and habitats, and the classification of Special Protection Areas for Annex I and regularly occurring migratory species. It is relevant to the consideration of SPA interest features and potential ornithological effects.
- 3.1.4 **The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**¹⁰ establish the EIA process for nationally significant infrastructure projects, including the requirement to assess likely significant environmental effects. The ornithology assessment of the ES will identify, assess and report likely significant effects on ornithological receptors, together with mitigation and residual effects, in a manner consistent with the EIA Regulations.

³⁰ Council of the European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Official Journal of the European Communities, L206, pp. 7–50. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj> (Accessed: September 2026).

³¹ European Parliament and Council of the European Union (2009) Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. Official Journal of the European Union, L20, pp. 7–25. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj> (Accessed: September 2026).

- 3.1.5 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)²** provide for the designation and protection of habitats sites forming part of the national site network, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, and establish requirements for the assessment of plans or projects that may affect those sites. The Regulations are relevant to the ornithology assessment because the Proposed Development has the potential to affect qualifying bird features associated with protected sites, including through disturbance, displacement, collision risk or effects on functionally linked land.
- 3.1.6 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019³²** amended the domestic Habitats Regulations following the UK's exit from the European Union and retained the protection afforded to sites within the national site network. They are relevant to the interpretation and application of the Habitats Regulations in relation to Special Protection Areas and other protected sites.
- 3.1.7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)¹** is the principal domestic legislation protecting wild birds in Great Britain. It protects wild birds, their nests and eggs, and provides additional protection for species listed on Schedule 1. It is relevant to the ornithology assessment where construction, operation or decommissioning activities could disturb, injure or kill birds, or damage or destroy nests or eggs.
- 3.1.8 The Environment Act 2021³** establishes a framework for environmental protection, biodiversity recovery and long-term environmental targets in England. It is relevant to the wider nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement context within which ornithological mitigation and enhancement opportunities will be considered.
- 3.1.9 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006³³** places a duty on public authorities to conserve and

³² UK Government (2019) The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. SI 2019/579. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/579/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

³³ UK Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

enhance biodiversity and requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species of principal importance in England. It is relevant to the identification of bird species of conservation importance and the consideration of biodiversity enhancement opportunities associated with the Proposed Development.

POLICY

- 3.1.10 **The energy National Policy Statements (NPSs), including EN-1 to EN-6³⁴**, provide the policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. The NPSs are relevant to the ornithology assessment through their requirements for applicants to consider effects on biodiversity, designated sites, protected species and ecological networks, and to explain how adverse effects have been avoided, mitigated or, where necessary, compensated.
- 3.1.11 **The National Planning Policy Framework (2026)³⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including policies for conserving and enhancing the natural environment, protecting designated sites and species, minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where appropriate. It provides relevant national planning policy context for the ornithology assessment.
- 3.1.12 The ES will consider the relevant local planning policy for the local planning authority areas and any other relevant authority areas within the ornithology Study Area, will be reviewed where it relates to biodiversity, designated sites, protected species, priority species, ecological networks and renewable energy development.

GUIDANCE

- 3.1.13 **NatureScot guidance on recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind**

³⁴ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-policy-statements-for-energy-infrastructure> (Accessed: September 2026).

³⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) National Planning Policy Framework. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> (Accessed: September 2026).

farms (2025)³⁶ provides current guidance on survey methods for onshore wind farm ornithology assessments, including survey design, survey effort and the collection of data to inform impact assessment. It will inform the approach to baseline ornithology surveys and the interpretation of survey data for the Proposed Development.

- 3.1.14 **Natural England guidance on wild bird surveys and monitoring for onshore wind farms (2015)**³⁷ provides England-specific guidance on survey and monitoring requirements for wild birds in relation to onshore wind farms. It will inform the approach to identifying ornithological receptors, defining survey requirements and considering monitoring requirements where relevant.
- 3.1.15 **NatureScot guidance on wind farm impacts on birds (2025)**³⁸ provides topic-specific guidance on the assessment of potential effects of wind energy development on birds, including disturbance, displacement, barrier effects and collision risk. It will inform the ornithology assessment methodology and the consideration of potential operational effects.
- 3.1.16 **NatureScot guidance on assessing the significance of impacts on bird populations from onshore wind farms that do not affect protected areas (2025)**³⁹ provides guidance on assessing population-level significance for ornithological receptors that are not qualifying features of protected areas. It will inform the evaluation of potential effects on bird populations, including species of conservation importance recorded during baseline surveys.

³⁶ NatureScot (2025) Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/recommended-bird-survey-methods-inform-impact-assessment-onshore-windfarms> (Accessed: August 2026).

³⁷ Natural England (2015) Wild birds: surveys and monitoring for onshore wind farms. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-surveys-and-monitoring-for-onshore-wind-farms> (Accessed: August 2026).

³⁸ NatureScot (2025) Wind farm impacts on birds. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/renewable-energy/onshore-wind-energy/wind-farm-impacts-birds> (Accessed: August 2026).

³⁹ NatureScot (2025) Assessing the significance of impacts on bird populations from onshore wind farms that do not affect protected areas. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-note-assessing-significance-impacts-bird-populations-onshore-wind-farms-do-not-affect> (Accessed: August 2026).

- 3.1.17 **NatureScot guidance on assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (2016)**⁴⁰ provides guidance on considering potential functional connectivity between development proposals and SPAs, including use of species-specific dispersal and foraging distances. It will inform the identification of relevant SPA receptors and the approach to screening potential pathways for ornithological effects.
- 3.1.18 **NatureScot guidance on assessing the cumulative impacts of onshore wind farms on birds (2025)**⁴¹ provides guidance on the assessment of cumulative ornithological effects associated with onshore wind energy development. It will inform the approach to identifying relevant cumulative developments, defining appropriate cumulative Study Areas and assessing combined effects on bird receptors.
- 3.1.19 NatureScot guidance on using an updated collision risk model to assess bird collision risk at onshore wind farms (2025)⁴², together with relevant Band collision risk modelling guidance, provides guidance on estimating theoretical collision risk for birds at onshore wind farms. These documents will inform the approach to collision risk modelling where sufficient flight activity data are available and where modelling is required for relevant target species.
- 3.1.20 **NatureScot guidance on the use of avoidance rates in the wind farm collision risk model (2025)**⁴³ provides recommended avoidance rates for use in collision risk modelling. It will inform the selection of appropriate avoidance rates where collision risk modelling is undertaken.
- 3.1.21 **CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and**

⁴⁰ NatureScot (2016) Assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas. Version 3. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁴¹ NatureScot (2025) Assessing the cumulative impacts of onshore wind farms on birds. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-impacts-onshore-wind-farms-birds> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁴² NatureScot (2025) Guidance on using an updated collision risk model to assess bird collision risk at onshore wind farms. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-using-updated-collision-risk-model-assess-bird-collision-risk-onshore-wind-farms> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁴³ NatureScot (2025) Wind farm impacts on birds: use of avoidance rates in the NatureScot wind farm collision risk model. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/wind-farm-impacts-birds-use-avoidance-rates-naturescot-wind-farm-collision-risk-model> (Accessed: August 2026).

Marine¹⁷ provide the principal professional guidance for ecological impact assessment. They will inform the approach to determining the importance of ornithological features, characterising impacts, assessing significance, applying the mitigation hierarchy and reporting residual effects.

4. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

4.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 4.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 8** of the Scoping Report and will inform the cultural heritage and archaeology assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 4.1.2 **The Planning Act 2008⁴⁴** provides the legislative framework for the assessment and determination of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs), including the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. It is relevant to the Proposed Development because it establishes the consenting route through which environmental and heritage effects will be identified, assessed and considered in decision-making.
- 4.1.3 **The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017¹⁰** require the assessment of likely significant environmental effects for qualifying development and set out the process for screening, scoping and preparation of an ES. They are relevant to cultural heritage and archaeology because the assessment must consider potential effects on cultural heritage, including direct and indirect effects on heritage assets and their settings.
- 4.1.4 **The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979⁴⁵** establishes the legal protection of scheduled monuments and nationally important archaeological remains, including control of works affecting scheduled monuments. It is relevant where the Proposed Development could directly affect known archaeological remains or where archaeological assets of national importance may be present.
- 4.1.5 **The National Heritage Act 1983⁴⁶** established the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, now known as Historic England, and provides statutory functions relating to

⁴⁴ UK Government (2008) Planning Act 2008. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁴⁵ UK Government (1979) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁴⁶ UK Government (1983) National Heritage Act 1983. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/47/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

the identification, conservation and management of the historic environment. It is relevant because Historic England is a key statutory consultee and source of advice for matters relating to designated heritage assets and the historic environment.

4.1.6 **The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990⁴⁷**

provides the principal legal protection for listed buildings and conservation areas in England and Wales. It is relevant to the assessment where the Proposed Development may affect the significance of listed buildings or conservation areas, including through change within their settings.

4.1.7 **The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013⁴⁸**

introduced amendments to heritage legislation, including provisions relating to listed building consent orders, heritage partnership agreements and certificates of lawfulness for listed building works. It is relevant to the management of designated heritage assets and the interpretation of consent requirements where heritage effects arise.

POLICY

4.1.8 **The National Planning Policy Framework (2026)³⁵**

sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including Chapter 16, which relates to conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It requires applicants to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting, and provides the national policy framework for assessing harm and public benefits.

4.1.9 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹³ and National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹⁴**

provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to the cultural heritage and archaeology assessment because they require applicants to assess potential effects on the historic environment, including designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, and to

⁴⁷ UK Government (1990) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁴⁸ UK Government (2013) Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/24/contents> (Accessed: August 2026).

explain how heritage harm has been avoided, reduced or balanced against public benefits.

- 4.1.10 The ES will consider the relevant local planning policy for the local planning authority areas and any other relevant authority areas within the cultural heritage and archaeology Study Area. Any relevant policy identified will be reviewed and considered where it relates to the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, archaeological remains, conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, setting, landscape character and renewable energy development.

GUIDANCE

- 4.1.11 **Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015)**⁴⁹ provides guidance on assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate information sources and expertise, and ensuring that assessment is proportionate to the significance of the asset and the degree of potential impact. It will inform the approach to identifying significance and assessing potential harm.
- 4.1.12 **Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017)**⁵⁰ provides a staged approach for assessing how development may affect the setting of heritage assets and the extent to which setting contributes to significance or allows significance to be appreciated. It will inform the approach to assessing setting-related effects, including effects arising from the visibility and presence of wind farm infrastructure within the wider historic environment.
- 4.1.13 **Historic England Advice Note 15: Delivering Clean Power: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the**

⁴⁹ Historic England (2015) Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2. London: Historic England. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/> (Accessed: August 2026).

⁵⁰ Historic England (2017) The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3. 2nd edn. London: Historic England. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/> (Accessed: August 2026).

Historic Environment (2026)⁵¹ provides specific guidance on identifying, assessing and managing the direct, indirect, cumulative and setting-related effects of commercial renewable energy schemes on heritage assets. It is relevant to the assessment of potential heritage effects associated with onshore wind energy development, including embedded mitigation through site selection, layout design and the consideration of public benefits.

⁵¹ Historic England (2026) Delivering Clean Power: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 15. 2nd edn. London: Historic England. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment-advice-note-15/> (Accessed: August 2026).

5. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

5.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 5.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has **informed Chapter 9** of the Scoping Report and will inform the landscape and visual assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 5.1.2 **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁴** provides the legislative basis for the designation and management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, now known as National Landscapes, and places duties on relevant authorities in relation to conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. While there are no National Landscapes or National Parks within the LVIA Study Area, this legislation provides relevant context for considering designated landscapes where relevant to the wider assessment.
- 5.1.3 **The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949⁵²** sets the framework for the designation of National Parks, the protection of areas of exceptional scenic quality, the creation of nature reserves, and the recording and safeguarding of Public Rights of Way in England and Wales. Its central purpose was to conserve and enhance natural beauty whilst promoting public access and enjoyment.
- 5.1.4 **The Environment Act 2021⁵³** provides a framework for improving the natural environment through legally binding targets, biodiversity enhancement, nature recovery and improved environmental governance.
- 5.1.5 **The European Landscape Convention⁵⁴** is an international treaty of the Council of Europe that promotes landscape protection, management and planning. It defines landscape as an area perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors, and

⁵² HM Government (1949) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/97/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁵³ HM Government (2021) Environment Act 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁵⁴ Council of Europe (2000) European Landscape Convention. Florence: Council of Europe. Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/the-european-landscape-convention> (Accessed: September 2026).

is relevant to the LVIA through its recognition of all landscapes, including everyday and degraded landscapes, as contributing to quality of life, cultural identity and environmental value.

POLICY

- 5.1.6 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹³ and National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹⁴** provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to the LVIA because they require applicants to assess landscape and visual effects, consider effects on nationally and locally designated landscapes, and explain how adverse landscape and visual effects have been avoided, reduced or mitigated through site selection, layout and design.
- 5.1.7 **The National Planning Policy Framework³⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including policies relating to conserving and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and protecting valued landscapes. It provides relevant national planning policy context for assessing landscape character and visual amenity effects.
- 5.1.8 **Local planning policy⁵⁵** for East Cambridgeshire District Council, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and West Suffolk Council will be reviewed as part of the LVIA, together with relevant supplementary planning documents and other local guidance. This will include policies relating to landscape character, design, renewable energy, visual amenity and locally important views, including relevant material such as the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Renewable Energy supplementary planning guidance, the Review of Ely Quintessential Views, the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan and the West Suffolk Local Plan.

⁵⁵ East Cambridgeshire District Council (2023) East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015, as amended 2023. Ely: East Cambridgeshire District Council; Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (2025) King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan 2021–2040. King's Lynn: Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk; West Suffolk Council (2025) West Suffolk Local Plan 2024–2041. Bury St Edmunds: West Suffolk Council.

- 5.1.9 Relevant local plans and supplementary planning documents within the wider 30 km Study Area⁵⁶** will also be reviewed where they contain policies or guidance relevant to landscape character, visual amenity, valued landscapes, settlement setting, strategic gaps, important views or renewable energy development. This will include, where relevant, local planning authority areas surrounding the Proposed Development, including Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland, Breckland, South Holland, Peterborough and North Northamptonshire.

GUIDANCE

- 5.1.10 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition⁵⁷** provides the principal industry guidance for undertaking LVIA. It will inform the approach to defining baseline conditions, identifying landscape and visual receptors, assessing sensitivity and magnitude of change, determining significance, considering mitigation and presenting residual effects.
- 5.1.11 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment⁵⁸** provides guidance on the assessment of effects on the visual component of residential amenity. It will inform whether any further residential visual amenity assessment is required for properties that may experience a high magnitude of visual change, noting that such assessment is separate from, but informed by, the LVIA.
- 5.1.12 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals⁵⁹** provides guidance on the selection, preparation and presentation of visualisations, including photography, photomontages and other visual representation techniques. It will inform the visualisation

⁵⁶ Relevant local planning authorities (various dates) Local plans, supplementary planning documents and other local guidance relevant to landscape and visual assessment within the wider LVIA study area.

⁵⁷ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd edn. Abingdon: Routledge.

⁵⁸ Landscape Institute (2019a) Residential Visual Amenity Assessment: Technical Guidance Note 2/19. London: Landscape Institute. Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/rvaa/> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁵⁹ Landscape Institute (2019b) Visual Representation of Development Proposals: Technical Guidance Note 06/19. London: Landscape Institute. Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/visual-representation/> (Accessed: September 2026).

methodology for the Proposed Development and the presentation of viewpoint photography and photomontages prepared for the ES.

- 5.1.13 **The Planning Inspectorate’s advice on cumulative effects assessment for nationally significant infrastructure projects⁶⁰** provides guidance on identifying, shortlisting and assessing other developments for cumulative assessment. It will inform the approach to cumulative landscape and visual effects, including the consideration of other wind energy and infrastructure proposals where relevant.
- 5.1.14 **Scottish Natural Heritage guidance on siting and designing wind farms in the landscape⁶¹** provides guidance on the siting, design and layout of wind farms to respond to landscape character and reduce landscape and visual effects. Although prepared for Scotland, it will be used as relevant good practice guidance in the absence of equivalent England-specific wind farm LVIA design guidance.
- 5.1.15 **Scottish Natural Heritage guidance on visual representation of wind farms⁶²** provides detailed guidance on Zone of Theoretical Visibility mapping, viewpoint selection, photography, wirelines and photomontages for wind farm applications. Although prepared for Scotland, it will inform the wind farm-specific approach to visual representation where relevant and proportionate.
- 5.1.16 **NatureScot guidance on assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments⁶³** provides guidance on scoping and assessing

⁶⁰ Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment. Bristol: Planning Inspectorate. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁶¹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2017a) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape. Version 3a. Inverness: Scottish Natural Heritage. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/siting-and-designing-wind-farms-landscape-version-3a> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁶² Scottish Natural Heritage (2017b) Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Guidance. Version 2.2. Inverness: Scottish Natural Heritage. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁶³ NatureScot (2021) Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments. Inverness: NatureScot. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments> (Accessed: September 2026).

cumulative landscape and visual effects associated with wind energy development. Although prepared for Scotland, it will inform the approach to cumulative landscape and visual assessment where relevant to the Proposed Development and surrounding wind energy baseline.

- 5.1.17 **Design Commission for Wales guidance on designing wind farms and renewable energy schemes⁶⁴** provides good practice design considerations for large-scale onshore wind and renewable energy development, including the relationship between renewable energy infrastructure, landscape character and associated ancillary infrastructure. Although prepared for Wales, it will be used as relevant design guidance where applicable and proportionate.

⁶⁴ Design Commission for Wales (2014) Designing Wind Farms in Wales. Cardiff: Design Commission for Wales.(Accessed: August 2026)

6. SHADOW FLICKER

6.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 6.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 10** of the Scoping Report and will inform the shadow flicker assessment and preparation of the ES.

POLICY

- 6.1.2 **The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure, including EN-1¹³ and EN-3¹⁴** provides technology-specific policy for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure. For onshore wind, EN-3 identifies that where wind turbines are proposed at a distance of ten rotor diameters or more from properties, the Secretary of State should consider that shadow flicker impacts are sufficiently diminished so as to have no significant impact on that property. EN-3 also states that, where the frequency of potential flashes will not exceed 3 hertz, no weight should be given to claims of effects on people with epilepsy from onshore wind turbines.

GUIDANCE

- 6.1.3 **UK Government Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy⁶⁵** identifies shadow flicker as a planning consideration for wind turbine development and indicates that effects are most likely to occur within ten rotor diameters of a turbine and, at UK latitudes, within 130 degrees either side of north relative to the turbine. This guidance will inform the definition of the shadow flicker Study Area and the identification of properties requiring further consideration.
- 6.1.4 **The Department of Energy and Climate Change's Update of UK Shadow Flicker Evidence Base⁶⁶** presents a review of shadow flicker evidence, assessment methods, assessment areas, quantitative guidance, potential mitigation and health-

⁶⁵ 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: September 2026).

⁶⁶ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Update of UK Shadow Flicker Evidence Base. London: Department of Energy and Climate Change. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-of-uk-shadow-flicker-evidence-base> (Accessed: September 2026).

related evidence. It will inform the assessment methodology, including the approach to identifying sensitive receptors, modelling potential effects and considering the need for mitigation.

- 6.1.5 **Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy⁶⁷** and associated Northern Ireland wind energy guidance provide guidance on renewable energy development and include quantitative criteria that have commonly been used to inform the interpretation of shadow flicker effects. Although prepared for Northern Ireland, this guidance will be used as relevant good practice where appropriate to inform the consideration of potential effect duration and significance.

⁶⁷ Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (2009) Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy. Belfast: Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (Accessed: August 2026)

7. HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND GEOLOGY

7.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 7.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 11** of the Scoping Report and will inform the hydrology, hydrogeology and geology assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 7.1.2 Key legislation relevant to the assessment includes **the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017⁶⁸, Water Act 2014⁶⁹, Water Resources Act 1991⁷⁰, Land Drainage Act 1991⁷¹, Flood and Water Management Act 2010⁷² and Flood Risk Regulations 2009⁷³**, which provide the principal framework for water resources, flood risk management, drainage and the protection of surface water and groundwater bodies.
- 7.1.3 Legislation relevant to pollution prevention, land quality and environmental permitting includes the **Environmental Protection Act 1990⁷⁴, Environment Act 2021⁷⁵, Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016⁷⁶, Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001⁷⁷ and Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations**

⁶⁸ UK Government (2017) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁶⁹ UK Government (2014) Water Act 2014. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/21/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷⁰ UK Government (1991) Water Resources Act 1991. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷¹ UK Government (1991) Land Drainage Act 1991. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷² UK Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷³ UK Government (2009) Flood Risk Regulations 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷⁴ UK Government (1990) Environmental Protection Act 1990. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷⁵ UK Government (2021) Environment Act 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷⁶ UK Government (2016) The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷⁷ UK Government (2001) The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/2954/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

2015⁷⁸. These instruments will inform the assessment of potential effects associated with contaminated land, pollution pathways, construction runoff, discharges, storage of fuels or oils and environmental protection measures.

7.1.4 Legislation relevant to potable water and private water supply receptors includes the **Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018**⁷⁹ and the **Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2018 (as amended)**⁸⁰. These will inform the consideration of any water supply receptors that could be affected by the Proposed Development.

7.1.5 The **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**⁸¹, as transposed through the **Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017**⁶⁸, establishes objectives for protecting and enhancing the ecological and chemical status of surface water and groundwater bodies. The assessment will consider the potential for the Proposed Development to affect the objectives of the Regulations and any relevant water bodies.

POLICY

7.1.6 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)**¹³, **National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)**¹⁴ and **National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)**⁸² provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to the hydrology, hydrogeology and geology assessment because they require applicants to assess and manage potential effects on flood risk, surface water, groundwater, water quality and water resources, taking account

⁷⁸ UK Government (2015) The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/810/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁷⁹ UK Government (2018) The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/647/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸⁰ UK Government (2018) The Private Water Supplies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/706/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸¹ European Parliament and Council of the European Union (2000) Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸² Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025> (Accessed: September 2026).

of climate change, sustainable drainage principles and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

- 7.1.7 The NPSs place emphasis on avoiding inappropriate development in areas at highest flood risk where possible, applying the sequential approach to site layout, minimising impacts on watercourses and drainage systems, and incorporating sustainable drainage systems and nature-based solutions where appropriate.
- 7.1.8 **The National Planning Policy Framework³⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England and is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance⁶⁵**, including guidance relating to flood risk and coastal change, and water supply, wastewater and water quality. It provides relevant national planning policy context for avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, ensuring development is safe for its lifetime, avoiding increased flood risk elsewhere, promoting sustainable drainage, protecting water quality and improving resilience to climate change.
- 7.1.9 The ES will consider the relevant local planning policy for the local planning authority areas and any other relevant authority areas within the hydrology, hydrogeology and geology Study Area. Any relevant policy identified will be reviewed and considered where it relates to flood risk, surface water, groundwater, water quality, water resources, drainage, sustainable drainage systems, land contamination, soils, peat, minerals and renewable energy development.

GUIDANCE

- 7.1.10 The assessment will be informed by current best practice guidance relating to hydrology, hydrogeology, flood risk, water quality, drainage, earthworks and pollution prevention. Key Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) guidance includes **C532 Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites⁸³**, **C741 Environmental Good**

⁸³ CIRIA (2001) Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites: Guidance for Consultants and Contractors. London: CIRIA. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C532 (Accessed: September 2026).

Practice on Site Guide⁸⁴, C753 The SuDS Manual⁸⁵ and C786F Culvert, Screen and Outfall Manual⁸⁶.

- 7.1.11 **Environment Agency guidance on water abstraction and impounding licences⁸⁷, discharges to surface water and groundwater⁸⁸, oil storage regulations⁸⁹, flood risk activities⁹⁰ and managing water on land⁹¹** will inform the assessment of permitting requirements, water management, pollution prevention and works affecting watercourses or flood risk.
- 7.1.12 Other relevant guidance includes **BS 6031:2009 Code of Practice for Earthworks⁹², National Highways guidance on road drainage and the water environment⁹³, and Defra's non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems⁹⁴**. This guidance will inform the assessment methodology and development of mitigation, including drainage design, construction runoff management, protection of watercourses and groundwater resources, pollution prevention measures, and preparation of the CEMP and other relevant management plans.

⁸⁴ CIRIA (2023) Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide. 5th edn. London: CIRIA. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C811F (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸⁵ CIRIA (2015) The SuDS Manual. London: CIRIA. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Books/Free_publications/SuDS_manual_C753.aspx (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸⁶ CIRIA (2019) Culvert, Screen and Outfall Manual. London: CIRIA. Available at: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C786F (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸⁷ Environment Agency (2025) Apply for a Water Abstraction or Impounding Licence. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸⁸ Environment Agency (2024) Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater: Environmental Permits. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁸⁹ Environment Agency (2023) Oil Storage Regulations for Businesses. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-oil-at-a-home-or-business> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹⁰ Environment Agency (2025) Flood Risk Activities: Environmental Permits. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹¹ Environment Agency (2024) Manage water on land: guidance for land managers. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-water-on-land-guidance-for-land-managers> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹² British Standards Institution (2009) BS 6031:2009 Code of Practice for Earthworks. London: British Standards Institution. Available at: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/code-of-practice-for-earthworks> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹³ Highways England (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 113: Road Drainage and the Water Environment. Revision 1. Birmingham: Highways England. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/html/27610155-5D17-4230-9B5B-CC8C8243B97C> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹⁴ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2025) National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds> (Accessed: September 2026).

7.1.13 Peat-related guidance will also be considered where relevant to the characterisation of baseline ground conditions and the assessment of potential effects on peat, peat soils and associated hydrological receptors. This will include **Natural England's England Peat Map**⁹⁵ and **Peat Probe Guidance**⁹⁶, which provide England-specific evidence and survey guidance for identifying and recording peat. In the absence of equivalent detailed English guidance for all aspects of peat assessment in wind farm development, relevant Scottish good practice guidance will also be considered where proportionate, including the **Scottish Government's Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments**⁹⁷ and **Guidance on Developments on Peatland: Peatland Survey**⁹⁸, **NatureScot's Good Practice During Wind Farm Construction**⁹⁹, and **SEPA's Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste**¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁵ Natural England (2025) England Peat Map (NERR149): Final Report. Natural England Research Report NERR149. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6683482332401664> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹⁶ Natural England (2025) England Peat Map: Peat Probe Guidance. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6683482332401664> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹⁷ Scottish Government (2017) Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments. 2nd edn. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/peat-landslide-hazard-risk-assessments-best-practice-guide-proposed-electricity/> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹⁸ Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2017) Guidance on Developments on Peatland: Peatland Survey. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/peatland-survey-guidance/> (Accessed: September 2026).

⁹⁹ NatureScot (2019) Good Practice During Wind Farm Construction. 4th edn. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/good-practice-during-wind-farm-construction> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰⁰ Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2012) Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143822/peat-guidance-volume-reuse-waste.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

8. CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GASES

8.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 8.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 12** of the Scoping Report and will inform the climate change and greenhouse gases assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 8.1.2 **The Paris Agreement (2015)**¹⁰¹ is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted in 2015, which seeks to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. It provides the international context for national decarbonisation commitments, including Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term net zero pathways.
- 8.1.3 **The Climate Change Act 2008**¹⁰² establishes the UK's statutory framework for reducing GHG emissions, including the legal duty to achieve net zero by 2050 and the system of five-year carbon budgets. It is relevant to the assessment because the Proposed Development's GHG emissions and emissions savings will be considered in the context of the UK's statutory decarbonisation pathway.
- 8.1.4 **The Carbon Budget Orders 2011, 2016 and 2021**¹⁰³ set legally binding limits on the net amount of GHG emissions that the UK may emit over successive five-year periods. They provide the statutory context for assessing GHG emissions against the UK's pathway to net zero and for considering whether the Proposed Development supports or conflicts with carbon budget delivery.

¹⁰¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015) Paris Agreement. Paris: UNFCCC. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰² UK Government (2008) Climate Change Act 2008. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰³ UK Government (2011, 2016 and 2021) The Carbon Budget Orders 2011, 2016 and 2021. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/> (Accessed: September 2026).

- 8.1.5 **The Seventh Carbon Budget (2026)**¹⁰⁴ is currently progressing through the UK's carbon budget framework and is expected to set the emissions limit for the period 2038 to 2042. The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee has reported on the Climate Change Committee's advised level of 535 MtCO₂e, providing relevant forward-looking context for the UK's long-term decarbonisation pathway.

POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 8.1.6 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)**¹³, **National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)**¹⁴ and **National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)**⁸² provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to the climate change assessment because they require assessment of GHG emissions, consideration of opportunities to minimise, mitigate or offset emissions, and recognition of the role of low carbon energy infrastructure in supporting the transition to net zero.
- 8.1.7 **The National Planning Policy Framework**³⁵ sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including policies on meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. It is relevant because it supports the transition to a low carbon future, encourages reductions in GHG emissions and requires planning decisions to take account of the full range of potential climate change impacts.
- 8.1.8 **Local planning policy** provides local context for climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy development and flood risk.
- 8.1.9 **ISEP's Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation**¹⁰⁵ provides guidance on considering climate change resilience and

¹⁰⁴ House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (2026) The Seventh Carbon Budget. Eighth Report of Session 2024–26, HC 1327. London: House of Commons. Available at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8447/the-seventh-carbon-budget/> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰⁵ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2020) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation. Lincoln: IEMA. Available at: <https://www.isepglobal.org/content/iema-eia-guide-to-climate-change-resilience-and-adaptation-2020/> (Accessed: September 2026).

adaptation within EIA, including the identification of future climate conditions, climate-related hazards, receptor sensitivity, magnitude of effect and significance. It will inform the climate change risk assessment and the approach to identifying proportionate adaptation measures.

- 8.1.10 National Planning Practice Guidance on Flood Risk and Coastal Change¹⁰⁶** provides guidance on taking account of current and future flood risk in the planning process, including the effect of climate change on flood risk. It will inform the consideration of climate-related flood risk where relevant to the Proposed Development and associated assessments.
- 8.1.11 ISEP's Climate Change Adaptation Practitioner Guidance¹⁰⁷** provides wider practitioner guidance on embedding adaptation and resilience within organisational decision-making, including consideration of climate risks, adaptation maturity and practical measures to manage climate-related impacts. It will provide supporting context for identifying resilience and adaptation measures for the Proposed Development.
- 8.1.12 ISEP's Environmental Impact Assessment Guide: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance¹⁰⁸** provides guidance on scoping, quantifying, mitigating and reporting GHG emissions within EIA. It will inform the approach to defining lifecycle emissions sources, calculating GHG emissions, applying the mitigation hierarchy and evaluating significance in relation to a net zero-aligned trajectory.
- 8.1.13 The Scottish Government's Carbon Calculator for Wind Farms on Scottish Peatlands¹⁰⁹** provides guidance on

¹⁰⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025) Planning Practice Guidance: Flood Risk and Coastal Change. London: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰⁷ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2022a) Climate Change Adaptation Practitioner Guidance. Lincoln: IEMA. Available at: <https://www.iema.net/resources/blog/2022/11/01/iema-climate-change-adaptation-practitioner-guidance> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰⁸ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2022b) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance. 2nd edn. Lincoln: IEMA. Available at: <https://www.iema.net/resources/reading-room/2022/02/08/assessing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-evaluating-their-significance> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁰⁹ Scottish Government (2022) Carbon Calculator for Wind Farms on Scottish Peatlands: Factsheet. Edinburgh: Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/carbon-calculator-for-wind-farms-on-scottish-peatlands-factsheet/> (Accessed: September 2026).

estimating the carbon balance of wind farm developments on peatlands by comparing carbon costs with carbon savings. Although developed for Scottish peatland wind farm proposals, it may provide relevant good practice context where peat-related GHG emissions or carbon payback considerations are relevant to the Proposed Development.

9. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

9.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 9.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 13** of the Scoping Report and will inform the traffic and transport assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 9.1.2 **The Planning Act 2008⁴⁴** provides the legislative framework for the consenting and examination of NSIPs, including the DCO process. It is relevant to the traffic and transport assessment because it establishes the consenting route through which construction traffic, access arrangements, highway works, public rights of way effects and mitigation commitments will be considered.
- 9.1.3 **The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017¹⁰** set out the EIA process for NSIPs, including scoping and the preparation of an ES. They are relevant to the traffic and transport assessment because potential likely significant effects arising from construction, operational and decommissioning traffic, access arrangements and highway works must be identified, assessed and reported, together with any required mitigation and residual effects.
- 9.1.4 **The Highways Act 1980¹¹⁰** is the principal legislation governing highways in England and Wales. It is relevant to the assessment and management of construction access, works affecting the public highway, potential temporary or permanent highway modifications, and the interaction between the Proposed Development and the local and strategic highway network.
- 9.1.5 **The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984¹¹¹** provides powers for traffic regulation orders, including restrictions, prohibitions and temporary traffic management measures. It is relevant where

¹¹⁰ UK Government (1980) Highways Act 1980. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹¹¹ UK Government (1984) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27/contents> (Accessed: September 2026). [legislation.gov.uk]

construction traffic, abnormal indivisible load movements, access works or temporary traffic management require restrictions or controls on the use of the highway network.

- 9.1.6 **The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991¹¹²** provides the statutory framework for street works and related works in the highway. It is relevant to any works within the adopted highway, including utility diversions, access works, temporary works and coordination with highway authorities and statutory undertakers.
- 9.1.7 **The Traffic Management Act 2004¹¹³** places duties on traffic authorities to manage their road networks and includes provisions relevant to the coordination of works, network management and minimising disruption. It is relevant to the management of construction traffic, temporary traffic management and highway works associated with the Proposed Development.

POLICY

- 9.1.8 **The National Planning Policy Framework¹⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including policies on promoting sustainable transport, considering transport issues from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, and ensuring safe and suitable access for all users. It provides national planning policy context for the assessment of traffic and transport effects.
- 9.1.9 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹³** provides the overarching policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. It is relevant to traffic and transport because it requires applicants to assess and, where appropriate, mitigate transport-related effects associated with construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure.
- 9.1.10 **The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹⁴** provides policy for renewable energy

¹¹² UK Government (1991) New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/22/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹¹³ UK Government (2004) Traffic Management Act 2004. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/18/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

infrastructure, including onshore wind. It is relevant to the traffic and transport assessment where construction traffic, abnormal indivisible loads, access requirements and associated mitigation are considered as part of the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure.

- 9.1.11 **The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)**⁸² provides policy for electricity network infrastructure. It is relevant where electrical connection infrastructure, grid connection works or associated highway movements form part of the Proposed Development or cumulative traffic and transport context.
- 9.1.12 The ES will consider the relevant local planning policy for the local planning authority areas and any other relevant authority areas within the traffic and transport Study Area, will be reviewed where it relates to highway safety, construction traffic, abnormal loads, access, public rights of way, non-motorised users, sustainable transport, traffic management and renewable energy development.

GUIDANCE

- 9.1.13 **The National Infrastructure Planning Guidance suite**¹¹⁴ provides guidance on the preparation, submission, examination and determination of applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008. It is relevant to the traffic and transport assessment because it informs the presentation of assessment information, consultation, examination materials and commitments relating to access, construction traffic management and mitigation.
- 9.1.14 **The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)**¹¹⁵ provides requirements and advice relating to the design, assessment and operation of motorways and all-purpose trunk roads in the UK. Relevant DMRB standards will be considered, where applicable, when assessing potential effects on the

¹¹⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) National Infrastructure Planning Guidance Portal. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-guidance-portal> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹¹⁵ National Highways (2026) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmr/b/> (Accessed: September 2026).

strategic road network and identifying any associated highway design, safety or mitigation requirements.

- 9.1.15 **IEMA/ISEP Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement**¹¹⁶ provide current good practice guidance for assessing traffic and movement effects within EIA, including effects relating to severance, driver delay, non-motorised user amenity, fear and intimidation, road safety and hazardous loads. They will inform the traffic and transport assessment methodology, including receptor sensitivity, magnitude of change and significance criteria.
- 9.1.16 **Planning Practice Guidance: Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements**¹¹⁷ provides advice on when transport assessments, transport statements and travel plans are required and what they should contain. It will inform the approach to scoping and reporting transport impacts, promoting sustainable travel where relevant and identifying proportionate mitigation measures.
- 9.1.17 **Department for Transport Circular 01/2022: Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development**¹¹⁸ explains how National Highways engages in plan-making and decision-taking in relation to the strategic road network. It will inform consultation with National Highways and the assessment of any potential effects on the strategic road network, including the approach to access, capacity, safety and sustainable development considerations.

¹¹⁶ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2023) Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement. Lincoln: Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Available at: <https://www.isepglobal.org/media/5mrmquib/iema-report-environmental-assessment-of-traffic-and-movement-rev07-july-2023.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹¹⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2014) Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements. London: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-plans-transport-assessments-and-statements> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹¹⁸ Department for Transport (2022) Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development: DfT Circular 01/2022. London: Department for Transport. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-road-network-and-the-delivery-of-sustainable-development> (Accessed: September 2026).

10. NOISE AND VIBRATION

10.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 10.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 14** of the Scoping Report and will inform the noise and vibration assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 10.1.2 **The Control of Pollution Act 1974¹¹⁹** provides powers for the control of noise from construction works, including provisions relating to prior consent for construction works and the use of Best Practicable Means to minimise noise and vibration. It is relevant to the management of construction noise and vibration and to the development of appropriate mitigation and working practices.
- 10.1.3 **The Environmental Protection Act 1990¹²⁰** provides the statutory nuisance regime for England and Wales, including duties on local authorities to investigate and, where appropriate, serve abatement notices in relation to noise that constitutes a statutory nuisance. It is relevant to the consideration of noise impacts and the need to avoid or manage nuisance during construction and operation.

POLICY

- 10.1.4 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹³, National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹⁴ and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)⁸²** provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to noise and vibration because they require applicants to assess potential noise and vibration effects, consider appropriate mitigation and demonstrate how significant adverse effects on health, quality of life and amenity would be avoided or minimised.

¹¹⁹ UK Government (1974) Control of Pollution Act 1974. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²⁰ UK Government (1990) Environmental Protection Act 1990. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

- 10.1.5 **The National Planning Policy Framework³⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including policies requiring development to avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life, mitigate and reduce adverse impacts, and identify and protect tranquil areas where appropriate. It provides relevant national planning policy context for the assessment of noise effects.
- 10.1.6 **The Noise Policy Statement for England¹²¹** sets out the Government's long-term vision for noise policy, including the aims of avoiding significant adverse effects on health and quality of life, mitigating and minimising adverse effects, and contributing to improvements in health and quality of life where possible. It will inform the interpretation of noise effect levels and the application of the mitigation hierarchy.
- 10.1.7 **Local planning policy** for East Cambridgeshire District Council, West Suffolk Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk provides local policy context for environmental protection, residential amenity, pollution and noise-sensitive receptors. Relevant policies will be reviewed to ensure that the noise and vibration assessment addresses locally applicable requirements for avoiding unacceptable noise effects and protecting amenity.

GUIDANCE

- 10.1.8 BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise¹²² and BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 2: Vibration¹²³ provide guidance on the prediction, assessment and control of noise and vibration from construction and open

¹²¹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2010) Noise Policy Statement for England. London: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-policy-statement-for-england> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²² British Standards Institution (2014a) BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites. Part 1: Noise. London: BSI. Available at: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/code-of-practice-for-noise-and-vibration-control-on-construction-and-open-sites-noise> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²³ British Standards Institution (2014b) BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites. Part 2: Vibration. London: BSI. Available at: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/code-of-practice-for-noise-and-vibration-control-on-construction-and-open-sites-vibration> (Accessed: September 2026).

sites. These standards will inform the assessment of construction noise and vibration effects, including baseline assumptions, prediction methods, significance criteria and Best Practicable Means mitigation.

- 10.1.9 **Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 111: Noise and Vibration (2020)**¹²⁴ provides guidance on the assessment of road traffic noise and vibration associated with highway schemes and changes in traffic flows. It will inform the assessment of traffic-related noise and vibration effects where construction or operational traffic has potential to affect sensitive receptors.
- 10.1.10 **Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (1988)**¹²⁵ provides the standard UK methodology for predicting road traffic noise from existing and proposed roads. It will be used, where appropriate, to inform the prediction of changes in road traffic noise associated with construction traffic and other traffic movements generated by the Proposed Development.
- 10.1.11 **Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound: BS 4142:2014+A1:2019**¹²⁶ provides methods for rating and assessing sound of an industrial or commercial nature at residential receptors. It will inform the assessment of operational noise from fixed plant and ancillary infrastructure where such sources are present within the Proposed Development.
- 10.1.12 **Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings: BS 8233:2014**¹²⁷ provides guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings, including internal and external noise criteria for residential and other noise-

¹²⁴ Highways England (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 111: Noise and Vibration. Revision 2. Birmingham: Highways England. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/search/cc8cfcf7-c235-4052-8d32-d5398796b364> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²⁵ Department of Transport and Welsh Office (1988) Calculation of Road Traffic Noise. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/CD13.02%20Department%20of%20Transport%20and%20Welsh%20Office%20%281988%29.%20Calculation%20of%20Road%20Traffic%20Noise..pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²⁶ British Standards Institution (2019) BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound. London: BSI. Available at: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/methods-for-rating-and-assessing-industrial-and-commercial-sound> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²⁷ British Standards Institution (2014c) BS 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings. London: BSI. Available at: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/guidance-on-sound-insulation-and-noise-reduction-for-buildings> (Accessed: September 2026).

sensitive receptors. It will provide supporting context for the consideration of amenity at sensitive receptors, where relevant.

10.1.13 **Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (2026)**¹²⁸

provides the current technical guidance for assessing and controlling operational noise from onshore wind turbines and replaces ETSU-R-97. It will provide the principal framework for assessing operational wind turbine noise, including noise limits, background sound measurements, rating and compliance considerations.

10.1.14 **ETSU-R-97: The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms**¹²⁹ provides the established UK methodology for assessing wind turbine noise, including the derivation of receptor-specific noise limits by reference to background noise levels. Although replaced by the 2026 Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise guidance, it remains relevant as the predecessor framework and background to current wind turbine noise assessment practice.

10.1.15 **The Institute of Acoustics Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97**¹³⁰ provides guidance on the practical application of ETSU-R-97, including baseline noise surveys, data processing, noise limit derivation and prediction methods. It remains relevant as supporting good practice guidance where it is consistent with the 2026 Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise guidance.

10.1.16 **ISO 9613-2:2024**¹³¹ provides an engineering method for calculating attenuation of sound during outdoor propagation and predicting environmental noise levels at distance from a range of sources. It will inform operational noise propagation

¹²⁸ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2026) Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise. London: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessment-and-rating-of-noise-from-wind-turbines-guidance> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹²⁹ Energy Technology Support Unit (1996) The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms. Harwell: Energy Technology Support Unit.

¹³⁰ Institute of Acoustics (2013) A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise. St Albans: Institute of Acoustics.

¹³¹ International Organization for Standardization (2024) ISO 9613-2:2024 Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors — Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors. Geneva: ISO.

modelling where relevant to fixed plant, wind turbine or other operational noise sources.

- 10.1.17 **Planning Practice Guidance for Noise**¹³² supports the application of the NPPF and NPSE within the planning process, including guidance on identifying significant observed adverse effect levels, lowest observed adverse effect levels and good acoustic design. It will inform the interpretation of noise effects and the development of proportionate mitigation.
- 10.1.18 **IEMA Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment**¹³³ provide good practice guidance for assessing and reporting environmental noise effects within EIA. The guidance will inform the structure of the noise assessment, the evaluation of significance and the reporting of likely significant effects and mitigation.
- 10.1.19 **ISEP Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development**¹³⁴ provides good practice guidance on the assessment and evaluation of environmental effects within EIA. It provides wider EIA context for scoping, assessment quality, mitigation and the reporting of likely significant effects.

¹³² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Noise. London: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹³³ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2014) Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment. Version 1.2. Lincoln: Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. (Accessed: August 2026)

¹³⁴ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2015) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development. Lincoln: Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Available at: <https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/news/2015/11/12/isep-new-eia-guidance-will-speed-up-planning-and-bring-down-costs/> (Accessed: September 2026).

11. SOCIO-ECONOMICS, TOURISM, RECREATION AND LAND USE

11.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 11.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 15** of the Scoping Report and will inform the socio-economics, tourism, recreation and land use assessment and preparation of the ES.

POLICY

- 11.1.2 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹³, National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹⁴ and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)⁸²** provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to the socio-economic assessment because they establish the national need for energy infrastructure and provide policy context for considering economic, social and community-related effects associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
- 11.1.3 **The National Planning Policy Framework³⁵** sets out the Government's planning policies for England and provides the framework for sustainable development. It identifies economic, social and environmental objectives, including building a strong, responsive and competitive economy and supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities. These objectives provide relevant national planning policy context for the assessment of socio-economic, tourism, recreation and land use effects.
- 11.1.4 The ES will consider the relevant local planning policy for the local planning authority areas and any other relevant authority areas within the socio-economics, tourism, recreation and land use Study Areas, will be reviewed where it relates to economic development, employment, tourism, recreation, public rights of way, community infrastructure, agricultural land, land use, rural economy and renewable energy development.

GUIDANCE

- 11.1.5 ISEP's Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland¹³⁵** provides guidance on the scoping and assessment of social impacts within EIA, including the development of the baseline, identification of affected communities, definition of significance criteria and identification of mitigation. It will inform the approach to assessing potential effects on people, communities, recreation, tourism and land use receptors.
- 11.1.6 HM Treasury's Green Book¹³⁶** provides UK Government guidance on appraisal, including the assessment of costs, benefits and risks associated with policies, programmes and projects. Green Book principles will inform the assessment of socio-economic impacts, including the consideration of additionality, displacement, leakage, substitution and the distribution of effects where relevant and proportionate.
- 11.1.7 Natural England's Agricultural Land Classification guidance¹³⁷** provides guidance on the classification of agricultural land according to its quality and limitations for agricultural use. It will inform the approach to identifying the presence and extent of best and most versatile agricultural land, comprising Grades 1, 2 and Subgrade 3a, and the assessment of potential temporary and permanent effects on agricultural land quality, land use and farm holdings. Where relevant, the assessment will draw on published Agricultural Land Classification mapping and any project-specific survey information to determine whether further assessment or mitigation is required.

¹³⁵ Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Lincoln: Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals. (Accessed: September 2026).

¹³⁶ HM Treasury and Government Finance Function (2026) The Green Book: UK Government Guidance on Appraisal. London: HM Treasury. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government/the-green-book-2026> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹³⁷ Natural England (2012) Agricultural Land Classification: Protecting the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. 2nd edn. Technical Information Note TIN049. York: Natural England. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012> (Accessed: September 2026)

12. AVIATION, RADAR AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

12.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 12.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 16** of the Scoping Report and will inform the aviation, radar and telecommunications assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 12.1.2 **CAP 393: Regulations Made under Powers in the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and the Air Navigation Order 2016**¹³⁸ contains the Air Navigation Order 2016 and regulations made under that Order, including the Rules of the Air Regulations and associated civil aviation requirements. It is relevant to the assessment because it provides the legislative framework for civil aviation operations in UK airspace and informs the consideration of potential aviation safety, obstruction and airspace effects associated with the Proposed Development.
- 12.1.3 **The Air Navigation Order 2016**¹³⁹ establishes requirements relating to the safety of air navigation, aircraft operations, obstacle lighting and aviation safeguarding. It is relevant to the assessment because it provides the principal regulatory framework governing potential aviation safety effects associated with wind turbine development, including requirements relating to the marking and lighting of aviation obstacles where required.

POLICY

- 12.1.4 **CAP 670: Air Traffic Services Safety Requirements**¹⁴⁰ sets out the safety regulatory framework and requirements associated with the provision of air traffic services, including requirements relating to communication, navigation, surveillance and air traffic control systems. It is relevant where the Proposed

¹³⁸ Civil Aviation Authority (2021) CAP 393: Regulations Made under Powers in the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and the Air Navigation Order 2016. Version 6. London: Civil Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://www.caa.co.uk/data-and-publications/publications/documents/content/cap-393/> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹³⁹ UK Government (2016) The Air Navigation Order 2016. SI 2016/765. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/765/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴⁰ Civil Aviation Authority (2019) CAP 670: Air Traffic Services Safety Requirements. Issue 3, Amendment 1/2019. London: Civil Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://www.caa.co.uk/data-and-publications/publications/documents/content/cap-670/> (Accessed: September 2026)..

Development has potential to affect air traffic service infrastructure, procedures or safeguarding interests.

- 12.1.5 **CAP 764: CAA Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines¹⁴¹** provides CAA policy and guidance on aviation issues associated with wind turbine development, including potential effects on radar, navigation aids, communication systems, air traffic services, aviation safeguarding and obstacle lighting. It will provide the principal civil aviation guidance for identifying relevant aviation receptors and considering the need for consultation, assessment or mitigation.
- 12.1.6 **CAP 774: The UK Flight Information Services¹⁴²** sets out the suite of air traffic services provided in Class G airspace within the UK Flight Information Region and, where notified, to visual flight rules flights in Class E airspace. It is relevant to understanding civilian and military flight information services and the airspace context within which potential wind turbine effects may be considered.
- 12.1.7 **Military Aviation Authority Regulatory Publication 3000 Series: Air Traffic Management Regulations¹⁴³** provides the regulatory framework, rules, standards and guidance governing military air traffic management. It is relevant where the Proposed Development may interact with military air traffic control, military aerodromes, airspace safeguarding or military aviation procedures.
- 12.1.8 **The Manual of Military Air Traffic Management¹⁴⁴** provides guidance on military air traffic management procedures, including air traffic control and emergency procedures. It is

¹⁴¹ Civil Aviation Authority (2016) CAP 764: CAA Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines. Version 6, February 2016. London: Civil Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP764%20CAA%20Policy%20and%20Guidelines%20on%20Wind%20Turbines.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴² Civil Aviation Authority (2021) CAP 774: UK Flight Information Services. Version 4, 15 December 2021. London: Civil Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP774.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴³ Military Aviation Authority (2024) Regulatory Publication 3000 Series: Air Traffic Management Regulations. London: Military Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-aviation-authority-regulatory-publications> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴⁴ Military Aviation Authority (2019) Manual of Military Air Traffic Management. London: Military Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-aviation-authority-regulatory-publications> (Accessed: September 2026).

relevant to the assessment of potential effects on military aviation operations and the need for consultation with the Ministry of Defence or other military aviation stakeholders.

GUIDANCE

- 12.1.9 **CAP 032: UK Integrated Aeronautical Information Package**¹⁴⁵ provides aeronautical information on UK civilian aerodromes, airspace and aviation procedures. It will inform the identification of relevant civil aerodromes, airspace designations, procedures and aviation constraints within the assessment.
- 12.1.10 **CAA 1:500,000 Visual Flight Rules Aviation Charts**¹⁴⁶ provide aeronautical charting information to support visual navigation, including airspace boundaries, navigation aids, aerodromes, radio frequencies and other aviation features. They will inform the baseline review of civilian aviation activity and potential aviation receptors in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
- 12.1.11 **Ministry of Defence Obstruction Lighting Guidance**¹⁴⁷ sets out the Ministry of Defence's requirements and standards for aviation lighting associated with wind turbine developments, with particular regard to military low flying and night flying. It will inform consideration of aviation lighting requirements and any mitigation required to address military aviation safeguarding concerns.
- 12.1.12 **NATS self-assessment maps**¹⁴⁸ provide geographical guidance to assist wind farm developers in identifying where interference with NATS en-route communications, navigation and surveillance infrastructure may be likely. They will inform early screening of

¹⁴⁵ Civil Aviation Authority (2024a) CAP 032: UK Integrated Aeronautical Information Package. London: Civil Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://www.aurora.nats.co.uk/htmlAIP/Publications/2024-12-26-AIRAC/html/index-en-GB.html> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴⁶ Civil Aviation Authority (2024b) 1:500,000 Visual Flight Rules Aviation Chart. London: Civil Aviation Authority. Available at: <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airspace/airspace-publications/aeronautical-charts/> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴⁷ Ministry of Defence (2020) Obstruction Lighting Guidance. London: Ministry of Defence. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-infrastructure-organisation> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁴⁸ National Air Traffic Services (2024) NATS Self-Assessment Maps. Whiteley: National Air Traffic Services. Available at: NATS Wind Farm Self-Assessment Maps (Accessed: September 2026).

potential radar, communication and navigation effects and the need for further consultation or technical assessment.

- 12.1.13 **The UK Military Aeronautical Information Publication¹⁴⁹** provides information on UK military aerodromes, airspace and in-flight navigation procedures. It will inform the baseline review of military aviation activity and potential receptors, including military airspace, aerodromes and low flying interests where relevant to the Proposed Development.

¹⁴⁹ Ministry of Defence (2024) UK Military Aeronautical Information Publication. London: Ministry of Defence. Available at: <https://www.aidu.mod.uk/aip/> (Accessed: September 2026).

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

13.1 AIR QUALITY

- 13.1.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 17** of the Scoping Report and will inform the air quality assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- 13.1.2 **The Environment Act 1995**, as amended by the **Environment Act 2021**³, provides the statutory framework for Local Air Quality Management in England. The Environment Act 2021 strengthens this framework by enabling the Government to set legally binding long-term environmental targets, including targets relating to air quality, and by introducing additional requirements for reviewing the National Air Quality Strategy, reporting progress against air quality objectives and supporting co-operation with local authority air quality action planning. The legislation is relevant to the assessment through consideration of existing local air quality conditions, applicable air quality objectives and any nearby Air Quality Management Areas.
- 13.1.3 **The National Planning Policy Framework**³⁵ sets out national planning policy relevant to air quality, including the need for planning decisions to prevent unacceptable pollution, contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values and national objectives, and take account of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones. It provides relevant national planning policy context for identifying and, where necessary, mitigating air quality effects.
- 13.1.4 **The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)**¹³, **National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)**¹⁴ and **National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)**⁸² provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. They are relevant to air quality because they require likely significant environmental effects, including construction and traffic-related effects, to be assessed and proportionately mitigated where necessary.

- 13.1.5 **The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010¹⁵⁰** establish legally binding ambient air quality standards and limit values for a range of pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. They are relevant to the assessment because they provide the principal legislative framework for assessing potential effects on local air quality and consideration of compliance with applicable air quality objectives and standards.
- 13.1.6 **The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023¹⁵¹** establish legally binding air quality targets under the Environment Act 2021, including targets relating to PM_{2.5} concentrations and population exposure reduction. They provide relevant legislative context for the consideration of long-term air quality improvement and environmental protection objectives.

GUIDANCE

- 13.1.7 **The Air Quality Strategy for England¹⁵²** sets out the Government's framework for local authority action on air quality and long-term air quality objectives, including objectives for key pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. It provides policy and baseline context for the assessment of local air quality conditions.
- 13.1.8 **Defra Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance¹⁵³** provides guidance on the review and assessment of local air quality, including screening and assessment approaches for traffic-related emissions. It will inform the screening of potential construction traffic emissions and the consideration of any nearby Air Quality Management Areas.

¹⁵⁰ UK Government (2010) The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. SI 2010/1001. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁵¹ UK Government (2023) The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023. SI 2023/96. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/96/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁵² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023) Air Quality Strategy: Framework for Local Authority Delivery. London: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england/air-quality-strategy-framework-for-local-authority-delivery> (Accessed: September 2026). [gov.uk], [gov.uk]

¹⁵³ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2025) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22). Version 2.1. London: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Available at: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LAQM-TG22-May-25-v2.1.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026)

- 13.1.9 IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction¹⁵⁴** provides the recognised framework for assessing construction dust risk and identifying appropriate mitigation. It will inform the assessment of dust soiling, human health and ecological dust effects associated with construction activities, earthworks, trackout and material handling.
- 13.1.10 Environmental Protection UK and IAQM guidance on land-use planning and development control¹⁵⁵** provides planning-specific guidance on air quality assessment, including when an air quality assessment may be required, how development-related air quality effects should be described and how significance and mitigation should be considered. It will provide supporting guidance for the air quality assessment where relevant.

13.2 FORESTRY

- 13.2.1** The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 17** of the Scoping Report and will inform the forestry assessment and preparation of the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 13.2.2 The Forestry Act 1967¹⁵⁶** regulates tree felling and provides the legislative framework for felling licences and restocking. It is relevant to the assessment because it will inform the need to quantify woodland loss, identify felling licence requirements and consider compensatory restocking where woodland removal is required.

¹⁵⁴ Institute of Air Quality Management (2024) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction. Version 2.2. London: Institute of Air Quality Management. Available at: <https://iaqm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Construction-Dust-Guidance-Jan-2024.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁵⁵ Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management (2017) Land-Use Planning and Development Control: Planning for Air Quality. London: Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management. Available at: <https://www.the-ies.org/sites/default/files/reports/air-quality-planning-guidance.pdf> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁵⁶ UK Government (1967) Forestry Act 1967. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/10/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

- 13.2.3 The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999¹⁵⁷** regulate certain forestry projects, including afforestation, deforestation, forest roads and forest quarries, where they are likely to have significant effects on the environment. They are relevant where woodland removal or other forestry-related works associated with the Proposed Development may require separate consideration under forestry EIA requirements.

POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 13.2.4 The UK Forestry Standard (2023)¹⁵⁸** sets out the UK Government's approach to sustainable forest management and provides the benchmark for forestry good practice. It is relevant to the Proposed Development because it provides guidance on sustainable woodland management, biodiversity, climate change, historic environment, landscape, people, soil and water, and will inform mitigation, compensation and woodland management proposals where woodland effects arise.
- 13.2.5 The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹³, National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹⁴ and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)⁸²** provide the principal policy framework for nationally significant energy infrastructure. EN-1 is particularly relevant to forestry because it refers to tree and woodland enhancement, the protection of ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats, and the need to assess impacts on trees and woodland and minimise any risk of net deforestation.
- 13.2.6 The National Planning Policy Framework³⁴** provides national planning policy relevant to trees and woodland, including the retention of existing trees wherever possible and the need to consider long-term maintenance of new planting. It also provides strong protection for ancient woodland, ancient and

¹⁵⁷ UK Government (1999) The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. SI 1999/2228. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/2228/contents> (Accessed: September 2026)

¹⁵⁸ Forestry Commission (2023) The UK Forestry Standard: The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry. 5th edn. Edinburgh: Forestry Commission. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard> (Accessed: September 2026).

veteran trees as irreplaceable habitats. It will inform the assessment of potential effects on woodland and the identification of appropriate mitigation or compensation.

- 13.2.7 **Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory and standing advice on ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees**^{159,160} will be used to identify the presence and sensitivity of ancient woodland and other irreplaceable tree-related habitats. This will inform baseline characterisation, scoping of potential effects and the development of avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures where relevant.
- 13.2.8 **Forestry Commission guidance on felling licences, tree felling permissions and restocking**¹⁶¹ will inform the approach to identifying whether felling licences are required, whether exemptions may apply, and what restocking or woodland management obligations may arise. This will support alignment with current forestry regulatory practice.

13.3 WASTE

- 13.3.1 The following legislation, policy and guidance has informed **Chapter 17** of the Scoping Report and will inform the consideration of waste within the ES.

LEGISLATION

- 13.3.2 **The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017**¹⁰ require the ES to provide an estimate, by type and quantity, of the waste expected to be produced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. Schedule 4 also requires the likely significant effects associated with the disposal and recovery of waste to be described. Waste arising during decommissioning will also be considered, where relevant,

¹⁵⁹ Natural England (2018) Ancient Woodland Inventory Handbook for England. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR248. York: Natural England. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4876500800634880> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁶⁰ Natural England and Forestry Commission (2022) Ancient Woodland, Ancient Trees and Veteran Trees: Advice for Making Planning Decisions. London: Natural England and Forestry Commission. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions> (Accessed: September 2026). [gov.uk]

¹⁶¹ Forestry Commission (2026) When a Felling Licence Is Needed. Bristol: Forestry Commission. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/when-a-felling-licence-is-needed> (Accessed: September 2026).

to provide a proportionate lifecycle consideration of the Proposed Development.

- 13.3.3 The Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989¹⁶²** establishes controls relating to the transport of controlled waste, including requirements applicable to waste carriers. It will inform the arrangements for transferring waste from the Proposed Development to appropriately authorised reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment or disposal facilities.
- 13.3.4 The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC¹⁶³**, as applicable through domestic waste legislation, establishes the overarching framework for waste management, including the waste hierarchy and principles relating to waste prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal. It provides the broader legislative context for the management of waste arising from the Proposed Development.
- 13.3.5 The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011¹⁶⁴**, as amended, establish duties relating to the application of the waste hierarchy. They will inform the approach to preventing waste and, where waste cannot be prevented, prioritising preparation for reuse, recycling and other recovery over disposal.
- 13.3.6 The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024¹⁶⁵** prescribe recyclable waste streams and establish requirements relating to their separate collection. The Regulations will be considered where applicable to waste generated during construction, operation or decommissioning, taking account of the provisions in force during the relevant phase of the Proposed Development.

¹⁶² UK Government (1989) Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/14/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁶³ European Parliament and Council of the European Union (2008) Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on Waste and Repealing Certain Directives (Waste Framework Directive). Official Journal of the European Union, L312, pp. 3–30. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/98/oj> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁶⁴ UK Government (2011) The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. SI 2011/988. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/988/contents> (Accessed: September 2026)

¹⁶⁵ UK Government (2024) The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024. SI 2024/708. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/708/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

- 13.3.7 The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012¹⁶⁶** classify waste as household, industrial or commercial waste for regulatory purposes. They will inform the classification and appropriate management of controlled waste generated by the Proposed Development.
- 13.3.8 The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005¹⁶⁷**, as amended, establish controls relating to the classification, mixing, movement and documentation of hazardous waste. They will inform the management of potentially hazardous waste streams, including waste oils, chemicals, contaminated materials, electrical equipment and other specialist wastes that may arise during the lifecycle of the Proposed Development.

POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 13.3.9 Defra's Waste Prevention Programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste (2023)¹⁶⁸** provides the UK Government's framework for reducing waste generation and improving resource efficiency through the application of circular economy principles and the waste hierarchy. It is relevant to the Proposed Development because it promotes the prevention of waste at source, the efficient use of materials, increased reuse and recycling, and the reduction of waste requiring treatment or disposal. The principles set out in the Programme will inform the approach to material management, waste minimisation and sustainable construction practices throughout the lifecycle of the Proposed Development.
- 13.3.10 Environment Agency Technical Guidance WM3: Waste Classification – Guidance on the Classification and Assessment of Waste (2025)¹⁶⁹** provides the methodology for classifying

¹⁶⁶ UK Government (2012) The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012. SI 2012/811. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/811/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁶⁷ UK Government (2005) The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005. SI 2005/894. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2005/894/contents> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁶⁸ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023) Waste Prevention Programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-maximising-resources-minimising-waste> (Accessed: September 2026).

¹⁶⁹ Environment Agency (2025) Waste Classification: Guidance on the Classification and Assessment of Waste (Technical Guidance WM3). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-classification-technical-guidance> (Accessed: September 2026).

waste and determining whether waste is hazardous or non-hazardous. It is relevant to the Proposed Development because it will inform the identification, classification, storage, handling and disposal of wastes arising during construction, operation and decommissioning, including excavated materials, contaminated soils and other potentially hazardous waste streams. The guidance will support compliance with relevant waste legislation and the development of appropriate waste-management measures.

- 13.3.11 Relevant national and local waste planning policy will be reviewed where it relates to waste prevention, the waste hierarchy, circular economy principles, movements of waste, waste-management capacity and the availability of facilities for reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment or disposal.
- 13.3.12 Relevant Environment Agency and UK Government guidance on waste classification, the duty of care, waste-carrier registration, waste-transfer documentation, hazardous waste and the reuse of excavated materials will inform the proposed waste-management arrangements. This will include consideration of appropriate controls for the segregation, storage, transport and transfer of waste to suitably authorised facilities.